

Freshman/Sophomore Years

- Monitor academic progress
- Familiarize yourself with the graduation requirements and courses
- Encourage your son or daughter to become involved in a wide variety of activities
- Start (and keep updated) a file with lists of school activities, honors, awards, activities, volunteer work, leadership skills, etc.
- In the spring, review your son or daughter's choices for their academic program in 10th and 11th grade
- Start planning your high school curriculum with an eye toward selective college admission
- Consider taking honors, AP, or CAP classes
- Help your son or daughter plan meaningful activities for the summer
- If you have not done so, start a college saving account in your name
- Start to explore and discuss college options in 10th grade (begin attending college fairs, assess aptitudes, interests, and abilities)
- Take the PLAN test in October of Sophomore year
- Consider registering for SAT II (Subject tests in May or June for those courses you are finishing up in 10th grade)
- Consider visiting a few colleges to get a sense of what you may like and dislike

Junior Year

- In the spring meet with your counselor about post-high school plans and to review your records
 - Start checking into scholarships
 - With your son or daughter, begin to identify teachers, administrators, and other adults who will write recommendations
 - Visit college websites! (Always filled with useful information)
 - Look into summer programs that many colleges offer juniors
 - During the summer, assist your son or daughter with sending for applications (can also be done online), drafting application essays, college visits
 - Make certain that your son or daughter takes the PSAT. Sign-ups are in the Counseling Office during October
 - Begin to talk seriously about college options. Early in the selection process, determine what is important to you and your son or daughter
 - Obtain dates and locations of "College Night" at PSU and "Junior Parent's Night" at Peru High School
 - Make certain your son or daughter registers for the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring
- **Keep in mind that colleges look for:**
 - Challenging coursework
 - A strong GPA
 - Involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, community, or church/spiritual involvement

Senior Year

- Continue to monitor academic process
- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you
- Visit some college campuses in early fall, if you have not done so already
- Narrow your college list to 5-8 schools
- Help your son or daughter set up a calendar of important test dates and college application deadlines
- Meet with admissions representatives
- Sign up for SAT and/or ACT early in the fall if you have not done so already or were not happy with your previous scores
- Ask two or three teachers for recommendations
- Complete application essays
- Complete college applications and submit them to the Counseling Office well in advance of deadlines, before Thanksgiving. Play close attention to Early Decision/Action deadlines
- Have your mid-year grades sent to the colleges, if required, or if they will improve your candidate status
- Begin completing financial aid forms ASAP in January (keep copies of all forms)
- Attend Financial Aid Night and pick up your Financial Aid folder in January from the Counseling Office
- Complete applications for scholarships
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by deadline
- Check with the college you have chosen to attend about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters
- Notify other schools that you will not be attending
- Watch for important deadlines of your chosen college (Housing, Financial Aid, etc.)
- Notify your counselor of your final college decision
- Complete all materials sent to you

Congratulations!! You've graduated!