To best prepare for college, certain steps and procedures must be accomplished prior to enrollment. This is a chronological checklist designed to help assist in being well-organized and as ready as possible for college. See the College Prep Resources for additional information.

**August through October**

- Focus on academics! Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.
- List only 3 colleges of choice with only 2 possible majors.
- Contact the high school counselor if interested in ROTC program.
- Create/update an interest and learning style inventory profile, update yearly. See Career: Kuder Navigator.
- A social security number (SSN) is required. Contact local social security office. See College Information: SSN.
- Hold leadership positions in various school- and community-based activities, clubs, and/or sports.
- Continue to contact college coaches to request possible scouting, if athletics are desired.
- Complete all college campus visits by the end of the junior year. Call ahead for appointments. Request an application, talk with current students, and take a campus tour.
- Create a 3-year calendar, covering the last 2 years of high school and 1st year of college, noting college admission, financial aid application, scholarship, and testing registration deadlines as well as testing dates.
- Register no later than October to take the ACT in December. See Testing: ACT.

**November through January**

- Use all collected documents and personal milestones to create an education portfolio.
- Visit college websites to view estimated cost, application process, and enrollment information.
- Attend local career, financial aid, and college fairs. See College Information: College Fair.
- Keep resume updated with all extra-curricular activities, recognitions, and employment, if any.
- Review websites which assist with applying for college scholarships, grants, and financial aid. Make note of all application deadlines on calendar. See Financial Aid: Scholarships.
- Review college exam study guides and websites with online tutorials. See Testing: Test Prep.
- ASVAB is a military entrance test taken either during the junior or senior year of high school. See Testing: ASVAB.
- Register one month prior to testing date for the following tests. See Testing: ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests.
  - ACT – February, April, or June
  - SAT – March or May
  - SAT Subject Tests – May/June

**February through June**

- Stay up-to-date with all required shots and immunizations; retain a copy of shot records.
- Finalize senior class schedule by the end of May, verifying all classes align with graduation requirements. Consider taking a concurrent credit or digital learning course. See College Information: SouthArk.
- Request college recommendation letters for applications from teachers, coaches, and other mentors.
- State test(s) must be passed at the end of grade level to advance to the next grade and/or graduate.
- Register one month prior to June or August testing date to take the ACT test. See Testing: ACT.
- SAT Subject Tests and AP Testing are recommended immediately following class completion usually in May/June. See Testing: AP Testing and SAT Subject Tests.

**Summer after Junior Year**

- Explore summer internships, volunteer opportunities, and/or job shadowing in desired career.
- Enroll in a summer school class if a required class was not passed during the year.
- Prepare for the college application process by reviewing college essay prompts, assembling education portfolios, and gathering recommendation letters. See College Info: Essay Writing Tips.