

College planning timeline: Grade 11

FALL

- It's never too late to improve your grades. Colleges look for an upward trend. Your GPA and class selection are important for college admission and scholarships.
- Specialize your involvement in activities. Concentrate on your special talents, abilities and interests. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities, as well as variety.
- See your guidance counselor about your plans.
- Sign up to meet with college representatives who visit your high school.
- Attend local college fairs in the area. See your counselor for dates and times.
- Develop leadership skills by getting or staying involved with clubs/activities/comm. svc.
- Prepare for and take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Discuss your scores with your counselor.
- Continue working on your college list. What major(s) are you interested in? Where? Size? Type? (Your list can be quite large right now!)

WINTER

- Think about where you would like to go to college. Size, costs, location and academic programs are some of the things to consider. Explore the Internet.
- Write to request college catalogs. Consult college guidebooks. Talk to your counselor.
- Continue to research information about scholarships and other kinds of financial aid.
- **Register for your COF** (Colorado Opportunity Fund) money on collegeincolorado.org
- If you are interested in a military academy, start the application process now.
- Study for the ACT and SAT tests. Study guides, prep courses and computer tutorials are available in every high school.
- Register for the spring ACT and/or SAT tests. Registration deadlines are about 5 weeks before the tests.

SPRING

- Take the Colorado State SAT exam in April—it's free, paid for by the state of Colorado
- Consider taking an additional SAT test or try an ACT test. Consider taking the ACT-prep workshop at AAHS in March or April.
- Continue to take a full course load of college prep courses in your senior year. It will pay off later.
- Discuss post-secondary enrollment options with your guidance counselor.
- Discuss ACT/SAT scores with your guidance counselor. If necessary, develop a plan to increase your scores when you take the tests again in your senior year.
- Apply for a summer job, volunteer opportunities, or college summer enrichment programs.
- If you are planning to apply to a highly selective college, the SAT II subject test may be required. See your guidance counselor.

SUMMER

- Visit as many college campuses as you can.
- Talk with students currently enrolled at the colleges and/or alumni who return
- Read, read, read. Continue to enhance your skills, hobbies, and talents.
- Continue involvement in the community through volunteering.
- Participate in summer academic enrichment activities, such as Summer Scholars.
- If you haven't already, compile your activities, service experience, academic records, employment, etc. into a resume to give to teachers for recommendation letters in the fall.
- Ultimately, you want to have a college list of 4 to 7 colleges (with a variety of selectivity) to apply to by the end of the summer. (A couple of safety schools, a few foundational schools, and a couple of reach schools)