

COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Join TRiO Educational Talent Search!
- Study and get good grades
- Become involved in community and school activities
- Attend a financial literacy workshop
- Attend a career exploration day



SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Ask your counselor about Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit courses available at your school
- Plan and set goals for your future. Talk to your counselor about your interests and abilities, the kind of school that appeals to you, and what you can financially afford.
- Continue to study and get good grades
- Stay involved in community and school activities
- Take the PSAT offered at your school
- Begin SAT prep
- Begin your college search. If possible, start to visit different colleges & universities.



JUNIOR YEAR

- Continue to prepare for the SAT
- Continue to study and get good grades
- Register for Advanced Placement or Dual Credit Courses
- Stay involved in community and school activities and seek leadership positions
- Continue to visit different colleges & universities
- **October**
 - Determine whether you will take the SAT or the ACT
- **December**
 - Begin test preparation
- **Spring**
 - Take the ACT or SAT
 - AP Testing
- **Summer after Junior Year**
 - Begin writing college essays
 - If you are not satisfied with your score, prepare to retake the exam.
 - Begin college applications for early admission and record their deadlines.
 - Begin looking at different scholarships and their deadlines.

SENIOR YEAR

- Continue to study and get good grades
- Continue college and scholarship search
- Take leadership positions in school activities
- Request recommendation letters and transcripts for college and scholarship applications
- **September**
 - Meet with counselor to make sure you are on track for graduation
 - Narrow list of college selections
- **October**
 - If eligible, apply for FAFSA
- **November**
 - Early action application deadlines
- **December**
 - Early decision notification
- **January/March**
 - Regular deadlines for college applications
- **April**
 - Acceptance letters arrive
- **May**
 - Make decision of where you will be enrolling, accept admission and send deposit
 - Notify the colleges you will not attend
- Make sure you have paid all school fees and are ready for graduation

If you have any questions regarding college preparation, please contact Ms. Fabiola at frosiles@clillinois.edu.