

Appendix

Freshman and Sophomore Years

If you are beginning to think about college – fantastic! You are way ahead in the process. You'll have plenty of time to make sure you are taking the high school courses that will prepare you for college. You'll be able to look at many different colleges, and PREPARE for the SAT and ACT standardized tests. Check off the items as you do them this year

- _____ Talk to your parents and teachers/mentor about your desire to go to college.
- _____ Make sure you are taking the proper classes to prepare for college.
- _____ Develop strong study skills.
- _____ Explore career possibilities.
- _____ Go to a college fair if one is in your area.
- _____ Learn about colleges – costs and financial aid possibilities. Don't get discouraged; there is a way.
- _____ Investigate different ways to save money for college. Even a small amount each month will help.
- _____ Keep a folder of the information materials you are able to find.
- _____ Colleges look at outside interests. Get involved in a school or community program.
- _____ READ – novels, newspapers, magazines.
- _____ Do crossword puzzles.
- _____ Work out logic problems.
- _____ Answer the SAT question of the day <http://apps.collegeboard.com/qotd/question.do>
Do this every day. Create a free account. Follow the directions. Also do <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/satofday/>
- _____ Keep a journal.

You are off to a great start!

Junior Year

Check when task is completed!

SEPTEMBER

- _____ Make sure you are taking the proper courses to prepare for college.
- _____ Sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT – prepare at www.collegeboard.com/psat or purchase a preparation book to take practice tests.
- _____ Answer the SAT question of the day. <http://apps.collegeboard.com/qotd/question.do>
If possible do this every day possible. Create a free account online. Follow the directions. Another web site is <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/satofday/>
- _____ Consider taking the ACT. Find out dates and places test is given.

OCTOBER

- _____ Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Prepare for the SAT, either online or by using a SAT Prep Book Review.
- _____ If you took the PSAT/NMSQT on or after 2006, you have access to **My College QuickStart**, a **free** personalized college and career planning kit based on your test results. To sign in, you'll need the access code printed on your PSAT/NMSQT paper score report. If you do not already have a College Board account, you'll be prompted to create one. **My College QuickStart includes these features:** Online Score Report – An enhanced score report that allows you to review each test question, your answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations. My SAT Study Plan – A customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.

NOVEMBER

- _____ Start you college search. Go to the library, visit a guidance counselor's office, or go online to search for colleges.
- _____ Visit a college if possible. Take a tour. Request applications and catalogs.
- _____ Go to a college fair if one is in your area. Request applications and catalogs.

DECEMBER

_____ Log onto My College QuickStart at **collegeboard.com/quickstart** to view your online score report and personalized SAT study plan. Explore majors and careers.

JANUARY

_____ Prepare for the SAT.

_____ Register for a spring SAT online or by mail.

FEBRUARY

_____ Learn about college costs and possible financial aid possibilities.

MARCH

_____ Make a list of your activities.

_____ your abilities.

_____ your personal qualities.

_____ your possible major in college.

_____ your responsibilities if you have a job.

APRIL

_____ Continue your college search.

_____ Involve your parents. Have them look at **collegeboard.com/parents** if possible.

MAY

_____ Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests this spring, and maybe the ACT.

_____ Prepare to apply to colleges.

Have you completed all needs for your JUNIOR Year?

Then...

Have a great summer!

Senior Year

Check when task is completed.

SEPTEMBER

- _____ Register for fall SAT tests. (Language Tests with Listening are offered only in November.)
- _____ See your counselor/mentor to discuss college financial aid and scholarships. Inquire about **State Financial Aid** sources.
- _____ Search for colleges noting deadlines for applying.
- _____ Prepare for the SAT either online at collegeboard.com/satprep or with a SAT Prep Review Book. Answer the SAT question of the day. Create a free account online. Follow the directions. <http://apps.collegeboard.com/qotd/question.do> One more site to check is <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/satofday/>
- _____ Consider taking the ACT. Find out dates and places test is given. Register to take test.

OCTOBER

- _____ Take the SAT

Prepare to apply to college(s). Make a duplicate copy of everything you send to colleges.

- _____ Request recommendations from teachers or appropriate people.
- _____ Complete CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, if required, at collegeboard.com/css
- _____ Spend time working on application essays.
- _____ Fill out and send college applications. **Check dates for deadlines.**
- _____ Search for scholarships at collegeboard.com/scholarships and other places online.

NOVEMBER

- _____ Send SAT scores online to meet application deadlines.
- _____ Sign up with one parent for a PIN number at www.pin.ed.gov to file the FAFSA online in January

DECEMBER

_____ Complete **FAFSA** worksheets at **www.fafsa.ed.gov**

JANUARY

_____ Complete FAFSA online before deadlines and submit PROFILE, if required.

_____ Send transcripts to colleges.

FEBRUARY

_____ Apply for financial aid before deadlines to receive the most aid.

MARCH

_____ Explore college majors. **www.mymajors.com**

APRIL

_____ Review financial aid packages with your parents and counselor.

***Acceptance letters and financial aid offers come by mid April at the latest. Compare your awards from different colleges. Ask whether other financing plans are available if aid is insufficient to the college of your first choice. Visit your college before accepting. Tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send deposit to the college you choose.

_____ Make a decision on where you are going to college. Accept before the deadline.

May

_____ Send thank you notes to people who wrote recommendations for you.

**You're on your way.
CONGRATULATIONS!**

Helpful Internet Sites

Applying for Financial Aid

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> – Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically on the web. Completing the FAFSA online will automatically calculate an Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

<http://www.pin.ed.gov/> – Use this site to apply for a PIN or request a new PIN. Having a PIN allows students to apply for financial aid electronically, make electronic corrections, and provides for certain e-signature privileges.

Calculate Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – These websites help you to estimate an EFC if you don't want to complete the FAFSA on the web. This is for estimation purposes only. The school you will be attending makes the final determination on the EFC used.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/paying>

<http://www.educationquest.com/>

<http://www.finaid.org/>

General Information on Preparing and Paying for College

<http://profileonline.collegeboard.com/> Students can apply online to this financial aid service if they seek money for college. Information is also available in Spanish.

<http://www.savingsforcollege.com/> – The Internet guide to 529 plans. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to encourage saving for future college costs. 529 plans, legally known as “qualified tuition plans,” are sponsored by states, state agencies, or educational institutions and are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

<http://www.finaid.org> – A comprehensive collection about financial aid on the web.

<http://www.studentaid.gov/> – A comprehensive financial aid site maintained by the federal government for students and their parents

<http://www.collegeispossible.org/> – This site will guide you to the books, websites, and other resources that administrations and financial aid professionals consider most helpful in preparing and paying for college.

<http://www.mapping-your-future.org/> – A one-stop site that provides students and parents with information on financial strategies, career options, and college planning.

<http://www.estudentloan.com/> – This site allows you to compare government and private loan programs.

<http://www.edupass.org/> – Information for international students thinking about pursuing a college education in the United States.

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/> – This site is helpful in looking at career possibilities.

Miscellaneous Sites

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/> – The IRS answers your tax questions pertaining to education tax credits, IRAs, student loan interest deductions, and tax law changes.

<http://www.nsls.ed.gov/> – This site contains your student loan library history. You will need your federal PIN number to enter this site.

<http://www.nslc.org/> – Loan Locator at the National Student Loan Clearinghouse will help you find out who services your student loans and how to contact them.

<http://www.sss.gov/> – Register online for the military draft with the Selective Service System. All males ages 18-25 must register in order to receive federal financial aid.

Scholarships

<http://www.collegeboard.com/paying/> – Locate scholarships, loans, internships, and other financial aid programs from non-college sources that match your education level, talents, and background.

<http://www.internationalscholarship.com/> – A comprehensive listing of scholarships, loan programs, grants, and other information to assist international students wishing to study abroad.

<http://www.petersons.com/finaid/> – This search can match to over 1.6 million scholarships, grants, and prizes.

<http://www.srnexpress.com/> – Scholarship Resource Network Express is a database of over 150,000 private scholarships.

<http://www.collegeanser.com/> – Free scholarship search along with information about the entire going-to-school process.

<http://www.fastweb.com/> – Free scholarship search site.

Internet Search to Finding State Financial Aid from Your State

(Name of Your State) Financial Aid for (Your State) Residents will bring up possibilities on the Web page if your state offers financial aid. Most states do!

For Example: **Illinois Financial Aid for Illinois Residents**

Community College Information

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/where-to-start/49360.html> is a site that will give valuable information on community colleges

Other Useful Sites

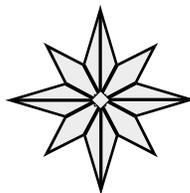
http://www.quintcareers.com/first-year_success.html ...*Your First Year of College: 25 Tips to Help You Survive and Thrive Your Freshman Year and Beyond* by Randall S. Hansen, PhD

http://www.utexas.edu/inside_ut/blogs/ University of Texas at Austin's website *Longhorn Confidential*; blogger's postings

Information you need to submit FAFSA

<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Social Security Number. Be sure it is correct!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your driver's license (if any)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your 2007 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your (and your spouse's, if you are married) 2007 Federal Income Tax Return. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040 EZ ▪ Foreign Tax Return, or ▪ Tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federal States of Micronesia, or Palau
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Parents' 2007 Federal Income Tax return (if you are a dependent student)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your 2007 untaxed income records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Security ▪ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ▪ Welfare ▪ Veterans benefits records
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your current bank statements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

To organize your information, print and complete a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before you begin entering your information online.



End of Appendix