

Basic College Preparation Timeline

1. Plan tentative secondary coursework before beginning middle school classes.
 - Investigate student interests and research related professions together.
 - Allow students to try and fail in areas of interest.
2. Reevaluate as students enter high school.
 - Failures and successes are useful guides for refining a student's coursework.
 - In which areas are developing strengths obvious? *Prioritize classes in areas of strength.*
3. Begin taking necessary standardized tests early (8th and 9th grade years).
 - PSAT, precursor for the SAT
 - PLAN, precursor for the ACT
 - Practicing increases the overall score.*
4. Schedule college campus visits in the sophomore year of high school.
5. Begin ACT/SAT preparation in earnest during the sophomore year.
6. Aim to achieve the desired ACT/SAT score by the end of the junior year of high school.
7. Write college entrance essays during the summer between the junior and senior years of high school. Allow ample time for feedback, editing, and proofreading.
8. File application forms (for both admission and scholarships) to the schools of choice at the beginning of the senior year of high school.
9. Attend scholarship interviews in January and February of the senior year.
10. You're in! Accept an offer. May 1 is a typical deadline for acceptances.