

Freshman Year

- Focus on your academics – every year matters to colleges
- Work on developing strong time management and study skills
- Build a “Four Year Plan” based on graduation/college requirements and your interests
- Get involved with activities and causes that matter to you
- Attend college fairs/ Visit local colleges open houses
- Look at admission statistics for colleges that interest you and set goals

Sophomore Year

- Continue to be diligent with your coursework
- Explore your interests through clubs, sports, and community organizations
- Build strong positive relationships with your teachers
- Take the PSAT in the fall and ACT Aspire test (Practice ACT exam) in the spring
- Attend college fairs/ Visit local colleges open houses
- Look for summer opportunities to explore interests, career possibilities or gain a skill
- Complete the personality and career assessments in Naviance.
- Create a resume of your activities and community involvement in Naviance
- Update your “Four Year Plan” and meet with your advisor to choose classes for your junior year and discuss your college goals.

Junior Year

- Focus on academics and consider challenging yourself with advanced coursework
- Think about which teachers you would like to ask to write letters of recommendations
- Look for leadership opportunities
- Research potential majors
- Research potential colleges based on interests, GPA and PSAT/ACT Aspire
- Build a potential college list.
- Assess your strengths, transcripts, and areas for improvement
- Look for summer opportunities to explore interests, career possibilities or gain a skill
- Meet with your academic and college counselors to plan for college and set goals

Summer before Senior Year

- Learn the application procedure for the schools where you are applying
- Organize your resume – activities, community service, leadership
- Draft of your application essays
- Intern/work/volunteer/ take a class

Senior Year

- Focus on academics – Make sure you are keeping a healthy balance
- Apply to college
- Consider taking the SAT or ACT in the fall of senior year
- October: FAFSA Application opens
- Keep track of usernames and passwords for college portals
- February: Cal Grant Forms are due
- Visit colleges you are considering attending
- Compare financial aid award letters
- Apply for housing
- May 1: Deadline to decide which college to attend