



# COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

To do list for parents and students grades 9-12

# FRESHMEN

- Social Security Number ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov))
- Begin to take challenging courses
- Meet counselor
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Create a four-year high school plan
- Start thinking about life after school
  - Identify interests, skills, and values
  - Talk to other people about careers of interest

# SOPHOMORES

- Continue to take challenging courses
- Continue to talk to others in community about different careers
- Naviance (<https://student.naviance.com/cal>)
- Check out college campuses
- Attend college and career fairs
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT®
- Participate in school activities and/or volunteer efforts

# JUNIORS—FALL & WINTER

- Continue to take challenging courses
- Continue college search
- Continue to think about career choices
- Attend college fairs, college nights, and financial aid seminars
- Talk to college representatives when they visit CAL
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT®
- Start to draft a plan on how the family plans to pay for college expenses
- Tour college campuses
  - Scheduled tours arranged through college admissions
  - Virtual tours (<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch>)

# JUNIORS--SPRING

- Visit colleges
  - Visit the college when students are on campus
  - Make an appointment with both the admissions and financial aid offices
- If considering military academies or ROTC scholarship, begin application process
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Understand the admission requirements for each college
- Begin to prepare a resume
- Meet with counselor regarding any questions
- Interest Inventories (taken in Bible class)

# JUNIORS--SUMMER

- Visit colleges
- Apply for scholarships (note the deadlines)
- Register with NCAA and notify coach if pursuing sports in college
- Finalize resume
- Shadow, volunteer or work in areas of career interest
- Calculate Expected Family Contribution (EFC); calculators are available at:
  - The College Board ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))
  - ACT ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org))
  - The SmartStudent™ Guide to Financial Aid (<http://www.finaid.org/>)

# SENIORS--FALL

September to December

- Continue to visit colleges, attend open houses, college fairs, and college days
- Meet with college representatives when they visit CAL
- Complete admission and financial aid applications
- Continue to take challenging courses
- Continue to apply for private and outside grants and scholarships
- Ask the financial aid office if they will provide an estimate of student aid based on high school record and current family financial situation
- Discuss with school counselor if need to retake the SAT/ACT
- Submit FAFSA on-line (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) after October 1st

# SENIORS—WINTER

January to March

- Continue to apply for scholarships
- Males 18 years or older must register for the Selective Service to receive federal student aid
  - complete the appropriate box on the FAFSA or
  - register at the post office
- Apply for state financial aid
- Promptly respond to requests for additional information from colleges



# SENIORS--SPRING

April to May

- Compare all financial aid award letters from each college
- If more money is needed to attend a particular college, contact the financial aid office
- Notify the colleges that have accepted you that you do **not** plan to enroll
- Accept the financial aid award and submit the required tuition deposit (some colleges assign dorms based on date of tuition)
- Note: reapply for aid annually

# SUMMER BEFORE COLLEGE

- Register and attend summer orientation
- Notify the student aid office of any outside scholarships or grants received
- If awarded a work-study position, check with the aid office for job placement information
- If appropriate, sign the necessary promissory notes for student loans
- Make travel plans
- Set up a bank account near or on campus, if needed
- Arrange to pay the fall tuition and fees bill
- Establish a budget for freshman year