

Four Year Timeline for Applying to College

By Susanna R. Cerasuolo, M.Ed., College Counselor

9th Grade

- Set your GPA
- Join a club or sport for 4 years
- Start drafting your resume
- Start reading/researching

10th Grade

- Maintain or raise your GPA
- Be active in a few clubs or sports
- Continue reading/researching
- Take PSAT and PLAN (Oct)
- Take SAT Subject Tests for AP classes (May)
- Update your resume
- Do something interesting during summer
- Do your test prep in summer before 11th

11th Grade

- Schedule/take all SAT/ACT
- Identify two target teachers for rec letters
- Begin to think about leadership in HS
- Go on campus visits
- Finalize college list (10 max!)
- Attend college rep visits and College Fair
- Ask target teachers for rec letters (May)
- Finalize your resume
- Do something brainy in summer
- Write all essays in summer before 12th

12th Grade

- Give rec writers your college list and resume
- Try to do some leadership
- Edit all essays
- Attend college rep visits and College Fair
- Send test scores and transcripts to colleges
- Apply to colleges
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships
- Fight to get off of the waitlist
- Decide where to go to college!