

9th Grade Timeline

Fall/Winter/Spring

Set some goals and meet your guidance counselor

Meet with your guidance counselor to talk about your plans for high school and your future college plans. Make sure you're enrolled in the appropriate college-prep classes, and that you're taking key core requirements (English, math, science, history and a foreign language). Learn about the different resources your high school has available. Set some goals and make a list— would you like to take advanced placement classes? Do you want to earn college credit while in high school? Why do you want to achieve those goals? Tell everyone you want to go to college talk about it often, ask questions, and listen. Work on your goals, motivation, and focus.

Make the grade!

Developing good study habits now will help you throughout high school and college. If you fall behind, ask for tutoring! Don't be afraid to ask questions. Share schoolwork with your parents to keep them informed about tests, papers, and homework. Your high school grades will affect your overall GPA and class rank. Grades really do count toward college admission and scholarships.

Get involved

High school is all about participation. Learn about extracurricular activities, both in your school and community, then get involved. Volunteering, group projects, and social event planning look great on college and scholarship applications. Keep track! Make a list of all your volunteer, extracurricular activities, and accomplishments. This will be valuable information when applying to colleges and scholarships.

Think about the “big picture”

Identify your interests. This will help you focus on your goals. Consider taking a career aptitude survey such as the one at <https://careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers/clusterSurvey>. Start a “career list” of jobs you'd like to do after high school or college. What types of things will you need to study to reach your goals?

Financial considerations

When saving for college, start early, and make sure to make this part of your college plan. Consider opening a College Savings Plan, and add to it regularly! Attend “Financial-Aid Night” at your high school or nearby college, learn the ins and outs of college costs, and develop your plan and goals accordingly. Start looking for scholarships! If you see scholarships you may be eligible for in the future, keep a list. Keep tabs on the types of requirements for scholarships – GPA, volunteer, extracurricular activities, and more.

Summer

Start learning about college

Start researching and make a list of your dream colleges. Which schools offer good programs for pursuing your top career choices? Look at college information in your counselor's office, school, public libraries, and online. Check out college planning books!

Make the summer count!

Build your credentials and gain experience and/or skills. Participate in volunteer opportunities to add to your resume. Ask your counselor about volunteer opportunities for high school students. Take classes in an enrichment program or some courses to obtain high school and/or college credit. Read, read, read! Continue reading as much as you can— continue checking out books from your public library.

Last Revised: 08/07/18