

ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN

Fall

Plan for the Year Ahead

- Meet with your [counselor](#) to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule with him or her to make sure you're enrolled in [challenging classes](#) that will help you prepare for college. Colleges prefer four years of English, history, math, science, and a foreign language.
- Use [College Search](#) to find out the required courses and tests of colleges that you might be interested in attending.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get more involved with your [extracurricular activities](#).
- Go to college fairs in your area.

Winter

Learn about Colleges

- Learn about [college costs](#) and how [financial aid](#) works.
- Use the [College Savings Calculator](#) to see how much money you'll need for college, whether you're on track to save enough, and what you need to do to reach your goal. Talk to your parents about financing college.
- [Visit colleges](#) while they're in session.
- Find out about college firsthand from college friends who are home for the holidays.

Prepare for Tests

- Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking [SAT Subject Tests™](#) in your strong subjects this spring. Take Subject Tests such as World History, Biology E/M, and Chemistry while the material is still fresh in your mind.

Spring

Stay Focused

- Sign up for [college preparatory courses](#). Consider [AP®](#) courses.
- Study for May AP Exams. Get free [AP preparation](#).

Explore Summer Opportunities

- Look for a great [summer opportunity](#) — job, internship, or volunteer position.
- Check with your counselor and search online for [summer school programs](#) for high school students at colleges.

Summer

Make the Most of Your Break

- Start a summer [reading list](#). Ask your teachers to recommend books.
- Plan to [visit college campuses](#) to get a feel for your options. Start with colleges near you.
- Finalize your summer plans.