

# High School Sophomore Timeline and Checklist

## How to start preparing for college in your sophomore year of high school.

The countdown to college has begun. The primary focuses of your sophomore year should be: keeping your grade point average up (What is a GPA?), getting involved in extracurricular activities and preparing to take standardized tests like the SAT or the ACT.

### **Fall (September-November)**

- Evaluate your course load and find out how much you know about college planning.
- Register for and take the PSAT (pre-SAT) and/or PLAN (pre-ACT) tests.
- Increase your commitment to extracurricular activities so you will stand out on your college applications.
- Create a college calendar to keep track of important dates and deadlines.
- Get familiar with college planning and the admissions process so you'll know what to expect before college.

### **Winter (December-February)**

- Develop your standardized testing plan and take the tests you're ready for.
- Discover unique tips on how to organize your college prep activities.
- Start your essay prep by writing often now, so you can reap the benefits later.
- Capitalize on college planning resources and learn more about colleges and universities.

### **Spring (March-May)**

- Consult your counselor to make sure you're prepped for junior year classes.
- Expand your knowledge about prospective schools by attending college fairs and information sessions.
- Plan a solid summer filled with volunteering, internships and of course, fun.
- Ask your counselor or teachers about AP testing to see if you're ready to take AP classes or sign up for the AP exam.

### **Summer (June-August)**

- Talk with your family about creating a college budget.
- Secure a summer job and build credentials while having fun.
- Enroll in ACT or SAT prep over the summer while you still have free time.
- Visit college campuses to see which types of schools appeal to you.