

Roxboro Community School Guidance Department

Your High School College Plan

Freshman Year

- Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.
- Study hard and get excellent grades. Colleges see your year end grades from ninth grade and the GPA becomes a part of the cumulative GPA on your transcript.
- Register for the PSAT in September
- Take the PSAT in October if you have already taken Geometry.
- Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.
- Become or continue being involved in extra-curricular activities and community service.
- Browse through college literature or surf the Web to get an idea of what kinds of schools may be of interest to you.
- Check out what high school courses colleges require.
- Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.
- Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record or resume.
- Research career possibilities.
- Save money for college and begin researching scholarship opportunities.
- Look for a great summer opportunity – job, internship, or volunteer position.

Sophomore Year

- Continue taking challenging courses.
- Work hard and continue to make excellent grades.
- Register for the PSAT in September.
- Take the PSAT in October.
- Get more involved with your extracurricular activities. Discover your passion.
- When you receive your PSAT results in December, read the materials sent with your score report and work on the areas you need to improve.
- It's never too early to start researching colleges. Visit the college resource room to browse through the reference materials available. Select 3 strong choices to pursue.
- Decide if you want to take any SAT Subject tests in the spring.
- Start thinking about visiting college campuses.
- Look for a great summer opportunity – job, internship, or volunteer position.

Junior Year

October

- Take PSAT for National Merit competition and College Search Service.
- You may want to register for the December SAT III Writing Test.

February

- Meet individually with a college counselor.
- Attend College Night for Juniors
- Register for March SAT I (Optional).

March

- Continue individual meetings with a college counselor.
- Consult catalogs, viewbooks, guidebooks, and websites to learn more about individual colleges on the list of schools developed by the counselors after your individual conference.
- Continue researching scholarship opportunities
- Take SAT I (optional).
- Register for May I SAT (recommended).

April

- Continue individual meetings with a college counselor.
- Register for June SAT II Subject Tests.

May

- Take or retake SAT I
- Take AP exams as appropriate.

June

- Take SAT II Subject Tests.
- By the end of junior year students should generally have taken the SAT I at least once and appropriate SAT II Subject Tests.

Summer

- Visit as many colleges as possible.
- Schedule interviews when available.
- Read college publications.
- Begin developing a final list of colleges.
- Think about college essays.
- Consider scheduling a conference with your counselor to discuss options and get “pointers”.
- Consider working, interning or volunteering in an area of interest to get an “inside” view and gain valuable experience. This is a great opportunity to make contacts for letters of recommendation.

Senior Year

September

- During this last year work hard, but enjoy this time in your life!
- Check application deadlines.
- Determine if Early Action/Early Decision options are appropriate for you.
- Register for SAT I in October or November.
- Determine final list of schools with a college counselor.
- Attend college visits at school or local college fairs.
- Write, review and proofread application essays with your English teacher.
- Attend any workshops held at RCS for financial aid and college selection process.

October

- Begin application process.
- Attend college visits at school.
- Register for December SAT II Subject Tests.
- Take SAT
- If you are planning to attend a community college such as PCC, fill out a registration form available on-line or in the college planning office. SAT's are not required to attend community college. After you apply you will be contacted to schedule a placement test.
- Ask for recommendations from a teacher, counselor, supervisor or boss. Choose people who can write well, give an outstanding recommendation and have known you for several years. When asking for letters, give two weeks notice.
- Fill out any transcript request forms and turn them into the guidance office.

November

- Keep working hard in school. Many colleges and universities request final year transcripts and you'll want to maintain excellent grades.
- Take SAT if you haven't already
- Complete Early Action/Early Decision applications.

December

- Take SAT II Subject Test
- Complete applications.

January

- Submit Financial Aid Forms. Fill out FAFSA forms after January 1st. You will need your parent's help and their income tax forms.
- Have test scores released and sent.
- Submit remaining applications.
- Check that all application materials and paperwork due have been submitted and received to the colleges you have selected.

February and March

- Keep searching for financial aid opportunities.
- Wait patiently. Think about your potential choices. Take a second look and re-visit the schools of your choice.
- Send any new material that may boost your chances of being accepted. Any honors, awards or recognition should be sent right away.

April

- Decide and make final college choice.
- Prepare for AP exams with practice tests and study guides. Ask AP teachers for information.
- Reply to the college of your choice. Watch deadlines! Send a deposit, if necessary. Some colleges will require deposits by May 1st.
- After making sure everything is in order with the college of your choice, write a polite letter to the colleges you did not choose so that they may offer admission to another student.

May

- Take AP exams if applicable. High AP exam scores can earn you college credits.
- Thank people who helped you along the way with guidance and letters of recommendations. Consider a card or thank-you note.
- Make plans for the summer and beyond. Consider taking a course that can apply toward college. Explore volunteering, internship and job possibilities. Spend time with family and friends.
 - Forms regarding housing, roommates and courses may start arriving from the college you are attending. Respond to each one promptly.

June

- Do well on exams and EOC's. You are almost there!
- Graduate! CONGRATULATIONS! We are proud of you and your accomplishments!