

Sophomore High School Action Plan

- **It is not too early to start looking into colleges!**
 - **Senior year you will be very busy** filling out college applications, filling out scholarship applications, searching for financial aid, visiting college campuses—not to mention keeping up with your regular schedule of classes, work, sports, music, drama, family, and volunteering!
 - **Your best resource right now is the internet.**
 - Search for schools that have the **programs** in which you're interested.
 - Search for schools that have the **location** you want (in state, out of state, close to home, far away from home).
 - Search for schools that are the **size** you want (some universities have classes of 400+ students—in *one* class period!).

- **Start thinking about possible careers (or ruling out careers you know you don't want to do).**
 - You don't have to make any major decisions right now, but it's a good idea to **have some general direction.**
 - **What do you enjoy doing? And what are your strongest abilities?**
 - Find some way to combine these two qualities and to make a living doing it.
 - For example, if you enjoy math and are good at it, then you might consider careers in engineering, architecture, or teaching, to name a few.
 - Another example, if you do not enjoy Chemistry and are not good at it, then a career in nursing or pharmacy is probably not for you.

- **Start thinking about your résumé.**
 - Keep track of your **accomplishments**, of your **academic achievements**, of any **honors or awards** you have received, of any **work or volunteer** experience. This is the time to **brag about yourself**. Remember to **include things done outside of school**, and to stick to **only your high school career**.

- **Prepare to take the ACT.**
 - Junior year is a good time to start taking the ACT. You haven't quite had the course load yet to really understand a lot of the material on the ACT.
 - **You don't necessarily have to take the Writing portion** of the ACT yet. Wait until your senior year when you have a better idea what college you will attend. At this point, not many colleges require the Writing portion, so **you may not need to take it at all.**

- **Plan your classes for the next two years and take the most challenging curriculum possible.**
 - This will better prepare you for the rigors of college.

- **Over the summer:**
 - **Visit college campuses.** Call ahead to schedule an appointment. You may want to revisit them during the school year when the campus is “more alive.”
 - **Job shadow!** If you aren’t sure what you want to be “when you grow up,” then ask to shadow professionals in the community. Ask your friends’ parents, your neighbors, your parents’ friends, etc. The opportunities are there!
 - **Double check your schedule and your credits** to make sure you are on track for graduation and for college admission. Ask your counselor for help.