



College Planning Checklist and Timeline

Freshman Year

- Get to know your school counselor
- Aim for high grades; pay attention to your school work
- Get involved with extra-curricular activities and volunteer service
- Discuss your academic and career planning with your family
- Make course selections that suit your academic abilities and interests
- Start your activities list/resume

Sophomore Year

- Take the practice PSAT in October
- Consider taking the mock SAT and ACT to see which suits you better.
- Stay in touch with your counselor; develop relationships with your teachers
- Start thinking and talking about your possible career interests
- Continue your commitment to your classes, activities, and service
- Start the college exploration process; visit some campuses if possible
- Plan to take classes that are challenging but allow you to maintain a balance
- Explore your interests, both during the school year and over the summer
- Update your resume with new activities, honors, etc.

Junior Year

- Create a professional email address to use when registering for ACT/SAT and completing college applications.
- Attend college fairs, information sessions and open houses as appropriate
- Participate in college visits to the Career Center in the fall
- Continue your exploration of careers that might interest you
- Continue your commitment to your classes, activities, and service
- Continue developing relationships with your counselors and teachers
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Do your college research; visit college campuses; create a list sorted by reach, match and safety schools
- Discuss your plans for classes and college with your counselor and family

- Make academic choices that challenge you but don't overwhelm you; review high school class requirements for the colleges you are interested in.
- Attend the spring series of College Planning Workshops for juniors at WPHS
- Create list of teachers, coaches, and other mentors who can write letters of recommendation.
- Keep your resume/activities list up to date

Rising Seniors (Summer)

- Plan for a meaningful summer job, internship or volunteer activity
- Register (and prepare for) one last SAT or ACT to take in the fall, if necessary
- Prepare your final list of colleges you plan to apply to and check websites for deadlines and requirements. Include that information on your list.
- Get a jump on your college essays
- Consider attending the Common App Workshops held at WPHS in Aug/Sept.
- Talk with your family about college costs. Learn about the types of financial aid and search for scholarships

Senior Year

- Review and pay attention to the "Senior Packet" given to all seniors in September
- Complete your college visits, if necessary
- Remember that scholarship deadlines sometimes come first
- Attend Financial Aid Night at WPHS; file the FAFSA in October
- Register (last chance) for any SAT/ACT/Subject test you still need to take
- Follow up on your teacher recommendations
- Submit your transcript request form to your school counselor
- Keep your grades up – colleges can rescind offers if you slack off senior year
- Work diligently (well before the deadline) on your applications
- Send your official SAT/ACT scores to your colleges
- Submit your college applications well in advance of deadlines
- File the CSS Profile only if required by your colleges
- If you are admitted Early Decision, withdraw your other applications.
- Review your acceptances and award packages in the spring
- Make your final choice and deposit to that college by May 1
- Complete your Senior Survey in May (where WPHS will send your final transcript)
- Enjoy Prom and Graduation!