



Sophomore Calendar

June-September

Search the databases on the college page by putting in information or criteria you desire from a college. This will help you find colleges that have majors, activities, and courses you want. Try to explore, find out requirements for and research 10-15 colleges in which you are interested. It is important that you know the requirements or prerequisites for the colleges you are interested in and ensure you are taking the appropriate courses. For example, AP Calculus may be a prerequisite for the field of study you are choosing. You need to know the course requirements for the college you choose. Most of the time, this is not an issue because you are taking a college core track in high school, but you need to be responsible and know this for yourself. Don't assume that your counselor automatically knows what college you want to attend or the additional requirements that school may require for unconditional admission. You may request a course catalog from these colleges or go online to view the information.

June-September

Make sure you are staying in close contact with your counselor. You should have a 4-6 year college/career plan. Your counselor is your best resource to help you stay on track.

You need to take at least 1 practice ACT test, even if you are planning on taking the ACT in the spring or even December, statistical information shows that the more opportunities you have to take a familiar formatted test the more likely you will be able to improve your score

Ask your counselor if your school allows students the opportunity to take the PSAT for practice as a sophomore. Scoring well on the PSAT as a junior can give you a great start to scholarship opportunities. Your PSAT score can qualify you for the National Merit scholarship competition. Some colleges offer scholarships if you qualify as a National Merit, National Achievement, or National Hispanic Scholar semi-finalist. MOST schools offer scholarships if you make it to finalist status. GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE PSAT FOR PRACTICE AS A SOPHOMORE CAN HELP YOU PREPARE FOR TAKING IT AS A JUNIOR

If you have the opportunity to take an ACT/SAT preparation course provided by your school—TAKE IT!!! Go to the ACT/SAT pages in the site and you will find TEST Prep Help. On the SAT page there is a

link to the SAT Question of the Day. Practice for the SAT by answering this question every day until you take the PSAT as a junior. Answering the SAT question of the day everyday might take you at most 5 minutes. This is a wonderful FREE way to familiarize yourself with the type of questions you will encounter on the PSAT. Use the free resources on March 2 Success, Number 2.com and Khan Academy to help you prepare to take the ACT and SAT.

Keep a running list of your activities, honors, and awards.

June-September

You may want to print off a Letter of Recommendation Request found on the Scholarship page. Although you should not need this until possibly, your junior year.

Practicing on essay writing will greatly help you prepare for the numerous essays you will be writing your senior year for admission and scholarship opportunities. If you need help on how to get started on your essay, go to the essay page in this Website. There are several helpful links. Look especially at the 100+ free example essays on the Essay Edge link (first link on the Essay page). To access the "Essay" page select "Colleges" from the maroon toolbar and then select "Essays" at the top of the page. We put a lot of essay tips on Twitter to also give you some guidance.

June-May=ALL YEAR

If you have the opportunity over the summer months to visit college campuses, take it, even if it is just to look at the buildings. Find out if there are some summer activity opportunities you can take advantage of at a college near you

On the college page of this Website there is a PDF named "College Visits". Print this off and look over the college visit question that are important to you. Begin to make your own list of questions you want to ask.

JUNE-SEPTEMBER

Select Scholarships from the menu inside Tasseltime. At the bottom of the scholarship page you will see a link that says Sophomore Calendar Tutorial and Sophomore Calendar Tutorial PDF – this is where all of this information I am giving you—step by step— is located— You will also see a link that says: "Must Read Scholarship Information," this is a total overview of the whole scholarship process. This "Must Read Scholarship Information" document is something you will want to print to help you prepare for the scholarship/resume process.

On that Tasseltime must read information you are given a list of things that you need to gather BEFORE filling out a database profile or asking for a recommendation letter. You will also want to gather this information prior to building or creating your resume.

List of all your activities/awards since 9th grade

List of all your courses/ACT/SAT scores (should be on your transcript)

Any organizations or clubs you are/were in

Any significant awards you may have received prior to your 9th grade year i.e. Community Volunteer Citizen

Names of your parent's current employer/organizations they are/were in

Information on families past military experience and your ethnicity/minority background and religious affiliation

List of all volunteer work done since 9th grade-- if you are not volunteering---START Do something in conjunction with Make-A Difference Day (PDF form for record of Volunteering) .

If you have already been keeping a portfolio of work as well as a listing of your activities, awards, and honors, as recommended, then you are in good shape. Don't wait until your senior year to try to think back to your 9th grade year to find out all of this information

If you have not kept a formal record of volunteering you have done, then select the volunteer pdf form available on the scholarship page. You need to be volunteering or become a member to an organization or club that requires volunteering as a membership--such as National Honor Society. Volunteering is very important as you begin to apply for national scholarship opportunities.

Tell your coach now if you are interested in obtaining an athletic scholarship. You need to look at clearinghouse information which you can obtain the information online for the NCAA Clearinghouse; the links are provided on the athletic page to help. It is very important that you make sure you are in compliance with the NCAA in your total assessment scores (ACT or SAT) and in course work. Talk with your coach and counselor today. Read the suggestions on the Athletic Page; they are at the top of the page under the heading: "If you want to participate in collegiate athletics you need to."

If you are not sure what you want to do, complete several online inventories provided on the Career page. Really spend some time searching through the different occupations available. Find out the college courses required for that degree or the technical courses required for the career field. Also look at the demand for the position and the salary range. Many of the interest inventory links are free.

You can also find College Inventories on the College page in Tasselttime. This will help you search by major, area of the country, cost, etc.

Military information and Scholarship links are all provided so that you can find out any necessary information. You need to speak with your recruiter to get started if the military path is your plan. There are many military options.

If you prefer to look at the scholarships individually rather than filling out the profile, then go to the Scholarship menu and click on "Individual Scholarships" or "Minority Scholarships." The only drawback is that you will have to look at every single one of them to make see if you meet the requirements.

Select the Scholarship page from the tool bar inside the Tasseltime Website then select Scholarship Database at the top left corner of the page. The databases on this page have been researched to provide the best information without taking students to some inappropriate sites.

Select at least 3-5 databases on this page to enter your information. Some of these will e-mail you the scholarships you qualify for and some will just list them for you to select through while you are on the internet. I suggest you set up an alternate e-mail address other than the one you regularly use. Most Internet Service Providers offer 5-7 e-mail accounts with their service. The reason you do this is because You Will Get CD Offers—this keeps your regular account free of that and allows you to use this separate account for ALL of your college correspondence (if you are going to use this e-mail address as a contact for your resume and or/ admissions information—select wisely {don't use "lazygirl" or "partyanimal" or "girlmagnet"}—select something somewhat professional) Most of these databases will notify you of an added scholarship to your profile or will just e-mail you the link to that scholarship. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DETERMINE IF THAT SCHOLARSHIP IS WORTH APPLYING!

What is the difference between a Key Word Search and a profile?

A key word search is for specific topics or majors to search by.

If you already started this process as a freshman or sophomore, then you only need to update your information in the databases.

Example Profile: From the Scholarship menu select State Scholarships. The first link on this page is the Arkansas Scholarship Connection-Fund My Future. Try out the profile to gain Arkansas specific information. Again, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RESEARCH THESE SCHOLARSHIPS AND APPLY BY THE APPROPRIATE DEADLINE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

If your school allows sophomores to attend a College Fair in your area, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. If your school does not allow you to participate during the day, many College Fairs have evening opportunities. Take the admissions questions we discussed earlier and ASK THE RECRUITER. Take this opportunity to get a catalog from the colleges you are interested.

Continue researching scholarship opportunities by completing profiles for the national database searches.

If you want to search for scholarships without submitting a profile in a database then look at the individual scholarship page and the minority scholarship page.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Make sure you are using your time wisely and concentrating on your grades. Your academic resume, which is your performance or grades in your classes, is very important to scholarship opportunities.

Keep examples of work or projects in a portfolio. You can build your own portfolio by using Google Sites.

Register for the December tests if needed. Take the PSAT in OCTOBER for practice. Be sure you indicate on your PSAT form that you want to participate in the Student Search program provided through PSAT. You have not technically had enough math for the ACT until the spring of the year you have Algebra II, but depending on the courses you have already taken in math, it could be the spring of your sophomore year.

Once you receive your PSAT scores, you can compare them to the ACT scores to help determine if you want to take an SAT or ACT in future testing opportunities.

JANUARY-MARCH

Continue to conduct online research concerning your prospective college choices. Now would be a good time to complete an online request to obtain information from these colleges.

If you have not registered for the ACT previously, then you need to visit the ACT website to obtain some practice tests. Also go to the ACT page in Tasselttime to obtain access to other free practice tests and helpful test-prep material. Two online sites I recommend are March2Success and Number2.com

Follow the same steps for the SAT also. Free test prep sites I recommend for SAT are Khan Academy and March2 Success.

APRIL-JULY

If you have the opportunity to attend a spring College Fair, take it. This will give you a good opportunity to really narrow your search going into your senior year. Don't just attend to get out of class! Take this seriously; and ask some good questions (look at the handout on the College page "Campus Visits").

Find out if/when your school will be offering ACT/SAT prep summer workshop. Do NOT WAIT until next summer to "Get Started" on preparing for testing opportunities and college. START NOW!

Continue looking at scholarship opportunities for your junior, as well as senior year. I suggest you make a folder in your favorites called scholarships and start marking them in this folder; put a deadline date along with the scholarship name. Also, there is an excel spreadsheet on the Scholarship page and a short video to help you use a google spreadsheet to keep a record.

APRIL-JULY:

If you have the opportunity to take an ACT/SAT prep course, take it. Research says that you have a good chance of increasing your test scores, if you complete a test prep course or computer software prep course.

Meet with your counselor to go over courses you need to take as a junior.

Volunteer this summer when you have the opportunity and keep a record of it.