College Prep Timeline

Fall semester
- Take a rigorous academic curriculum
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities
- Communicate regularly with your school counselor and/or college access advisor
- Consider and choose your post-high school options: 2-year or 4-year colleges, vocational training, military, or work
- Register and take the PSAT/NMQST
- Explore career options/interests
- Attend college fairs in your area
- Make a testing plan for taking the ACT and/or SAT (if needed)
- Begin researching colleges
- Make your list of potential colleges
- Visit colleges
- Secure testing fee waivers (if eligible)
- Discover what College planning resources are available at your school
- Get good grades

Spring semester
- Organize your college research
- Attend college fairs
- Begin to narrow your college choices
- Register and take the ACT and/or the SAT
- Use ACT/SAT test prep options
- Attend college information/financial aid workshops
- Research financial aid sources and application processes including aid available from your state
- Use an EFC calculator tool to help estimate your expected family contribution for aid
- Visit colleges
- Select and set up scholarship search option(s)
- Get your FSA ID for the FAFSA
- Schedule rigorous senior year courses
- Select teachers as future recommendation letter authors
- Apply for a summer job
- Get good grades

Summer prior to senior year
- Help parent(s) set up FSA ID for FAFSA
- Visit colleges
- Narrow college choices
- Identify admissions and financial aid priority deadlines for final college list
- Build a resume of high school activities and accomplishments
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse (if needed)
- Start admissions application essay(s)