

A Quick & Practical Timeline Guide to High School and College Planning

9th Grade

- Focus on the transition to High School and concentrate on exploring the new curriculum options available to you.
- Learn how to study and how to manage your time.
- Start dreaming of college and what you want it to look like. (It's never too early to start asking questions about colleges & college experiences)

10th Grade

- Register for college prep courses (Honors or AP courses are favored by many colleges though they are not required). – Grades always count no matter what course you're taking.
- October: You have the option to take the PSAT. This is a shorter version of a practice SAT test. The scores are only given to you, not sent to schools.
- Visit the Career Center at school and begin talking with friends, teachers, neighbors, strangers(?), and parents about colleges. People are usually thrilled to share their experiences. (as long as they are talking, it keeps them from asking about where you want to go!)
- Plan a trip to visit a college (there are ~10 colleges within a 1 hour drive of Lamorinda)
- Consider scheduling time with a college advisor for late Spring or early Summer and attend the Annual College Fair at St. Mary's College in Moraga (APRIL)
- Create a file system for College info. Put all of your report cards in the file.
(HS Info, Test Scores, Applications, Logins/Passwords,)
- Attempt to pass the CAHSEE
- Continue to study, manage your time, and get good grades. If you're struggling, get help NOW! There are many, many solutions, not just tutors.

*Summer between 10th & 11th Grade

- If possible, visit some colleges you're interested in or at least look them up online. If you haven't already, start a list of schools.
- Testing: Consider your Junior year Spring semester schedule. If it will be busy or academically tough, consider taking a test prep course this summer.

11th Grade (This is the big planning year)

- Keep researching, talking to people, and visiting colleges.
- Check with the Career Center at school for campus visits from college reps.
- October: Again you have an option to take a PSAT. Same as last year except, this year it is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. (top 1%) It is still optional.
- Consider working with a college advisor or your high school counselor to develop a personal timeline and to help you pinpoint good college choices.

- **SPRING:** Take at least one of each college entrance test you will need for applications before June of this year. (options are: SAT, ACT, Subject Tests)
 - UC:** SAT or ACT + Writing and two (2) Subject Tests
 - CSU:** SAT or ACT (no writing required)
 - Private Schools:** Vary by campus. Look up requirements online.
- Keep filling your file box with grades, test scores, logins, and other college research info. This will help you with your Senior year.
- Continue to get good grades! Don't let yourself struggle. Get help if needed. These grades count for college.

12th Grade (This is the application year!)

August/Sept.

- Check your graduation status with your High School Counselor. (Classes + CAHSEE)
- Check with the Career Center for college rep visits & research help
- Plan & register to take any SAT, ACT or Subject Tests you want to improve upon. (tests can be taken as last as December for standard applications)

October

- CSU applications are available online. Login and begin the application process. Keep printouts of your application & passwords in your file. (Due Nov. 30th)

November

- UC applications are available online. Login and begin the application process. Keep printouts of your application, essays & passwords in your file (Due Nov. 30th)
- For UC applications: Start writing you essays early! Proofread carefully for grammar & spelling errors.
- NOV. 23rd -25th: Send in online applications to UC or CSU schools (DO NOT WAIT until 11/30)

December – June

- Continue to study, get good grades and dream of college. You will need to continue to get similar grades to those that were on your application.
- Respond to any emails or letters from colleges about your application promptly.
- Enjoy opening you mail in the spring.