

Fall 2006/Winter 2007 High School Planner

Freshman/Sophomore

- Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss classes and available activities.
- Plan which classes to take during high school. Challenge yourself to take more difficult courses.
- Join clubs and activities. Take the lead when possible.
- Keep in contact with teachers, counselors and activity advisors who you connect with. They can write recommendations and serve as mentors later.
- Talk about saving for college with your parents/family.
- Search for scholarships and colleges on www.fastweb.com.
- Volunteer -- it's great experience!
- Sophomores: Take the PSAT. If you can, take a peek at the SAT/ACT to get familiar with it.
- Begin to think about a future college choice. Remember that you have time to explore what you want in a college before you commit.
- Ask your high school counselor about contacting former students about picking a school.
- Research summer programs. Ask your counselor or teachers about any academic, internship or work opportunities in your community.

Junior

- Explore financial aid options and college planning with your parents/family.
- Take the most challenging courses you can. Admissions offices look for challenging coursework.
- Research prospective colleges using FastWeb's College Search. Find and contact a matching college at www.fastweb.com.
- Use your FastWeb results to visit prospective colleges' Web sites.
- Attend college fairs and speak to campus representatives.
- Sign up for college entrance exams - the SAT and/or ACT. Find test prep information through CollegeBoard, ACT and www.fastweb.com.
- Go to www.fastweb.com to search for scholarships and part-time jobs.
- Take leadership roles in clubs, activities and other volunteer and service organizations.
- From which teachers, advisors or counselors might you want a recommendation? Provide a list of activities and accomplishments as a reminder of your work.

Senior

- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as soon as you can after January 1, 2007. Find the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You'll need a PIN (www.pin.ed.gov) to sign the FAFSA online.
- Request applications and brochures from your target colleges. Use FastWeb's College Search at www.fastweb.com to help narrow your college choice.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT in the fall, if you haven't already.
- Take honors or advanced classes. Challenging courses show that you are prepared for college coursework.
- Schedule interviews with prospective colleges. Practice your interview skills before heading in for the actual interview.
- If possible, visit your prospective colleges before you make your final decision. If you cannot travel, see if any schools offer a virtual tour online.
- Set up a budget for college and application costs.
- Get your applications in order by creating files for target schools. Make a list of application requirements (essays, transcripts, recommendations, etc.) and deadlines for each.
- Create your own personal timeline or use the calendar on www.fastweb.com for this process.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and employers at least three weeks before you need them. Provide a list of accomplishments for their reference.
- Work on college application essays.
- Look for part-time jobs and internships on www.fastweb.com. Find volunteer work in your community or through your school.

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\$3 billion in scholarships
and over 4,000 colleges
www.fastweb.com**