



SMHS College Planning Timeline

Please Note: This is not a strict timeline - and every student doesn't need to do everything listed! This is meant to be a tool to help you organize your time, and think about your priorities. Feel free to ask for help with fine-tuning your own process!

Fall Semester of Junior Year:

- Focus on Grades - do the best you can!**
- Stay involved in your extra-curricular activities or look for them if you need some. **Develop your interests!**
- Check Canvas Announcements & email regularly for information and updates. **(Get used to reading Canvas announcements).**
- Get comfortable with the [College & Career Center \(CCC\) Website!](#)
- Attend (virtual) college fairs and college rep. visits through the CCC
- Build good relationships with your junior year teachers
- Learn about the types of college systems - [\(UC/CSU/Private/Out of State/Community College\)](#)
- Look at admissions websites of colleges or programs you may be interested in

Spring Semester of Junior Year:

- Maintain focus on grades and doing your best academically**
- Maintain or develop extracurriculars/interest**
- Attend **Junior Family Night on Feb. 7th at 6:30pm**
- Continue to attend college visits through the College and Career Center
- Start thinking about teachers for letters of rec
- Research/apply for [summer opportunities](#) (Internships, jobs, programs, summer school) - [Use CCC website & see Ms. Kane for ideas](#)
- Review [the curriculum guide](#), course preview day, speak with counselor, choose classes for senior year.
- Research- SAT/ACT (if it is right for you) and if so, sign up
- Begin a preliminary list of schools you are interested in
- Attend Junior Informational workshops
- Tour College Campuses
- Check Canvas & school email regularly for updates & information**

Late Spring of Junior Year:

- ❑ **Focus on grades and doing your best academically**
- ❑ **Maintain and develop extracurriculars**
- ❑ Attend College Visits through CCC
- ❑ Attend Junior workshops
- ❑ Make appointments with [Ms. Hanson](#) for extra guidance
- ❑ Start using [Naviance](#) and [CaliforniaColleges](#) as tools for researching colleges/majors/programs
- ❑ Start creating a realistic list of schools & programs (Target, Reach, Safety!)
- ❑ If taking SAT/ACT, Sign up and look into preparation
- ❑ Prepare for AP Exams if applicable
- ❑ Begin verbally asking for letters of rec
- ❑ Formally request Counselor Letter of Recommendation from Ms. Gasco and complete Naviance Senior Planning Survey by **June 5th**
- ❑ Finalize summer plans
- ❑ [Meet with your school counselor](#) to plan for any makeups or transcript concerns
- ❑ **Check Canvas & email regularly for updates & information**

Summer (Between Junior & Senior Year):

- ❑ Meaningful Summer activity - job, family time, volunteer work, internship, summer school CSM course, etc.
- ❑ Rough drafts of [Personal Insight Questions](#) or [Common App Questions](#) or other Personal Statements
- ❑ Open College application accounts (Common App, UC, CSU) - start filling out easy parts!
- ❑ Develop your Resume or running list of accomplishments, activities, etc.
- ❑ Visit potential schools– attend virtual events and campus tours
- ❑ Begin Scholarship Research
- ❑ Have your “list” of schools to apply to
- ❑ Create an organizing system to keep track of due dates and college entrance requirements
- ❑ **Relax, do things you enjoy - this is your last summer of high school**

Fall - Senior Year:

September 2023 - October 2023

- Finalize List of Target, Reach and “Yes, Yes, Yes!” schools
- Formally request teacher (Complete letter of recommendation contract with teachers) and counselor letters of recommendation (***if you did not request a letter from Ms. Gasco*).
- Complete Naviance Senior Planning Survey (***if you did not already complete in June*)
- Work on UC & CSU applications
- Make [senior appointments with Ms. Hanson](#) (*College list support, Application support, PIQ & Common App Essay feedback, etc!*)
- Attend Senior Night presentations
- Attend Common App/Naviance Match workshops at SMHS
- Attend College Application Workshops
- Attend College Visits at SMHS
- If necessary, Schedule College Entrance Exams

October 2023 - November 2023

- Attend College Application Workshops
- Begin & Complete additional applications (out of state schools, WUE applications, Special Programs, Etc)
- Complete Early Action/Early Decision applications
- If necessary, complete [CSS profile for private universities](#)
- Complete UC and CSU applications (DUE Nov 30th)**
- Fine tune college application list (Determine any additional schools to apply to and their requirements)
- Begin applying for Financial Aid (FAFSA or Dream Act) in January**

Resources:

- ★ [SMHS College and Career Center](#)
- ★ [Naviance](#)
- ★ [CaliforniaColleges](#)
- ★ [College Resources](#)
- ★ [College Systems](#)
- ★ [Career Exploration](#)
- ★ [Creating a Resume on Naviance](#)

- ★ [Current job/career Opportunities!](#)
- ★ [UC Personal Insight Questions](#)
- ★ [Common App Essay Prompts](#)
- ★ [SMHS Letter of Recommendation Interest Survey](#)