



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

Recommended college prep activities

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## FALL: TAKE PSAT, ORGANIZE & RESEARCH

- You can take the PSAT for the first time or take it again.
- Make a physical or online file to manage all your college data. It needs to be in one place!
- Decide when you will be taking SAT, ACT, SAT subject tests and AP exams and mark on a calendar.
- Research colleges online and in person.
- Estimate your financial aid need. Go to [bigfuture.org](http://bigfuture.org) to use estimate tool.
- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY AND KEEP THOSE GRADES UP!

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## WINTER: EXTRACURRICULAR, COLLEGES, PREP

- Continue your participation in extracurricular activities.
- Make sure you explore AP options at your school.
- Set up a filing system with individual folders for each college's correspondence and printed materials.
- Prep for exams.
- Have regular discussions with family members about potential colleges and cost.
- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY AND KEEP THOSE GRADES UP!

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## SPRING: COLLEGES, SCHOLARSHIPS, EXAMS, SCHEDULE

- Attend college fairs and collect information. Begin narrowing down some potential colleges.
- Search online for external scholarships and keep a list.
- Make sure you have finalized your class schedule for senior year.
- Take SAT or ACT exams as scheduled.
- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY AND KEEP THOSE GRADES UP!

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## SUMMER: COLLEGE VISITS, APPLICATIONS, JOB, RESUME, ESSAYS, FAFSA PREP

- You need to get your FSA ID (username and password) before you can fill out the FAFSA.
- Consider who you would ask to write your recommendation letters.
- Have a full or part-time summer job.
- Create a resume containing your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities and work experiences since you started high school.
- Look up application deadlines for colleges. Familiarize yourself with the common app and other college requirements such as essays.
- Develop essay(s) topic and outline.