

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Maximize your college admissions opportunities by taking the right steps each school year!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



**1**  
7th Grade

- Establish strong math foundation
- Take math placement test – results determine high school math track
- Take SAT® or ACT® to apply to summer enrichment/gifted programs

**2**  
8th Grade

- Register for private high school entrance exam (SSAT®, ISEE®, COOP®, HSPT®, school's own test)
- Build critical skills for high school – quantitative analysis, reading comprehension, logical reasoning



## FRESHMEN



Early decision has been shown to increase the chances of admission by as much as 25% over regular decision admission rates

**3**  
Fall Freshman Year

- Start school activities and community service
- Meet your school counselor
- Develop a four-year academic plan
- Register for honors and AP® classes
- Register for the PSAT® 8/9
- Don't fall behind with schoolwork

**4**  
Spring Freshman Year

- Become an avid reader
- Sign up for sophomore honors and AP® classes
- Prepare for finals and finish the year strong

**5**  
Summer Freshman Year

- Volunteer 100 hours or more, work, or attend a summer program
- Visit two or more colleges
- Prepare for PSAT® and upcoming AP® classes
- Join an organization or an activity group to develop non-academic skills

## SOPHOMORES

When you apply to college, admissions officers will look for these items on your application:

- GPA and rigor of coursework (regular, honors, gifted, AP®, IB®)
- Test scores (SAT®, ACT®, AP®, PSAT®, SAT Subject Tests®, etc.)
- Activities (sports, clubs, internships, volunteer work, etc.)
- Recommendations
- College essays

**6**  
Fall Sophomore Year

- Get to know your counselor better and update your academic plan
- Get more involved in school and community activities

**7**  
Spring Sophomore Year

- Take SAT Subject Tests® that correspond with your AP® classes
- Sign up for the next year's honors and AP® classes
- End with a strong GPA
- Take the PSAT® 10



Elite college admissions officers often spend LESS THAN 10 MINUTES reviewing each application

**8**  
Summer Sophomore Year

- Visit two or more colleges
- Volunteer 100 hours or more, work, or attend a summer program
- Prepare for the SAT®, ACT®, PSAT®, and upcoming AP® classes
- Join an organization or an activity group to develop non-academic skills

## JUNIORS



High school counselors report being able to spend just 21% of their time on college advising.\*

**9**  
Fall Junior Year

- Your junior year grades **MUST** be strong
- Course selection is one of the most critical factors in college acceptance
- Obtain positions of leadership in your school and community activities
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT® and compete for the National Merit Scholarship
- Meet with your school counselor to develop an initial list of colleges
- Prepare for the SAT® and/or ACT®

**10**  
Spring Junior Year

- Meet college representatives who visit your school and community
- Take SAT®, ACT®, SAT Subject Tests®, and AP® exams
- Visit your top college choices during spring break
- Get college applications for next year

**11**  
Summer Junior Year

- Volunteer 100 hours or more, work, or attend a summer program
- Visit two or more colleges
- Start writing your college application essays
- Finalize college list
- Start researching scholarship opportunities

## SENIORS

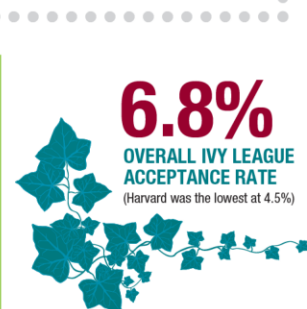


**12**  
Fall Senior Year

- Maintain good grades
- Obtain leadership positions
- Determine application deadlines
- Polish application essays
- Request recommendations well ahead of deadlines
- Finalize SAT®, ACT®, and/or SAT Subject Test® scores
- Submit applications ahead of deadlines
- Complete FAFSA® and other financial aid forms

**13**  
Spring Senior Year

- Submit financial aid forms
- Visit the colleges where you have been accepted
- Choose a college and submit deposit
- Maintain good grades
- Finalize and submit scholarship applications



C2 Center Name  
Address,  
City, State Zip code  
Phone #  
C2education.com

