

High School Timeline

El Pueblo, Inc.

This is a general overview you can use as a guide for what kind of career and college steps you should take each year of high school.

Freshman Year:

- Find out who your guidance counselor is and ask them to help you select classes that meet **4-year** college admissions requirements.
- Take challenging courses that build strong mathematical, reasoning, and verbal skills.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities (clubs, teams, youth groups, volunteering, etc.) at your school and in your community. Make sure to choose activities that you are interested in so that you will want to participate long-term. Keep a record of your activities so that you'll have it when you start doing applications.
- Start saving for college early! Each month add to your savings account, even if it doesn't seem like a lot of money. The earlier you start, the more you can save!
- In the spring, meet with your counselor again to select your classes for next year. Be sure to continue taking courses that meet college admissions requirements.

Sophomore Year:

- Continue all the activities you started your freshman year.
- Enroll in challenging courses again. Throughout the year, check in with your teachers to see how you're doing. If you're having difficulty in any of your classes ask them to help you find a tutor.
- Talk to your guidance counselor about taking the PSAT as a practice for taking it during your junior year. Do this in early fall because you have to register for the test in advance.
- Explore your interests, skills, and abilities and think about how they relate to possible careers. Take electives that relate to your interests and that will help prepare you to achieve your career goals.
- Explore different college options and make a list of schools you're interested in.
- Don't forget to continue adding to your college savings!

Junior Year:

- Maintain your extracurricular activities.
- Continue taking challenging classes. Grades junior year are very important! Good grades in advanced courses impress colleges and improve chances for scholarships.
- Register for the PSAT and take it in the fall: it's good practice for the SAT and good scores may possibly qualify you for scholarships.
- Visit colleges that you are interested in and attend college fairs. Check to see which colleges require the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT subject tests.
- Register for the ACT or SAT, study a lot, and then take the test in the spring.
- Start researching scholarship and work-study opportunities.

Senior Year:

- Obtain all the admissions applications from your top college picks; remember to choose at least 4 or 5.
- Ask teachers or other adults to write letters of recommendation for you.
- Research scholarships deadlines early and allow enough time to fill out applications.
- Take the ACT or SAT again and have the official test scores sent to the colleges you're most interested in.
- Complete admission applications and essays and get them in well before the deadline. Don't forget to keep a copy for yourself.
- Have a copy of your official transcript sent to the colleges you're applying to.
- Check with the schools you've applied to and make sure that you've met all of the application requirements. Do this early so you have time if necessary to send things in that they did not receive.
- Fill out financial aid forms for the universities you've applied to as well as the forms required for private scholarships you find. If you qualify for federal aid (you have to be a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident), fill out the FAFSA form as soon as possible after January 1, which you can find at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.