



## **College Planning Guide Preparation for College**

### **A Comprehensive breakdown of this process year by year (High School Students)**

#### **9th Grade:**

1. Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.
2. Study hard and get excellent grades.
3. Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.
4. Meet with your guidance counselor and discuss your plans for the next four years.
5. Browse through college literature or surf the Web to get an idea of what kinds of schools may be of interest to you.
6. Check out what high school courses colleges require.
7. Know the NCAA requirements if you want to play sports in college. Visit [NCAA.org](http://NCAA.org)
8. Keep an academic and extracurricular portfolio.
9. Participate in community services outside of school
10. Begin to research career possibilities.
11. Besides your Alliance Sports Club club team, look to tryout for ODP or Super Y teams if possible
12. Attend Alliance Sports Club College Night
13. Take the PSAT.

**10th Grade:**

1. Continue with all of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade points of emphasis
2. Begin to think seriously about the college admissions process.
3. Make an appointment with your guidance counselor so that you can discuss your plans for remainder of high school and college.
4. Attend various college fairs and visit colleges.
5. Let your guidance counselor know immediately if you are considering a military academy upon graduation.
6. Plan to attend Alliance Sports Club College Night again to keep up to date on any new updates
7. If possible, participate in a summer academic program. These are offered at various colleges and universities and vary in length from 2-3 days to several weeks.
8. Participate in a volunteer/service activity and other extracurricular activities both at school and in the community. A depth of involvement is important.
9. Take the PSAT.
10. Have club coach or club directors evaluate your play as a reference for college selection
11. Identify about ten colleges you're interested in. Build relationship with college coaches by sending interest letters by email. Work with club coaches and directors for sample letter formats.
12. Keep in contact with college coaches and update them on any changes with club schedules, tournaments, ODP, or Super events.

**11th Grade:**

1. Continue to attend Alliance Sports Club College Night
2. Seriously research exactly what you are looking for in a college. Think about: location, student body, academic requirements, size, academic structure, workable majors, campus life & cost.
3. Take the PSAT. Your junior year score may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Program.
4. Visit the Career Center in your high school for assistance with SAT/ACT registration and test preparation, college reference materials (i.e., virtual tours, catalogs, applications, etc.), career resource catalogs and books, financial aid and scholarship reference materials and offerings, summer enrichment programs, and local student job opportunities
5. Take the SAT's twice if possible. Take the SAT II subject tests at the end of your junior year if the college you are considering requires an SAT II. Speak with your guidance counselor if you have questions about scheduling the SAT tests.
6. Register with NCAA Clearing House at end of Junior year.
7. Continue to participate in a volunteer/service activities.
8. Visit with college representatives at your respective High School and attend local college fairs.
9. Narrow your college choices to about five or six.
10. Attend camp(s) of your top choices if possible
11. Continue writing and updating the college coaches on your list.
12. Continue to excel in class – Junior year GPA and class rank are critical
13. Send transcript with Senior class schedule and updated SAT score to colleges at end of Junior year.
14. Make unofficial visits to your top colleges or attend “Junior Day” events – meet with coaches, admissions, financial aid, etc.
15. Prepare a student resume. Include academic, athletic, club, and community service awards.
16. If you are interested in a military academy or ROTC scholarship, begin the application process.

### **12th Grade FALL**

1. Meet with your guidance counselor regarding college selections and be sure to keep your guidance counselor informed about college decisions.
2. Make decisions! Which colleges are you going to apply to? Narrow your search to 3 – 5 colleges.
3. Take SAT/ACT again if you need to.
4. Start the application process for your top college selections.
5. Write college essays (check college websites for essay requirements).
6. Submit Secondary School Report form from your college application(s) and Transcript Release forms to your guidance counselor for each college you are applying.
7. Make arrangements for final visits to colleges, if necessary.
8. Some colleges, as well as some college majors, require an admission interview. Be organized -make sure that you have met all the requirements for the interview.
9. Search for and complete scholarship applications.
10. Notify your guidance counselor when you receive any Early Decision, Early Action or Regular Decision offers of admission.

### **WINTER**

1. Get financial aid forms: Federal Application Free Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required by all colleges (available in December) if you want to be eligible for financial aid. Parents should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible, but not before January
2. Meet all other college financial aid deadlines.
3. Mid-year grades will automatically be sent to all colleges and universities that you have applied to.
4. Send an update to colleges of any significant new activities, accomplishments, or changes in circumstances.
5. Read your respective Financial Aid Handbook in your county (usually distributed to seniors in February) for scholarship opportunities.

### **SPRING**

1. As your decision letters arrive, inform your counselor and continue to think about your options.
2. Review financial aid awards. Speak with the college financial aid officer if you have any questions arise.
3. Colleges may revoke a previous offer of admission from any student who is found to have sent tuition deposits to more than one college.
4. Write schools if you will not accept their offer of admission.
5. Complete housing and health forms.
6. If you are placed on a waiting list, speak immediately with your counselor about follow-up procedures.
7. Continue to apply for national and local scholarships.
8. BE REALISTIC...your second choice school may be your first choice!

**APRIL 15th:** The date all colleges will let you know their decision.

**MAY 1st:** Candidates Reply Date – The date by which you MUST let colleges know your decision. Also, the date by which a deposit must be at the college you will attend.