

## FRESHMEN

### Fall

Start strong. Colleges and employers will see the grades you earn your Freshmen year  
Take your classes seriously. You may think you will never use what you are learning, but your foundation is being built for later successes.  
Plan to take honors and advanced classes as soon as they are available to you.

### Winter

Study for exams.  
Consider visiting some colleges while they are in session  
Talk to family and friends who may be home from college about their experiences and what it took for them to get in.

### Spring

Stay focused. The year is almost over but your grades are still coming.  
Finish strong. Study for end of the year exams.  
Plan on taking challenging classes next year. Honors classes are available. By finishing strong you show your teachers that you are ready for the challenge.

### Summer

Be Wise. Be smart. Be in prayer.  
Consider visiting colleges in the area or during a vacation  
Prepare now to succeed as a sophomore.

## SOPHOMORES

### Fall

Start the year strong, colleges will be looking  
Be prepared to take challenging classes  
Colleges prefer four years of English, history, math, and science  
Get involved in extracurricular activities  
Think about visiting college fairs in the area  
Consider taking the PSAT in October

### Winter

Continue to work hard. Your grades now will shape your choices tomorrow  
Start learning about colleges, financial aid, and programs  
Visit colleges while they are in session to get an idea of what they are like  
Talk to older brothers, sisters, or cousins who are home from college

### Spring

Finish strong. The year is almost over. Do your homework, study for tests, and prepare for exams.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of your high school GPA will be complete when the year concludes.  
Look to take challenging classes your junior year. Finishing strong shows your teachers and administrators you are willing to do the work.  
Look for summer opportunities (jobs, internships, or volunteer positions)

### Summer

Be wise. Be smart. Be in prayer.  
Plan on visiting some colleges in the area.  
Prepare for a challenging junior year. Be ready to return to school with an intentional attitude to succeed.

## JUNIORS

### Fall

Take the PSAT (study, using materials from College Board or the practice test given to you)  
Start Looking at Colleges  
What do you want in a college?  
Where do you want to go?  
What are you thinking about doing?  
Find colleges that fit you?  
Consider the vast number of Christian colleges and universities?  
Start Thinking About Financial Aid  
Research scholarships on the Internet (ex. [www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com))  
Get appropriate materials from the Guidance office

### Winter

Start Your Planning Now for Spring Testing (SAT / ACT)  
Possibly ACT first and SAT second (ACT: [www.actstudent.com](http://www.actstudent.com) / SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))

### Spring

Start Studying for Your Tests (these are important)  
Have a List of 12-15 Colleges That Interest You  
Start Visiting Your College Choices (whichever ones you can)  
Meet with the Guidance Department To Discuss Senior Schedules, College Options, etc.

### Summer

Visit More of Your College Choices – Take Tours, Talk to Admissions Counselors  
Request Applications From Your Top Schools  
Start Applying  
Check the SAT and ACT Websites for Test Dates Offered Early in Your Senior Year (only if you have not scored well already, or if scholarships are dependent on higher scores)  
Be Ready To Make Decisions When You Return as a Senior

## SENIORS

### Fall

Register For the SAT or ACT Early (if needed)  
Narrow Your List of Colleges to 4-6  
Get Application and Financial Aid Information from Each  
Make a Master Calendar: note test dates, fees, deadlines, college application due dates, financial aid deadlines, letters of recommendation and transcript due dates  
Ask for Recommendations. Give Each Person Any Required forms with a Stamped and Addressed Envelope  
Use Can Use Scholarship Search at collegeboard.com

### Winter

Check Application Deadlines (most are due between January 1<sup>st</sup> and February 15)  
Have HCA Send Your Transcripts to Colleges  
Contact Colleges to Make Sure They Have Received Your information  
Apply For Financial Aid Early and Right: Males 18 and over must have registered for Selective Service to receive federal aid

### Spring

Letters Will Start Arriving  
Be in Prayer About Where God Wants You to Attend  
Compare Financial Aid Packages. Talk To the College Financial Aid Officers If Package is Not Enough  
Be Prepared To Make Your Final Choice. Send Deposit.

### Summer

Have HCA Send Final Transcript  
Start Preparing For Next Year  
Continue To Be In Prayer

# HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

Many Links listed below can be found on the Guidance Page on Edline. Also, any Google or Yahoo search will provide you with other resources that may prove to be helpful.

## **Financial Aid and Scholarships**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> (FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/> (Bright Futures and Florida Financial Aid)

<http://www.scholarship.com> (Scholarships)

<http://www.finaid.org/> (Financial Aid, Scholarships, Calculator, Etc.)

## **College Search**

[http://www.college-scholarships.com/christian\\_colleges.htm](http://www.college-scholarships.com/christian_colleges.htm) (Christian Colleges)

<http://netministries.org/college.htm> (Christian Colleges)

[http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv\\_typeofschool.jsp](http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv_typeofschool.jsp) (General College Search)

## **General College Planning: Information, Financial Aid, College Search, Etc.**

<http://www.collegeboard.com> (General College Information)

<http://www.petersons.com/> (General College Planning)

<http://www.princetonreview.com/> (General College and Testing Information)

## **Testing: ACT and SAT**

<http://www.actstudent.org/> (ACT)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg.html> (SAT)

