



Liberty Common High School College Planning Information for Freshman/Sophomore

FALL

- Think about what you want to accomplish in the next few years. Set goals!
- Meet with your college counselor to discuss course choices and how they align with your goals. Make sure you know which courses colleges require.
- Get involved! Join a club or activity. Involvement will enrich your high school experience.
- Attend school events and local college fairs to explore and gather information.
- Look on college websites for what colleges require for admission.
- Start an informal list or journal to track all activities, and approximate time commitments, and any awards or special experiences.

SPRING

- Consider taking *concurrent enrollment* or *AP* courses for college credit in high school.
- Want to play a sport in college? Check out NCAA eligibility requirements at:
<https://www.ncsasports.org/ncaa-eligibility-center/eligibility-requirements>
- **ACT/SAT** are necessary for admission to many colleges. Each site has free test prep questions/tests. Familiarize yourself with the PSAT and how the [NMSQT](#) can set you up for potential scholarships.
 - o ACT www.act.org
 - o SAT www.collegeboard.com
 - o PSAT/NMSQT <https://www.nationalmerit.org/>
 - o Test Optional Colleges www.fairtest.org
- **Work hard and do your best in school** – grades will count toward college admission and scholarships.
- **Explore Majors and Careers:** Complete a Major and Career Exploration Assessment
 - o <https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/ExploreCareers/explore-careers.aspx>
 - o Explore majors: <https://www.mymajors.com/>
 - o Consider how to deepen involvement and take on leadership in extracurricular activities during 11th/12th grade

COLLEGE SEARCH WEBSITES

- www.collegexpress.com
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.collegedata.com
- www.unigo.com
- www.cappex.com
- <https://collegecost.ed.gov/>

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

The most important step in searching for colleges is determining cost. The majority of scholarship money can be received directly from a college. Do not let sticker shock deter you from considering a college. The <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/> will help you determine if you qualify for need-based aid. Look at www.collegedata.com resources for determining college tuition and scholarship need/merit awards. Calculate the cost of attending colleges that you're interested in at <http://netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org/>

Scholarships- prepare yourself to be competitive for scholarships. Remember that the most significant scholarships come from specific colleges, so doing your research early is important.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE YEAR GOALS

1. Get involved with a club or community activity
2. Visit 2-4 college campuses
3. Search and visit four college websites by the end of sophomore year.
4. Take the PSAT in April and evaluate your scores to plan for future testing.
5. Take the time to think about what courses you want to take for the next two years.
6. Grades matter! Try different courses to explore your interests and work hard each semester.

Do not feel pressured to choose a college, major, or career. Explore and do the work to know what you can do now to prepare for your senior year. There is a great college/postgraduate plan for everyone!

Parents: Note that **January 1st** of your child's sophomore year is the beginning of the base year on which financial aid calculations will be based for the first year of college. The base year runs from January of the student's sophomore year to December of their junior year.

NOTES
