

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

9TH & 10TH GRADE

FALL

EVERYTHING COUNTS

Hit the ground running! Now is the time to try your best, participate in class, and develop good study habits.

Understand your GPA and class rank. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your school counselor can be a great resource during the college planning process.



GET INVOLVED

Extracurricular activities are an important and fun part of high school. Look for sports, groups and clubs that match your interests, then join! Consider a leadership position for your favorite.

Start or continue a brag sheet!



CONSIDER THE ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is one of several questionnaires and tests designed to help you figure out the careers you would excel at and enjoy. It is designed to assist all students, whether they're planning on getting a job right out of high school, joining the Military or going to college. The ASVAB is free. Talk to your counselor for more info.



WINTER

FOCUS ON GRADES

It's not too early to work hard and develop good study habits. Your freshman and sophomore grades count toward college admission and scholarships.



START THINKING ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

Have a discussion with your parents or guardian about what they think they can afford. Have an open conversation. Then research and discuss ways to save and what is required to apply for financial aid.



SPRING

SOPHOMORES: PRACTICE PSAT

While sophomore PSAT scores aren't used for college admission, taking the test early can be a good trial run. It also gets your name on college mailing lists so you can receive information on a wide range of schools.



TRACK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Keep track of academic and athletic awards, extracurricular accomplishments and community service. Your list will come in handy later as you try to remember everything you've done when filling out applications for colleges, loans, grants and scholarships.



LEARN ABOUT COLLEGES

It's never too early to start researching schools. Get familiar with different college options, including ROTC, by searching online.



SUMMER

SUMMER WORK

Start thinking about how your summer work may look on a college application.

Seek out work, volunteer or internship opportunities that highlight interests, demonstrate your civic duty or display your willingness to learn.



KEEP LEARNING

Check with your school counselor to see what's available on and off island. For a less structured way to learn, try reading more. Ask a teacher or librarian for book recommendations.



CONNECT

Chat with college students home for the summer. Ask questions that you can't find the answers to online like "What is dorm room living really like?" or "How's the food?" If you're traveling, visit colleges.

