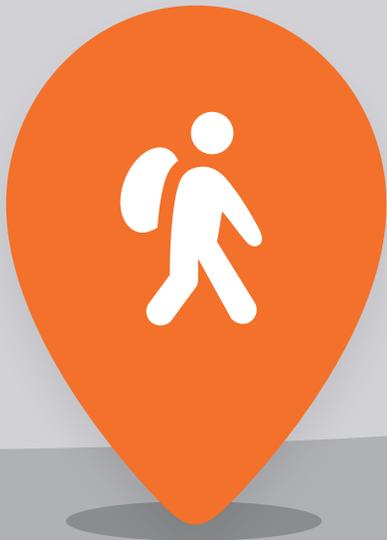


— Your essential college planning resource —

# KapMap

## 2013–2014



Visit [kaptest.com/collegeplanning](http://kaptest.com/collegeplanning) to learn how to wow admissions officers, understand the test scores you'll need for the schools you want, and more.

The path to college just got easier.

**Enjoy the journey!**

# Freshman Year

## September

- ★ Meet your counselor and build a strong course load.
- 👍 [Join clubs and consider extracurricular activities](#); consider leadership and volunteer opportunities.

## October

- ★ Establish good study skills—this makes a *big* difference. Good grades are your ticket to great colleges and universities.

## November

- 👍 Create a [brag file](#) to begin your college resumé.
- ★ If you are facing challenges in school, ask for help! Teachers and counselors are in their profession because they want to help students succeed.

## December

- ★ Study for first semester finals to get your GPA off to a strong start! Set up your own study group with friends for extra support.

## January

- ★ Extracurricular activities are important for your college resumé. Think quality not quantity. Ask your counselor for a list of school clubs: debate club, key club, and yearbook are a few examples.

## February

- ★ Continue establishing good study habits. Keep up the excellent work!
- ★ Take a [time management quiz](#) to make sure you're spending time in the right areas.

## March

- 👍 [Social media](#) does play a role in college admissions. Make sure you're presented in a way you're comfortable sharing with teachers, admissions officers, or alumni interviewers.

## April

- 👍 Connect with Seniors who have been accepted to colleges; talk to them about the [college admissions process](#).

## May

- ★ Study for finals to have a strong finish to your Freshman year!
- 👍 Meet with your counselor to discuss your sophomore course load. [College admissions officers](#) look for a strong course load including Honors and APs.

## June

- ★ Keep studying for finals; the strong finish is worth it! Find a study group for extra study support.

## July

- 📎 [Consider taking the PSAT sophomore year in October](#) and prep over the summer.
- 👍 Consider a summer [community service project](#) to build your college resume.

## August

- 👍 Keep reading; keep writing; keep traveling and record your experiences for your college essay. Consistent reading is an important contributor to [driving a higher standardized test score](#).

*"Ninth grade is a good time to do some sampling and learn what subjects, teachers, and activities you like best."*

– Grace, college freshman

# Sophomore Year

## September

-  [Print out](#) standardized test dates and registration deadlines. Stay ahead of the curve!
-  Join clubs, and consider extra-curricular activities, and explore leadership opportunities to build your [college resumé](#).
-  Contact your school counselor about [PSAT registration](#).

## December

-  Review PSAT results with your counselor to determine the [best test prep study method](#) for you as you consider the SAT/ACT.
-  Consider timing of your future [test prep](#) based on family, social and work schedules.

## March

-  Discuss options for SAT Subject Test and AP Exams with your counselor. Learn your [best prep approach](#).
-  Consider visiting colleges during spring break. Don't forget your [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to help guide your visit!

## June

-  Summer is one of the most effective test prep times. Take advantage of the down time to [up your scores on the PSAT, SAT, or ACT](#).
-  Build your college target list and make a [College Fact Chart](#); revisit your college admissions websites to learn more. The more information gathered now the better.

## October

-  [Take the PSAT](#). You may need to bring your ID; check with your counselor.
-  Build your [study skill techniques](#) and strengthen areas of weakness.

## January

-  Sign up for your school's college admissions software (i.e. Naviance). Begin looking into college websites for acceptance guidance.
-  Consider visits to college campuses during winter break. Bring along your [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to record your findings.

## April

-  Attend college fairs and investigate possible majors. Come prepared with your [College Fair Checklist](#).
-  Understand [key college admissions factors](#). Sign up for your school's college admissions software (i.e. Naviance), if you haven't already.
-  Begin looking for [summer internships](#).

## July

-  Enjoy Summer! To stay sharp, [keep reading](#); write; travel and record experiences which could be used in your college essays.
-  [Don't forget to prep](#) for upcoming standardized tests.

## November

-  [Manage your social media presence](#). Facebook profiles are reviewed by 31% of admissions officers, so be sure yours is presentable!

## February

-  Sign up for [test prep](#) for the spring SAT/ACT.
-  Speak with your school's AP coordinator to register and [prep for AP exams](#).

## May

-  [Time to take the SAT Subject Test or AP Exams](#). Go in to Test Day with confidence!
-  Meet with your counselor to review Junior year course load; make sure you are on track with all college course requirements. [Consider AP and honors classes](#). Good grades in AP and Honors classes are key factors in college admissions.

## August

-  Get familiar with the questions and format of the standardized test. [Take a free Kaplan Turbo Test](#) for the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT. It's a great test-score predictor.
-  Take advantage of the down time to [up your scores on the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT](#).

*"If you are getting behind in a class, get help sooner, not later! You can dig yourself into such a big hole by letting things pile up."*

– Aesha, 10th grade

# Junior Year

## September

- Contact your school counselor about [PSAT registration](#).
- Enroll in a [PSAT prep class or tutoring](#).
- Print out [test dates and registration deadlines](#) for the year. Decide when you're going to take the SAT/ACT. Think about prep options.

## December

- Review PSAT results with your counselor. [Take a practice test](#) to determine what type of prep you need to score your best.
- Take the [SAT/ACT](#) early to allow for time to improve your score, if needed.

## March

- Manage your [social media presence](#). Admissions officers may look at Facebook profiles when considering candidates.
- Register and prep for [AP exams and SAT Subject Tests](#).

## June

- College can be expensive! [Start understanding how to pay for it](#).
- Determine your last possible [SAT/ACT test dates for college applications](#).
- Study for final exams. Complete an excellent year of accomplishments, growth and new experiences.

## October

- Take the [PSAT](#). You may need to bring ID; check with your counselor.
- Attend high school college planning events. Get informed and geared up!

## January

- Consider [campus visits](#) around Martin Luther King Day.
- Speak with [current students or local alumni of target college\(s\)](#) and ask about their experience.
- If you haven't already, sign up for a [test prep course or tutoring](#). Register for spring SAT/ACT.

## April

- Ask for [3–4 teacher and other recommendations](#) for college applications.
- Take a [practice test](#) before your SAT/ACT. Refresh, revisit and reconnect with the test format and questions.

## July

- It's your last chance to prep for the SAT/ACT before submitting college applications. [Know your prep options](#) to get the score you need.
- Search online for [scholarship opportunities and understand the financial aid process](#).

## November

- Finalize your target college list and determine the [scores you need](#) for the schools you want.
- Map out your campus visit schedule. Review your [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to prepare for visits.

## February

- Work with a counselor to ensure your target college list has a mix of dream, target and safe colleges. Create a list of questions to help guide the conversation to get the most out of this meeting.
- Make a prep plan for Spring tests, use [flash cards and SAT questions of the day](#).

## May

- Work with your counselor on senior year course load. [Consider taking AP and honors courses](#). Most competitive colleges want students who not only do well, but also do well in challenging classes.
- Investigate a [summer internship and/or a community service project](#).

## August

- Know your college application deadlines and begin filling out the annual [Common Application](#)!
- Start [writing an amazing essay!](#) Reflect on experiences, awards and personal characteristics that make you stand out. Make it personal!

*"Know the format of the test you're taking—if you've seen the types of questions for a test a million times, you don't have to waste time trying to figure out what they're asking you to do and how you'll approach them."*

— Jesse, 12th grade

# Senior Year

## September

- Review [college application deadlines](#). Stay on track!
- Fill out the [Common Application and write an amazing essay!](#)
- Develop an [early action/early decision](#) plan.

## December

- Keep your GPA up! First semester grades are [viewed by college admissions](#).
- Send handwritten “thank you” notes to the people who wrote your recommendation letters.
- Continue sending college applications. [A great application package begins with a great essay!](#)

## March

- Speak with your school’s AP Coordinator to register and [prep for AP exams](#).
- [Your AP class](#) can give you credit towards your college.

## June

- Find out who else from your town is attending your college and connect with them. [Research social forums where alumni and students post about your college](#).

## October

- [College interviews](#) will start soon. Prepare answers to common questions like “how do friends describe you?” and be ready to ask your own questions.
- Review your [application package](#) and review test score policies for your target colleges.
- Secure your teacher and counselor recommendations and make sure they have what they need.

## January

- Wrap up sending college applications.
- [Research, download, and submit the FAFSA application](#) and investigate scholarships. The sooner it’s in, the better your chance of securing funds.

## April

- Decision time! Review your [College Fact Chart](#). Revisit notes from your interviews and all college literature. Trust your gut!
- [College information will be mailed home](#); organize and fill out every detail carefully.

## July

- Enjoy your summer!
- Think of ways you can get involved on campus. Experience. Explore. Discover more!

## November

- Consider taking the last SAT test offering before college applications are due.
- Send in [early decision/early action applications](#). Most are due around November 15.

## February

- Reminder: [Submit the FAFSA](#). Anyone can apply for aid, grants and low interest loans.
- [Speak to alumni from your target colleges](#) and ask questions so you can be informed when making your final decision.

## May

- Decision made! Congratulations on choosing the right college for you and taking steps to build your bright future.
- Keep your grades up. Take the [AP exams](#).

## August

- [Pack for college](#). Have your checklist ready when shopping.
- Remember what it was like trying to figure out the college admissions process? Share what you’ve learned with underclassmen to help them on their journey to college.

“After the application process, I sat down and made a list of the most important things I wanted in a college. Then I used that to rank my choices and think about what I wanted. I was surprised at how much that had changed from when I applied!”

– Nora, college freshman