

Groton School

College Planning Calendar

Third Form Year

Build strong academic, mathematical, and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses at the appropriate level and participating in activities.

- September: ☐ Apply for a Social Security Number, if you do not have one already (generally applicable only to U.S. citizens).
- April: ☐ Course selection: make sure you take courses that are challenging yet appropriate for you.
- July-August: ☐ If you are an athlete and wish to play in college, try to attend a summer camp or recruiting showcase.

Fourth Form Year

Concentrate on academic preparation and continue to develop basic skills while being involved in extracurricular activities.

- September: ☐ Registration for the October PSAT is automatically done by the CCO
- October: ☐ PSAT is offered. The PSAT for Fourth Formers is just for practice.
- December: ☐ Read your PSAT results thoroughly to see where you can improve.
- April: ☐ Course selection: make sure that you are taking courses that are challenging yet appropriate for you and that will meet graduation requirements.
- April: ☐ If you are taking an honors level course and doing well, consider registering for the SAT Subject Tests given in June.
- May: ☐ If you are an athlete who wishes to play in college, talk to your high school coach and reach out to college coaches.
- June: ☐ SAT Subject Tests are offered.
- July-August: ☐ If you are an athlete and wish to play in college, try to attend a summer camp or recruiting showcase.
- ☐ Consider taking an SAT/ACT test preparation class.

Use these
check lists
to keep
track of
your college
plans

Fifth Form Year

Begin the college counseling process. In the winter, meet with your college counselor, attend group meetings, college fairs, and financial aid seminars.

** Students should take the SAT and the ACT at least once during their Fifth Form year.*

- September:
- ☐ The CCO will register students for an October ACT.
 - ☐ The CCO automatically registers students for the October PSAT.
 - ☐ Register for a November or December SAT, and maybe a December ACT.
- October:
- ☐ PSAT is offered. The PSAT for Fifth Formers is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.
 - ☐ ACT is offered and required for all Fifth Form students.
- November:
- ☐ Consider registering for the December SAT and the February ACT.
 - ☐ Consider taking the November SAT.
 - ☐ Results of the ACT arrive.
- December:
- ☐ Results of the PSAT arrive.
 - ☐ Review your PSAT score report thoroughly to identify areas for improvement.
 - ☐ Attend form meeting to get a general overview of what lies ahead in the college process and learn how to access Maia Learning.
 - ☐ Consider taking the SAT.
 - ☐ Consider taking the ACT.
- January:
- ☐ Complete and submit questionnaire, which formally begins Groton's college process.
 - ☐ Familiarize yourself with this handbook.
 - ☐ Attend form meetings to begin to familiarize yourself with the college process.
 - ☐ Encourage your parents to attend the Kick-Off to College Counseling parent program.
 - ☐ Sign up to have an individual meeting with your college counselor.
- February:
- ☐ Try a college search on Maia Learning.
 - ☐ Meet with your college counselor to develop a preliminary list of colleges to research and visit.
 - ☐ Consider taking the ACT.
 - ☐ Register for any tests you may wish to take in March or April.
 - ☐ Arrange visits to colleges for spring break, if possible and convenient.
 - ☐ If you are an athlete who wishes to play in college, contact college coaches either through their websites or by email.

- March:
- ☐ Visit various types of colleges over spring break, if possible.
 - ☐ Consider registering for the ACT in April.
 - ☐ Consider registering for the SAT or SAT Subject Tests in May and/or June.
- April:
- ☐ Continue to meet with your college counselor and discuss standardized testing plans and possible courses for Sixth Form year.
 - ☐ Research colleges; look in this handbook for a list of sources.
 - ☐ Attend Form Meeting for spring updates.
- May:
- ☐ Take SAT subject tests and AP exams, if planned.
 - ☐ Continue to meet with your college counselor.
 - ☐ Begin to refine a preliminary college list.
 - ☐ Register for the June or July ACT.
 - ☐ Brainstorm which teachers you will ask to write recommendations.
 - ☐ Musicians, thespians, and artists should talk with teachers about portfolios and auditions.
 - ☐ Attend Form Meeting to discuss summer plans.
- June:
- ☐ Take SAT subject tests, if planned.
 - ☐ Plan summer college visits—tours, information sessions, and interviews; remember that appointments fill early. Try to visit with professors and/or coaches, if appropriate.
- July-August:
- ☐ Visit and tour colleges and interview when possible.
 - ☐ Complete Common Application.
 - ☐ Take an SAT or ACT preparatory class at home, if you wish.
 - ☐ Register for the September ACT or the October SAT.
 - ☐ Continue to revise your college list.
 - ☐ If you are an athlete who wishes to play in college, try to attend a summer camp at a school you are interested in attending or a recruiting showcase.
 - ☐ Musicians and artists should begin to make portfolios.
 - ☐ Consider taking August SAT.

Summer time...

- Visit colleges • Complete Common Application
- Take an SAT preparatory class at home if you wish
- Register for fall ACT or SAT

Sixth Form Year

Apply to colleges. Make decisions. Attend informational sessions with College Admissions representatives. Continue to meet with your college counselor and prepare to graduate from high school.

- September:
- ☐ Complete your Common Application and fall questionnaire by September 10.
 - ☐ Sign up on Maia Learning for any college visits.
 - ☐ Attend mini-fairs on designated evenings.
 - ☐ Meet with your counselor to discuss the colleges that you visited.
 - ☐ Confirm which teachers will write your recommendations.
 - ☐ Work on applications, especially essays.
 - ☐ Review your testing plan with your counselor.
 - ☐ Register for any November or December SATs you wish to take.
 - ☐ Register for the October ACT.
 - ☐ Check your email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.
 - ☐ Attend the form meeting if you intend to apply to UK universities, including Oxford or Cambridge.
 - ☐ Attend the form meeting if you are applying to a California public university.
- October:
- ☐ Financial aid applicants: complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS Profile (both available October 1).
 - ☐ Continue to meet with your college counselor.
 - ☐ Sign up on Maia Learning for any college visits.
 - ☐ ACT is offered.
 - ☐ Early applicants should hand in a School Materials Request Form to the college office.
 - ☐ Early applicants should touch base with their teachers about recommendations.
 - ☐ Work on applications and essays.
 - ☐ Consider visiting a college or two if there is a day off from classes.
 - ☐ Check your portals, email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.
 - ☐ Complete all early applications.
- November:
- ☐ SAT tests are offered. Consider having the scores sent to colleges on your list.
 - ☐ Register for the December ACT.
 - ☐ Most early applications are due November 1 or 15.
 - ☐ Continue to meet with your college counselor.
 - ☐ Check your college-specific portals, email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.

- December:
- ☐ ACT is offered.
 - ☐ Continue to work on applications (even if you applied early).
 - ☐ Wait for decision notifications in your portal if you applied early (posted by December 15).
 - ☐ Hand in your Final College Form to the college office before break and update the office on any early results.
 - ☐ Check your portals, email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.
 - ☐ Thank your teachers for writing your recommendations.

January-March:

- ☐ Keep working—grades still matter!
- ☐ Monitor your portals to make sure all documents have been received. Submit additional financial aid documentation, if requested.

April:

- ☐ Receive decisions between March 15 and April 1; check your portals and email regularly.
- ☐ Meet with your college counselor if you plan to stay on a waiting list.
- ☐ Notify the college office and your teachers of your decisions.
- ☐ Complete response form in your portal for all colleges, even if you are not attending.
- ☐ Attend revisit days to the college of your choice; you may be able to register for classes.

May:

- ☐ Submit deposit to **one** college via your portal.
- ☐ Check your portals and fill out all forms for housing and classes; research to see if you have summer reading.
- ☐ Sign up for orientation programs.

Summer time...
Congratulations Graduates