



COLLEGE PLANNING TABLE

WHEN TO BEGIN	WHAT TO DO	HOW TO DO IT
Freshman & Sophomore Years	Become familiar with college entrance requirements and continue career exploration activities. Which courses in your high school curriculum satisfy college requirements? Do you have a plan for extracurricular involvement?	Work with parents, teachers, advisors, and counselors to create a four-year high school curriculum plan to satisfy your goals. Try job shadowing. Get involved at school and in your community. Volunteer in an area you are interested in as a career.
Junior Year	Think about your reasons for going to college. What are your goals? What learning opportunities are most important? Do your college plans include career plans?	Talk with your parents, teachers, counselors, advisors, and friends. Investigate possible career options and degree level required. Attend college fairs and college night programs.
Junior Year (Spring Semester)	Identify important factors in choosing a college. Two-year or four-year? Location? Cost? Kind of atmosphere? Variety of study programs available? Entrance test requirement?	Focus on your goals and career interests. Consult college guidebooks. Explore colleges on the Internet. Request college information. Prepare for your college admission test. (ACT and/or SAT and SATII)
Junior Year (Summer)	List colleges you are considering and collect information. Have you included all possible choices? What information do you need? How can you get it?	Prepare for college visits. Plan family vacations around colleges you may be interested in attending. Take appropriate college admission tests.
Senior Year	Compare the colleges on your list. Have you weighed pros and cons carefully? Which colleges will meet your needs?	Continue visiting colleges. Organize information into detailed, useful comparisons.
Senior Year (Fall Semester)	Apply to your "choice" colleges. Do you have all the necessary forms? Are you sure of the application deadlines?	Obtain application forms. Observe deadlines. Submit transcript and test scores (retest if necessary). Submit any other required documents and/or recommendations.
Senior Year (Spring Semester)	Apply for financial aid. Have you investigated all possible sources of aid? When should you apply?	Consult financial aid office. Secure forms and note deadlines. Complete the FAFSA after January 1.
Senior Year (Pre- & Post-Graduation)	Make some final decisions. What additional preparation might be helpful? Should you consider summer school? Do you feel comfortable with your final choice?	Confer with parents and counselors. Consider scholarship offers. Confirm your decision, and decline other admission offers. Show initiative.