



College Preparation Timeline

Freshman Year

- Consider a 4-year course plan in preparation for college
- Receive an explanation for how to analyze your transcripts
- Students attend the Naviance introduction training
- Take the Learning Style Inventory on Naviance, which will assist you in study skills
- Freshman Parent night, where parents are made aware of counseling resources here at Minnehaha Academy
- Students should participate in a number of extracurricular activities
- Students should be updating their college resume on Naviance
- Consider your potential for taking AP/Honors courses in your Sophomore year
- Receive course selection guidance from counselors for the next year

Sophomore Year

- Students should monitor their 4-year course plan and see if they are on track
- Continue participating in extracurricular events, and consider leadership opportunities if they are available
- Consider taking the PLAN, the pre-ACT test
- Consider taking the PSAT, the pre-SAT test
- If applicable, take SAT Subject Tests and AP tests at the end of the school year
- Parents should attend the Sophomore Parent Night
- Consider attending local college fairs and determine what colleges would be a good fit for you goals and personality
- Take the Career Interest Profile on Naviance and see the potential careers that exist
- Receive course selection guidance from counselors to plan for the remaining of high school and post graduation

Junior Year

- Check for graduation and college entrance requirements
- Junior grades are important, so work hard to keep them up!

- Continue your participation in extracurricular activities, but students should be narrowing their focus at this point.
- Take the PSAT test. Students are able to qualify for the National Merit Program
- Take the SAT and ACT tests during your junior year
- If applicable, take the SAT Subject Tests and AP tests at the end of the school year
 - Many selective schools require 2-3 Subject Tests for admission
- Continue to update your resume on Naviance, and take the Do What You Are inventory
- Parents attend the Junior Parent Night where specific college application information will be discussed
- Parents are encouraged to start the scholarship search process
- Attend college fairs and begin to make connections with college representatives
- Meet with your college counselor to discuss your grades and college plans
- During your junior year, plan on visiting colleges during breaks to determine the best fit for you
- Plan on taking a rigorous course load during your senior year

Senior Year

- Consider taking the ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests in order to improve on your previous scores
- Take AP tests at the end of the year if applicable
- Avoid “senioritis”. Senior grades are important to colleges!
- Expand on the specific extracurricular activities that you’ve already participated in
- Attend College Fairs to affirm college selections
- If possible, take your final college visits to solidify your search
- Meet with your college counselor and discuss your college plans
- Apply to colleges
 - Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
 - Get assistance from your counselor with college applications and essays
- Parents, fill out the FAFSA after January 1 for financial aid
 - If applicable, also fill out the CSS Profile for selective private schools
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Send thank you notes to teachers who have written letters of recommendation
- Review your acceptances, and consult with parents and your counselor to make the best decision on where to attend