



## College Timetable

*This section will give you some basic guidelines on what you need to do at each grade level to prepare for college. For additional information or for personal advice, see your counselor.*

### College Recommended Courses

College admissions officers generally recommend that students take the following college preparatory courses in high school: 4 years of English, 3-4 years of math (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II), 3 years of social studies, 3 years of science, 2-3 years of the same foreign language, and 1 year of fine or performing arts.

### Freshman Year

When you become a freshman, everything starts to “count.” All of your freshman courses, grades, and credits will be on your transcript, and your freshman grades will be used to determine your GPA. Freshman activities, honors, and awards can also be listed on college and scholarship applications.

As a freshman, become involved in activities, establish good study habits, and work hard to get good grades.

### Sophomore Year

In addition to working hard in school and being involved in a variety of activities, try to identify your abilities, interests, and aptitudes. Also look for opportunities to further develop your skills and talents.

Consider taking the PLAN and/or the PSAT if they're offered at your school. See your counselor for information on these tests.

### Junior Year

Your junior year is when you should take college tests, make college visits, and start searching for scholarships.

**October** - Take the PSAT /NMSQT. Students with very high scores on this test will be considered for National Merit Scholarships.

**March to June** - Take the ACT and/or the SAT. To get information and to register for the ACT, go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). To get information and register for the SAT, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). If you need additional information on these tests, see your counselor.

### Senior Year

Your senior year is when your hard work and planning pay off. Complete your applications in the fall, and *be aware of deadlines*.

**September** - Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Go over your ACT and/or SAT scores, and determine if you need to retake either of these tests.

**October** - Complete college admissions, financial aid, and scholarship applications. Be sure to apply to at least one “safety school.” (This is a college that you know you’ll be admitted to and one that you can definitely afford.) Retake the ACT and/or SAT if necessary.

**December** - If you want financial aid, tell your parents that they’ll need to complete a FAFSA. They can get information and complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Encourage your parents to submit the FAFSA as soon *after* January 1 as possible.

**April** - Decide which college to attend. Send in your housing deposit, sign and return award letters, and, as a courtesy, notify the other colleges of your decision.

*“Genius without education is like silver in the mine.”  
Benjamin Franklin*