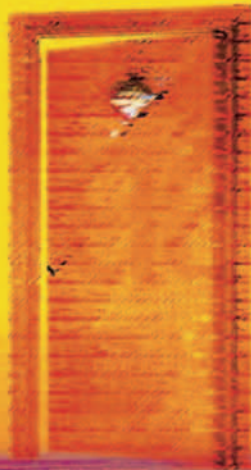




# THE COLLEGE PLACE

A resource of ECMC Foundation, an ECMC Group company



the door to  
**opportunity**  
IS ALWAYS LABELED  
push  
-unknown

# Freshman Year

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Attend my high school orientation sessions.		
Know the requirements for high school graduation.		
Know the college admissions requirements.		
Learn about college entrance exams.		
Begin research on careers that interest me.		
Discuss classes with my parents and guidance counselor.		
Talk to my parents and guidance counselor about colleges that interest me.		
Speak with my parents about possible careers.		
Learn strong study skills.		
Take my grades seriously.		
Get involved with school clubs, community, and church activities, or athletics.		
Read two or three extra books each month.		
Learn library and Internet research skills.		

# Sophomore Year

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Research materials that will help with PSAT exam preparation.		
Take the PSAT exam in October.		
Begin to research colleges by reading their catalogs or visiting their Web sites.		
Talk to my parents about visiting college campuses.		
Talk to my guidance counselor about colleges that interest me.		
Attend career and college nights that are held in my area.		
Learn strong study skills.		
Learn organizational skills.		
Take challenging classes.		
Continue to take my grades seriously.		
Read books about careers that interest me.		
Think about selecting a mentor.		
Learn library and Internet research skills.		

# Junior Year

## September-November

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Prepare an area at home for college materials. Keep separate folders for: financial aid, SAT exam materials, college applications, and college information.		
Attend college fairs and career nights.		
Complete a list of areas where I need improvement and courses I still need to take.		
Register for the PSAT/NMSQT exam. (This exam helps prepare for the SAT exam, and increases eligibility for special honors and National Merit Scholarships.)		
Learn library and Internet research skills.		

## December-February

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Interpret my PSAT/NMSQT exam scores and identify areas where I need improvement.		
Review my list of interests and goals to use in my college search.		
Research scholarship opportunities through libraries, guidance counselors, local civic organizations, and the Internet.		
Ask my guidance counselor for information about Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program exams.		
Start my college search based on my most important criteria. Arrange to visit schools I am interested in, and ask for information and applications.		

# Junior Year

## April-June

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Take the AP exams in May.		
Take the SAT/ACT exams in June.		
Identify and speak to teachers, employers, and activity leaders who can write letters of recommendation to colleges.		

## Summer

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Find a summer job to earn money for college. Keep a copy of my tax records.		
Plan visits with my family to colleges that I am interested in.		

# Senior Year

## September

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Register for the October SAT exam.		
Review all material in my college folder. Throw out unnecessary information so I can better focus on my top choices.		
Prepare a list of all deadlines and necessary materials for my top schools, and keep these in my folder.		

## October

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Make my final college choices.		
Take the SAT exam.		
Contact the financial aid offices at the colleges of my choice to find out the deadlines for forms I need to complete.		
Apply for scholarships.		
Obtain a copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so my family can review the process.		
Complete any early admissions applications that my colleges offer. (Many colleges require these to be completed by Nov. 15.)		

# Senior Year

## December-February

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Finish my essays and applications.		
Make sure all of my letters of recommendation are prepared.		
Gather my tax records and make sure my parents have their tax records. We need these to complete the FAFSA.		
Complete the FAFSA and return it for processing as soon after Jan. 1, as possible.		

## March-June

To-do list	Date completed	Notes
Received my Student Aid Report (SAR). (The date I received this depends on the date I returned the FAFSA.) This report tells me about my eligibility to receive a Pell Grant, and it also includes a calculation of my Estimated Family Contribution.		
Review and make any necessary corrections to my SAR. If corrections were made, return my corrected SAR to the federal processor.		
Review the financial aid award package(s) that I have received from the school(s) I am interested in attending. Consider how much debt my family needs to incur and how much we can afford to repay.		
Decide on a college. Follow their directions for orientation.		
Make other preparations for attending college, such as room and board, etc.		
Notify the schools I have chosen not to attend.		

# Academic Requirements

## Freshman Year

- English
- Social Studies
- Math
- Foreign Language or Fine Arts
- Elective

## Sophomore Year

- English
- Social Studies
- Math
- Science
- Elective

## Junior Year

- English
- Social Studies
- Math
- Foreign Language or Fine Arts
- Science
- Elective

## Senior Year

- English
- Social Studies
- Math
- Foreign Language or Fine Arts
- Elective

# Suggested Reading List

Reading is the best preparation for building vocabulary, increasing knowledge, and improving comprehension — all necessary components for college admissions exams.

## Freshman Year

- “Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance”
- “The Best Jobs For The 21st Century” by J. Michael Farr and LaVerne L. Ludden
- “Goals and Goal Setting” by Larrie Rouillard
- “High School 411” by Cynthia Hickman

## Sophomore Year

- “Ten Ways to Straight A’s” by Sorelle Merkur
- “College Countdown: A Planning Guide for High School Students” by Helen H. Heron
- “The Totally Awesome Money Book for Kids, Second Edition” by Adriane G. Berg, Arthur Berg Bochner
- “Four-Year Colleges”

## Junior Year

- “Visiting College Campuses” by Janet Spencer
- “College Majors and Careers: A Resource Guide to Effective Life Planning” by Paul Phifer
- “How to Prepare for College” by Marjorie Eberts
- “Don’t Wait Until You Graduate!: How to ‘Jump-Start’ Your Career While Still in School” by Keith F. Luscher

## Senior Year

- “How to Write a Winning College Application Essay” by Michael James Mason
- “On Writing the College Application Essay” by Harry Bauld
- “Peterson’s Game Plan for Getting Into College”
- “The College Board Guide to 150 Popular College Majors”





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