

# Step-by-Step Toward College

Key moves to make on the path to college, and when you should make them.

## FRESHMAN YEAR

- Seek information about careers that might interest you.
- Explore Career Pathways.
- Participate in Career Pathways field trips.
- Discuss college financing and savings with your parents.
- Discuss your interests and your future with parents and school counselors.
- Research what colleges expect for entrance standards.

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Begin gathering and studying college catalogs and websites.
- Continue thinking about career options.
- Take the PLAN test in October.
- Talk with a counselor to make sure your high school courses are appropriate for your college and career interests.
- Consider summer job and volunteer posts to explore career interests.

## JUNIOR YEAR

### FALL

- Meet with college representatives when they visit East Kentwood.
- See your guidance counselor to register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- Take the PSAT to familiarize yourself with the testing process in October.
- Use the many on-line college search programs available.
- Begin writing and emailing colleges for information.
- Organize a filing system to keep track of information from colleges.
- Attend College Night in October.

### WINTER

- Consider taking test preparation courses.
- Reduce the number of colleges on your list.
- Begin making tentative choices about careers.
- Register for the ACT, which is usually taken late in the junior year.
- Write colleges for applications and information.
- Make plans to visit colleges during the summer.
- Examine financial resources and gather information about financial aid.

- Attend Junior Night in March.
- Schedule an academically challenging senior year.

### SUMMER

- Visit colleges.

## SENIOR YEAR

### FALL

- If you haven't already taken the ACT, pick up a registration packet in Guidance.
- Decide on a final list of colleges to which you will apply.
- Work on college applications.
- Investigate scholarships.
- Request letters of recommendation.
- Submit applications by October 15 to get the ball rolling.
- Attend Financial Aid Night in November.

### WINTER

- By the end of November, all applications, recommendations, transcripts and test scores should be sent.
- Confirm that schools have received your application materials.
- Complete the FAFSA form.
- Avoid "senioritis" and commit to a final semester of high school with an eye toward your future.
- Let your Guidance Counselor know your college decisions.

### SPRING

- Keep track of acceptances, denials and financial aid awards.
- Notify colleges whether you are going to accept or reject offers of admission.
- Make a sure a transcript of your grades and proof of graduation are sent to your college.