

CANTERBURY COLLEGE COUNSELING

SOPHOMORE TIMELINE

Succeed Academically !

Students should challenge themselves academically pursuing the most rigorous level of curriculum in which one can be successful. Typically, colleges consider a student's GPA and their level of rigor. Often the more selective the college, the more rigor matters.

That doesn't mean that a student must take AP courses if they feel that they could not achieve the best grades at that level of rigor. It's better to have an A in an honors or advanced honors course than a C in an AP.

Get Involved!

It's not just about grades, colleges also like to see that students are involved. Are you an athlete, active in theater or an avid club participant? Is your primary extracurricular pursuit outside of school, such as a part-time job, camp counselor or church youth leader? Colleges don't have a specific list of activities that they expect students to undertake. They are looking for well-rounded students who are pursuing their passions.

Undertaking leadership roles in your endeavors is also a plus. Not all leadership roles have defined leadership title, such as President, Secretary, etc. The key is understanding how you contribute to your community.

Apply for Scholarships

Not all scholarships are limited to seniors. There are scholarship opportunities available for any students of high school age. Check out the websites below.

- [Going Merry](#)
- [Niche](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Unigo](#)

Think About College

It's not too early to think about college. What major (academic interest) do you plan to pursue? Do you understand the types of colleges that are available? Would you prefer to attend college in a city, suburban or rural area? Do you prefer a big campus or a small one?

Try a College Search

Scoir has a college search function that allows students (and parents who have created a Scoir parent account) to create a list of colleges that fit their selected criteria.

- **Sign in to Scoir**
- **Select 'Discover' icon on top right toolbar**
- **Start your search by selecting an option shown among the top toolbar**
- **On the next screen, select 'All Filters' to see all the options available**
- **On search is completed, select 'Follow' flag to move a college to the student's 'My Colleges' list**

Update Your Resume

If you have not already created a resume, now is a perfect time to do so. If you already have a resume, take a moment to update it. It much easier to update your resume periodically while your memory is fresh.

Consider Testing

You should set a goal of having a target ACT or SAT score by the end of your junior year. Testing in the summer after your sophomore year gives you a baseline official score. With a baseline score and a target score in hand, you have your whole junior year to participate in test prep and continue to test. Starting now gives you a great opportunity to finish testing in your junior year. That allows you to focus on one less thing during your senior year.

Check out a College Campus

It's not too early to check out a college campus. Even if you are not ready for an official campus tour, some campuses are easy to drive through and/or may have self-guided walking tours available. If you feel ready for an official tour, make sure that you register in advance. Colleges set capacity limits for tours and may be unable to accommodate walk-ins. *Note: Many colleges also offer virtual tours on their websites.*