

FRESHMAN

Dual Enrollment courses will prepare you for college level work and will prove the colleges that you are willing to work hard. Ask your school counselor to explain the requirements and benefits of these courses.

Begin exploring the many different types of postsecondary schools including 2 years and 4 year, public and private, technical and professional schools, women's and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Explore your interests through clubs, volunteering and sports. Take an interest survey and explore careers on CollegeforTN.org.

Develop study, organizational, and time management skills. If you need help ask your school counselor, teachers, and parent/guardian.

Consider taking the PSAT in October as practice. Ask your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver.

Enroll in CollegeforTn.org to take practice ACT tests, track your academic progress, research colleges, financial aid, careers and more!

College is expensive, but more than half of college students get some types of financial aid such as parents to estimate your financial aid using FAFSA4caster and be sure to save for college.

Summer: Use the summer to attend academic enrichment camps and workshops.

SOPHOMORE

Make sure you are taking all classes needed for graduation, and to gain admission to the type of schools you are interested in attending.

Continue exploring interests outside the classroom; keep track of activities, leadership, honors, and awards.

Use the US Dept of Labor's [career search tool](#) to research your career options.

Check out [KnowHow2Go: The Four Steps to College](#), which suggests some actions you can take as you start thinking about education beyond high school.

Create a list of colleges and universities in which you are interested and note their admissions requirements. Use college search engines such as collegeboard.org; act.org; petersons.com.

If you intend to play a sport in college, review NCAA academic requirements at eligibilitycenter.org and NAIA at playnaia.org.

Take the ACT PLAN in September as preparation for the ACT.

Ask your school counselor about taking the PSAT and/or SAT subject tests; discuss the results with your parents and counselor.

Begin ACT/SAT test preparation. Some free resources are: collegefortn.org, [Word of the Day](#), actstudent.org, collegeboard.com, march2success.

Work with one of your parents to estimate your financial aide using FAFSA4caster and be sure to save for college.

Meet with your school counselor to review your *Four Year Focused Plan of Study* and to discuss next year's schedule.

Summer: Attend academic enrichment camps, volunteer, or work. Explore 2 and 4 year colleges, scholarships, and major fields on the web.

JUNIOR

Stay on track for graduation

Know your graduation requirements and how many credits/what classes you already have.

Familiarize yourself with college application and compile all needed information.

Explore careers and their earning potential in the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#). Or, for a fun interactive tool, try the U.S. Department of Labor's [career search](#)

If not taking the PSAT, consider taking the Career Exploration test (ASVAB) in October.

Narrow your focus in clubs and activities in order to increase your accomplishments and assume leadership roles.

Begin thinking about topics for college essays. Review admissions applications and visit commonapp.org for potential topics.

Talk to recent graduates that are home on breaks; they are a great resource.

Use [Career Magnet Scholarship Notebook](#) and the U.S. Dept of Labor's [scholarship search](#) to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.

Consult your parents/counselor about narrowing your college list to a manageable number.

If you intend to play a sport in college, review NCAA academic requirements at eligibilitycenter.org and NAIA at playnaia.org

Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. You must take this test in 11th grade to qualify for National Merit Scholarships and programs.

Take the ACT/SAT in the Spring.

Summer: Work, volunteer, intern or take special courses to help define your interests and add depth to your college essays. Visit colleges.

SENIOR YEAR

September

Considering taking the ACT and/or SAT again in the Fall. Registration dates begin in early August-September. * **ACT RETAKE OPPORTUNITY** –

Meet with your school counselor to discuss your final college list and discuss application deadlines. Make sure you have included "safe," "stretch," and "dream" schools.

Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due this month. Have a parent, teacher, or school counselor review the application before it is submitted. **Always keep a hard copy of any application submitted electronically or through the mail.**

October 22, 2016 – ACT Senior Retake

Finalize your college essays.

Every college will require a copy of your high school transcript. Follow your school's procedures for sending transcripts.

Make sure your ACT/SAT scores have been sent to colleges directly from the testing company.

- If a counselor letter of recommendation is needed, provide your counselor with a Brag Sheet. If a teacher recommendation is needed, provide your teacher with a Self-Evaluation Form for Teachers.
- If you intend to play a sport in college, review NCAA academic requirements at eligibilitycenter.org and NAIA at playnaia.org.
- Find out from the colleges to which are you applying whether a separate application is required for Financial Aid/Scholarships. Some schools automatically consider you when you apply for admission; however, some schools require a separate application.

October

- Seniors and families can begin filing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). This can be done online at fasfa.ed.gov. Complete it as soon as possible after October 1. In order to qualify for the Hope Lottery Scholarship, you must complete a FASFA.

November/December

- Be sure to meet the **November 1 deadline for TN PROMISE** which pays for tuition and fees at a two-year program in Tennessee. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.tnpromise.gov>.
- Attend any Financial Aid Workshops held at your school. Request a PIN number for you and one parent (fasfa.ed.gov); this will become your electronic signature on your FASFA.
- Your goal should be to have all applications completed by the end of the first semester. **WATCH DEADLINES!** – some are due in early fall!

January

- Remind your counselor if colleges to which you have applied require a mid-year report.
- TN Promise Deadline for FAFSA Complete & Filed by January.**

March/April

- You may receive notification of acceptance prior to April 15; however, this is the common final notification date for colleges.
- Make your final college choice after you receive acceptances. Decline any offers of admission in writing so that colleges may admit other qualified candidates.
- If you are "wait listed" by a college you really want to attend, visit, call, and write the admissions office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

May

A Career Magnet Academy Exit Form must be completed online at school. You will be prompted to do this in early May. To help with this process, save copies of all admission & scholarship offerings so it can be accurately reported on the Exit Form.

HAPPY GRADUATION!

Visit, <http://knoxschools.org/careermagnet> for more information