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.
- Contact college coaches for possible scouting, if desired.
- List the top 5 desired colleges along with the top 4 desired majors.
- 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.
- Join various school- and community-based activities, taking on leadership positions.
- Create a 4-year calendar, covering the last 3 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.
- Schedule the PLAN exam only one time during the sophomore year. See counselor or Testing: PLAN.

**November through January**
- Add all volunteer and extra-curricular activities to the resume.
- Visit different college websites to view estimated cost, application process, and enrollment information.
- Attend local college/career fairs and financial aid seminars. See College Information: College Fair.
- Prepare for college expenses by visiting financial aid websites. See Financial Aid FAQ.

**February through June**
- Stay up-to-date with all required shots and immunizations; retain a copy of shot records.
- Finalize junior class schedule by the end of May, making sure all classes align with graduation requirements. Consider taking a concurrent credit or digital learning course. See College Information: SouthArk.
- Review scholarship and grant websites, noting application deadlines. See Financial Aid: Scholarships.
- Compare specifics between community colleges and 4-year universities; specifically, programs available, cost, athletics, and which scholarships apply. See College Information: College Searches.
- SAT Subject Tests and AP Testing are recommended immediately following class completion, usually in May/June. See Testing: AP Testing and SAT Subject Tests.
- State test(s) must be passed at the end of grade level to advance to the next grade and/or to graduate.
- Continue collecting personal milestones for an education portfolio.
- Request college recommendation letters from teachers, coaches, and other mentors for college applications.

**Summer after Sophomore Year**
- Explore summer volunteer and job opportunities in the career area of interest for experience and to save money for college.
- Enroll in a summer school class if a required class was not passed during the year.
- Review college exam study guides and websites with online tutorials. See Testing: Test Prep.
- Register no later than July to take the SAT in September. See Testing: SAT.
- Register no later than August to take the PSAT in October. See Testing: PSAT.
- Complete the NCAA Clearinghouse application if wanting to play on Division I/II team. See College Info: NCAA.

[www.southark.edu/student-services/college-transition](http://www.southark.edu/student-services/college-transition)