

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE



The College Application Process

- {1}** The application process begins in NINTH grade. Your grades and coursework will directly impact your admittance to college.
- {2}** Fill your schedule with a variety of subjects and difficulty. Colleges are looking for well-rounded students who are highly motivated. Do your best in each class. Do not let a class slip because it does not interest you. Colleges look for a consistent performance in all subjects.
- {3}** Take the SAT or ACT in time to include scores on your college applications.
- {4}** Look at as many potential colleges as possible. Do not limit your options.
- {5}** Visit as many campuses as possible and talk to students, staff and the office of admissions while at the college.
- {6}** Send applications to prospective colleges beginning in early fall of your senior year. You can obtain applications and information in the guidance office or online at university and college websites.
- {7}** Fill out any potential scholarship forms and send them to the appropriate personnel.
- {8}** Allow at least two weeks for your counselor to process your applications.
- {9}** Many schools will respond to your application within 1-2 weeks.

REVIEW ONLY

Steps for Juniors

- {1}** Talk to your counselor about fitting your junior-year class schedule with coursework in English, foreign language, social studies, science, and mathematics. It is recommended that students take as many mathematics courses as possible.
- {2}** Colleges are looking for well-rounded students in the arts, business, drama, and speech.
- {3}** Find out when potential universities are visiting your school or when your school is going on visitations to potential colleges.
- {4}** It is best to visit campuses when classes are in session. (Not spring break, Christmas or any major holiday.)
- {5}** Take a course that prepares you for the SAT or ACT.
- {6}** At the beginning of your junior year, take the SAT exam to help to gauge yourself for the SAT.
- {7}** Take the SAT or ACT in the spring of your junior year. If you feel the score does not reflect your ability, retake the exam during your senior year.
- {8}** Start applying for any scholarships for which you feel you are qualified.
- {9}** If you know your intended field of study in college, schedule your senior year with an emphasis in that area.
- {10}** Plan to visit as many colleges during the summer as possible.

Steps for Seniors

- {1}** Attend as many college fairs as possible in your local area.
- {2}** Visit as many institutions and universities as possible. It is best to visit campuses when classes are in session. (Not spring break, Christmas, or any major holiday.)
- {3}** When visiting colleges, meet with the admissions office and financial aid office as well as speak with professors in your intended field of study.
- {4}** Talk to older friends and students about that particular college or university.
- {5}** Ensure that your SAT or ACT scores meet the requirements of the colleges and universities that interest you. If necessary, retake the entrance exams.
- {6}** Make a list of admission deadlines at the colleges you are interested in attending.
- {7}** Submit completed college applications to your guidance counselor, and be sure to include any application fees.
- {8}** File a financial aid form.
- {9}** Inquire about any available scholarships, and be sure to meet the appropriate requirements and deadlines.
- {10}** Keep a file of any correspondence from potential colleges for future reference.