# College Counseling Timeline

## Freshman Year

Focus on academics and involvement.

Optional: attend all-school college information nights.

## Sophomore Year

Focus on academics and involvement.

Take the Digital PSAT in the fall.

Start thinking generally about where you see yourself attending college (location, size, programs).

## Junior Fall

Officially begin the college research process.

Attend presentations at SMA by 100+ college admission officers on institution offerings and admission information.

Attend area college fairs. Conduct online research.

Take the Digital PSAT in the fall.

## Junior Spring

Meet with College Counselor & develop list of where to apply.

Continue college research; come to conclusions on aspects of fit, including size, location, potential majors, and co-curricular options.

Research college cost and affordability.

Follow SMA process for selecting writers for Teacher Letters of Recommendation.

Take an official ACT or SAT test.

Consider visiting colleges during Spring Break and plan for summer visits if desired.

Begin working on College Essay in Junior English.

## Rising Senior Summer

Have fun! Choose to engage in enrichment activities you are passionate about.

Visit colleges and continue research.

Read through Common Application supplemental question prompts; begin brainstorming responses.

Revisit College Essay draft in preparation for Senior English.

## Senior Fall

Finalize College Essay in Senior English class.

Stay in contact with College Counselor

Narrow down college list

Apply for admission and financial aid to colleges.

## Senior Spring

Write thank you notes to recommenders.

Continue engaging with colleges you have applied to (attend admitted student events, read through emails).

Once colleges have responded, consider and compare financial aid offers.

Make a final decision on where to enroll by the May 1st National Confirmation Deadline.

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY