

Prepare for College

One Step at a Time

Sophomore Year:

Work with your guidance counselor to take college prep courses and meet the Kansas Board of Regents Curriculum:

- 4 units of English*
- 3 units of Math (Algebra I or higher)*
- 3 units of Social Science*
- 3 units of Natural Science (one of which is Chemistry or Physics)*
- 1 unit of Computer Science (above the keyboarding level)*
- 1 unit = 1 year or 2 semesters**

Don't forget... although a foreign language is not a Qualified Admissions requirement for Kansas colleges, it may be eventually, so it is in your best interest to take 2 units of foreign language in high school in case you want to meet the Kansas Scholars Curriculum or seek college admission out-of-state.

Junior Year:

Register to take the PSAT and ACT.

Studies show that students who take the standardized tests in their junior year and then take them again as a senior, tend to score higher as a senior. Taking the test as a junior will better prepare you. Hopefully you will know what to expect and how to prepare the second time.

Attend a CPC (College Planning Conference)

*Voluntarily attending a CPC as a junior will give you the opportunity to browse and learn more about your opportunities at various public, private, vocational/technical, 2-year, and 4-year college institutions. You will be able to ask college representatives specific questions and fill out contact cards to receive information from the colleges of your choice. **TIP** -print labels before attending the CPC stating your name, address, phone number, high school attending, and graduation year.*

Visit College Campuses

The spring of your junior year is a great time to begin visiting college campuses! At this point you may still be considering several types of colleges, such as a large university, small private, out-of-state, or community college. Try to visit at least two or three college campuses to narrow your selection by your senior year. Your college visit will influence your decision about where to attend college. You will be able to better select your institutions of interest after you learn about campus size, degree programs, environment, community support, and faculty at each campus.

Senior Year:

Attend your area CPC

By your senior year, you may be receiving college materials in the mail daily. **TIP** - buy a file box with dividers and label each divider with the name of a college you are considering. You will have an organized place to store the college information until it is convenient for you to sit down and review it. This prevents you from tossing it aside until there is time to look at it and then eventually throwing it away without giving it a second glance.

Plan to take the ACT and/or SAT

Take the ACT or SAT early enough in case you want to take it again before scholarship deadlines. Scholarship deadlines occur between November and March of your senior year. Be sure you know the deadlines for the institutions you are considering.

Meet with College Representatives at Your High School

Admission Counselors from many colleges make individual visits to high schools. Watch for announcements when the representative from colleges on your list will be visiting your high school and be sure to sign up to see them.

Narrow your College selection

Try to narrow your college choice to 3-5 colleges. Follow through completely with your top choices by applying for admission and sending your test scores and a partial high school transcript for both admission and scholarship purposes. Once you have applied for admission to a college, you are a **TOP PRIORITY** at that college and should receive pertinent information regarding scholarships, enrollment, housing, and financial aid. If you are just on the mailing list, you may or may not receive this important information.

Schedule a campus visit

A campus visit may consist of a tour of the campus, including residence halls, a visit with an admissions representative, meeting with a faculty member, attending a class, and eating lunch in the dining hall. Campus visits will influence your decision.

Crunch Time

January of your senior year, you must meet with your guidance counselor about financial aid opportunities, scholarships, and all the various contracts, deposits, and pre-enrollment information colleges will be requesting from you. This is a crucial time period important to your future!

Be sure not to procrastinate!