

TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

WHEN TO BEGIN	WHAT TO DO	HOW TO DO IT
September – October Sophomore Year	Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements. Consider taking a practice <i>Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test</i> (PSAT/NMSQT)	Take a practice test at collegereadiness.collegeboard.org
November – December Sophomore Year	Every year in high school work with your parents to estimate your potential financial aid options, and continue to save for college.	Use the <i>FAFSA4caster</i> on the Federal Student Aid website at fafsa.gov
January – February Sophomore Year	Think about what career you may like to have when you get out of school. It will help when deciding on a college if you know what majors interest you.	Complete a career inventory questionnaire to determine which career fields match you personality type. Visit www.careerkey.org to complete this excellent tool for your future.
March – April Sophomore Year	Go to career information events to get a more detailed look at career options. Research majors that might be a good fit with your interests and goals based on your results from the U.S. Department of Labor's career search.	Visit <i>What do you want to do for a living?</i> Website at www.mynextmove.org
May Sophomore	Plan to use your summer wisely: work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college). Also, learn about the differences between grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships.	Visit <i>Deferal Student Aid – Office of the U.S. Department of Education</i> at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types
September – October Junior Year	Start your personalized college plan. List colleges you are considering and get information. Strive for 3.0 or above GPA throughout high school.	Explore the <i>Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority</i> website at www.kheaa.com Attend college fairs and open houses. Register for the SAT if your college requires it.
November – December Junior Year	Ask about test dates for the PSAT, ACT and SAT. You will need to register up to 6 weeks ahead of time. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.	Take practice tests at their correspondent website: collegereadiness.collegeboard.org and www.khanacademy.org

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January - February Junior Year	Research summer enrichment and honors programs such as Governor's Scholars Program or summer programs specific to the career fields you are exploring. Ask about AP and <i>dual credit</i> courses.	Explore Kentucky's universities or colleges websites to apply for summer enrichment programs. See page 10-11 of this resource book.
March - April Junior Year	Use a free scholarship search to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Check your <i>Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)</i> award.	Go to the <i>U.S. Department of Labor's free scholarship finder</i> at www.careeronestop.org or ask your school's Guidance Counselor
May Junior Year	Think about lining up a summer job, internship or co-op. Consider shadowing a job in your field of interest. Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending.	Click on the <i>Find Training</i> tab of the www.careeronestop.org website and go to kheaa.com site for more information about selecting a college
September - October Senior Year	Complete and submit your <i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</i> . Set-up an email account with a professional address for use in communications with colleges and financial aid sources.	Start FAFSA application on October 1 st at fafsa.gov
November – December Senior Year	Apply to your “choice” colleges and apply for scholarships. Complete online admissions applications; write essays and have them proofed or reviewed. Ask about <i>dual credit</i> classes in the spring.	Check with your guidance counselor or online for scholarship resources. Send your official transcripts to your colleges. See page 8-9 for additional resources.
January – February Senior Year	Review your <i>Student Aid Report (SAR)</i> for accuracy based on your FAFSA. Review college acceptance letters and compare financial aid offers.	Talk to your counselor and consult colleges websites. Check your email often for important information regarding college applications.
March – April Senior Year	Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll. Decide about a school, notify that school your commitment and submit deposit. Many schools have a May 1 deadline. Sign up for early registration/orientation.	Confer with parents and counselors. Confirm your decision and decline other admission offers. Observe deadlines of award letters.
May Senior Year	Establish a contact at the college you will be attending. Do one last check of your KEES award or any other award letters. Set up your online student account at the college you will be attending, and follow their social media pages and feeds.	Contact the college admissions counselor and check with the admissions office to be sure they have received your transcripts, <i>dual credit</i> transcript, and necessary paperwork.