

Suggested College Prep Timeline

Freshman Year - Fall

Month	Task
August-September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start high school! Set up a time-management system for the semester. • Set up goals for the semester and map them out on a timeline • Check out school clubs and explore 3-4 you might be interested in • Fill out the Skills/Interest Worksheet to define some key interests
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate your time-management system and goals. Any changes needed for greater success? • Find ways to get to know your teachers; you never know when you'll need a recommendation letter • Become active in school activities; colleges love involved students! • Find a volunteering activity you can dedicate yourself to over time (See "Committed" under 6Cs)
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get plenty of sleep (8-9 hours) so you can gear up for the second half of the semester • Maintain activities (or cut back temporarily if you need to keep your grades up); stick to priorities! • Begin thinking about summer plans (academic program, job, volunteer, science/art project?)
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create study plan for finals; revise time-management system for finals prep • Maintain healthy sleep schedule to stay focused on academics • Begin applying to summer programs • Evaluate extracurricular involvement; any adjustments needed for next semester? • Choose a few books, videos, podcasts for critical reading/mind expansion over break

Freshman Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With lessons learned from the fall, create a new time-management plan • Set goals for the semester and summer • Stay focused on classes so you don't fall behind at the beginning of the semester • Start to think about summer volunteering, interning, or employment
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase your extracurricular involvement in current clubs with eye to leadership in a few • Keep up with your volunteering or independent projects (like math or writing competitions) • Select your classes for sophomore year • Complete summer program applications, if applying
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up with your classes! Review time-management and goals! • Explore a few careers connected to your Skills-Interests Worksheet • Apply for summer volunteering, internship, or job opportunities
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a few books, videos, podcasts for critical reading/mind expansion over spring break • Create time for extra study on subjects that need reinforcement in preparation for finals • Stay organized, cutting back on some activities if you are feeling overloaded
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a study plan for finals and reorganize time-management for maximum success • Finalize those summer plans! • Try for an officer position in a club for sophomore year; or make plans to start a club (or both) • Revisit your goals, make adjustments, and stay focused to finish the semester strong

Freshman/Sophomore Year - Summer

Month	Task
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate your interests through an academic program, volunteer opportunity, or job • Keep up with assigned summer reading for sophomore year • Expand your mind through critical reading, viewing, or listening • Explore some careers through informational interviews, job shadowing, or web research • Keep up with your local volunteering • Save time for fun and relaxation! • Record your summer experiences in a journal; this might be handy for future applications! • Write a first draft of your resume if you haven't yet done so

Sophomore Year - Fall

Month	Task
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With renewed energy, define your goals for sophomore semester and then timeline milestones • Think about which extracurriculars will define you best. Try something new or stick with same? • Create your time-management and social media plan • Think about how you can define yourself outside of school or typical extracurricular activities • Research competitions if this is of interest to you
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are interested in a diagnostic score, take the PSAT • Keep up with your classes, noticing the increased demands of sophomore year • Get active in your chosen clubs or other extracurriculars • Start thinking about an independent project; what can you do to show your unique passions?
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to sleep and wellness as the semester kicks into full swing • Maintain good relations with your teachers; get to know them • Keep up grades • Maintain extracurricular involvement • Start researching summer programs that build on last summer or introduce something different
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get plenty of sleep (8-9 hours) so you can gear up for finals preparation • Maintain activities (or cut back temporarily if you need to keep your grades up); stick to priorities! • Begin thinking about summer plans (academic program, job, volunteer, science/art project?) • Create study plan for finals
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin applying to summer programs • Evaluate extracurricular involvement; any adjustments needed for next semester? • Choose a few books, videos, podcasts for critical reading/mind expansion over break • Begin researching the best ways to study for the SAT or ACT • Draft goals for spring semester; timeline milestones • Brainstorm ideas for your independent project, if you choose to do one • Revise/update your resume

Sophomore Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a diagnostic SAT or ACT and devise a study plan to take the exam next fall • Get your time-management plan down for a strong semester

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep your extracurricular goals in mind; it's important to be active outside the classroom! ● If you are taking an AP class or a class that matches an SAT II, devise a study plan
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase your extracurricular involvement in activities with leadership/collaboration in mind ● Keep up with your volunteering or independent projects (like math or writing competitions) ● Select your classes for junior year ● Decide on a SAT/ACT prep plan and enroll so there's time before taking the real test in the fall ● Complete summer program applications, if applying
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep up with your classes! Review time-management and goals! ● Explore a few careers connected to your Skills-Interests Worksheet ● Apply for summer volunteering, internship, or job opportunities ● Start SAT/ACT prep plan and continue through summer; time is your friend!
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visit a college or two during spring break (if you can't travel, visit a few local schools) ● Choose a few books, videos, podcasts for critical reading/mind expansion over spring break ● Create time for extra study on subjects that need reinforcement in preparation for finals ● Stay organized, cutting back on some activities if you are feeling overloaded
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a study plan for finals and reorganize time-management for maximum success ● Finalize those summer plans! ● Try for an officer position in a club for junior year; or make plans to advance the club you started ● Revisit your goals, make adjustments, and stay focused to finish the semester strong

Sophomore/Junior Year - Summer

Month	Task
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activate your interests through an academic program, volunteer opportunity, job ● Continue progress on your independent project (iOS app? poetry blog?), if doing one ● Keep up with assigned summer reading for junior year ● Expand your mind through critical reading, viewing, or listening ● Explore some careers through informational interviews, job shadowing, or web research ● Visit a few colleges of interest; if you can't travel, visit virtually through web research ● Research 5-10 colleges through web research or in a workshop ● Save time for fun and relaxation! ● Record your summer experiences in a journal; this might be handy for future applications! ● Continue progressing with SAT/ACT prep, taking practice exams regularly ● Revise/update your resume

Junior Year - Fall

Month	Task
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take a really deep breath! Note to yourself that this is the year to do your absolute best :) ● Check with your school counselor about college information sessions at your school ● Define your goals, time-management, SM plan, and timeline for junior semester ● Stay focused on your SAT/ACT prep; take SAT if signed up for August sitting ● Think about which extracurriculars are working best. Try something new or increase involvement? ● Assess how you're defining yourself outside of school; on the way to a unique college application? ● Plan for competitions if this of interest to you
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you are interested in a diagnostic score or applying for National Merit, take the PSAT ● Keep up with your classes, noticing the increased demands and stress level of junior year ● Get active in your chosen clubs or other extracurriculars ● Keep it all together as the semester introduces new challenges; prioritize!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take ACT if signed up for September sitting
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to sleep and wellness as the semester kicks into full swing • Maintain good relations with your teachers; get to know them • Maintain extracurricular involvement • Start researching summer options that take things to the next level and showcase your talents • Take ACT or SAT if signed up for October sitting
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get plenty of sleep (8-9 hours) so you can gear up for finals preparation • Maintain activities (or cut back temporarily if you need to keep your grades up); stick to priorities! • Begin mapping out some rough summer plans • Create study plan for finals • Take SAT if signed up for November sitting
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin applying to summer programs • Choose a few books, videos, podcasts for critical reading/mind expansion over break • Draft goals for spring semester; timeline milestones • Take ACT or SAT if signed up for December sitting • Continue web research on colleges of interest; draft a list of 20 schools you're interested in • Continue career exploration • Revise/update your resume

Junior Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to stay focused for the most important semester so far! • Define your goals, time-management, SM plan, and timeline for junior semester • Keep your extracurricular goals in mind; have you advanced in clubs and activities? • If you are taking an AP class or a class that matches an SAT II, devise a study plan • Retake the ACT/SAT a second time if necessary (applies to any month this semester) • Start exploring schools from the rough college list you made in December (do a few each month)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase your extracurricular involvement your leadership/collaboration goals in mind • Keep up with your volunteering or independent projects (like math or writing competitions) • Select your classes for senior year • Explore a few more schools on your college list
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete summer program applications, if applying • Keep up with your classes! Review time-management and goals! • Apply for summer volunteering, internship, or job opportunities • Explore a few more schools on your school list • Talk to some of your favorite teachers about letters of recommendation for college applications
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a college or two during spring break (if you can't travel, visit a few local schools) • Choose a few books, videos, podcasts for critical reading/mind expansion over spring break • Create time for extra study on subjects that need reinforcement in preparation for finals • Stay organized, cutting back on some activities if you are feeling overloaded • Explore a few more schools on your school list
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a study plan for finals and reorganize time-management for maximum success • Finalize those summer plans! • Try for an officer position in a club for junior year; or make plans to advance the club you started • Revisit your goals, make adjustments, and stay focused to finish the semester strong • Take AP exams • Take SAT subject tests

Junior/Senior Year - Summer

Month	Task
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FINALIZE YOUR COLLEGE LIST ● Activate your interests in the strongest way possible this last summer before applying ● Continue progress on your independent project, if doing one ● Visit a few colleges of interest; if you can't travel, visit virtually through web research ● Save time for fun and relaxation!
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● START WRITING YOUR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS ● Keep up with assigned summer reading for senior year ● Continue with summer program or project started in June ● Create an organizational plan for writing essays and completing all the applications on your list ● Revise/update your resume

Senior Year - Fall

Month	Task
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a time-management plan that includes extra time for essay and application work ● Think about what you can cut out to give you a little more time for multiple essay revisions ● Check in with your teachers about letters of recommendation ● Draft those essays ● Any adjustments to your school list? If so, adjust your plan.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fill out your school's counselor questionnaire, if your school has one ● Draft those essays ● Keep up with classes ● Sign up for admissions interviews, if applicable ● Breathe
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare for early admission deadline of November 1, if applicable ● Fill out applications ● Send standardized test score reports ● Finalize essays ● Complete activities list with descriptions ● Include any additional information essays ● Practice for interviews, if applicable
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If applying a state school with an 11/30 or 12/1 deadline, start finalizing essays ● Fill out applications ● Send standardized test score reports ● Complete activities list with descriptions ● Include any additional information essays ● Practice for interviews, if applicable
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If applying regular decision with a 1/1 deadline, start finalizing essays ● Fill out applications ● Send standardized test score reports ● Complete activities list with descriptions ● Include any additional information essays ● Practice for interviews, if applicable

Senior Year - Spring

Month	Task
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a self-appreciation celebration! You have made it very far.• Also, keep up your energy! Some schools might be interested in your second semester transcript• If you're working on 2/1 deadlines, repeat steps above.• Practice for interviews, if applicable
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the 1st half of the month, gather material, write, and send update letters to schools, if applicable• Enjoy a less stressful load, keeping up your time-management and achieving your goals
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold steady as you await results• If you are waitlisted at dreams schools, start drafting waitlist letter
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have some competing choices among your results, inform yourself about each school• If you can visit, do that• If you can talk to students or alum, also a good idea• Create a pro/con list for each school before making a final decision• If waitlisted, send waitlist letter
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On or before May 1, enroll in college!• If waitlisted, keep hope alive. Many of our students have been admitted later in summer