

Fall 2006/Winter 2007 High School Planner

Freshman/Sophomore

- Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss classes and available activities.
- Plan which classes to take during high school. Challenge yourself to take more difficult courses.
- Join clubs and activities in your area of interest. Take leadership positions when possible.
- Start to build relationships with some of your favorite teachers, counselors and activity advisors who can write recommendations and serve as mentors later.
- Talk about saving for college with your parents/family.
- Search for scholarships and colleges on www.fastweb.com.
- Attend a college fair; speak with campus representatives.
- Select a volunteer organization with which you'd like to become involved.
- Start to become familiar with standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT.
- Begin to think about a future college choice. Use FastWeb's College Search to get familiar with schools at www.fastweb.com.
- Ask your high school counselor about contacting former students for future college advice.
- Research summer programs in your area of interest. Ask your counselor or teachers whether they know of any opportunities. Use www.fastweb.com to search for internships in your area.

Junior

- Explore financial aid options and college planning with your parents/family.
- Take the most challenging courses you can. Doing so will show an admissions office that you can compete on a college level.
- Continue to research prospective colleges. Sign up for FastWeb's College Search to find and contact a matching college at www.fastweb.com.
- Use your FastWeb results to visit prospective colleges' Web sites.
- Attend college fairs and speak to campus representatives.
- Register and take the PSAT; prepare for the SAT/ACT.
- Go to www.fastweb.com to search for scholarships.
- Take leadership roles in clubs, activities and other volunteer and service organizations.
- Consider which teachers, advisors or counselors you may want to have write your recommendations. Strengthen your relationship by providing a list of activities and accomplishments as a reminder of your work.

Senior

- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as soon as you can after January 1. Find the FAFSA online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. You'll need a PIN (www.pin.ed.gov) to sign the FAFSA online.
- Request applications and brochures from your target colleges. Use FastWeb's College Search at www.fastweb.com to help narrow your college choice.
- Sign up for college entrance exams - the SAT and/or ACT. Check out the test prep information available through CollegeBoard, ACT and www.fastweb.com.
- Take honors or advanced classes. More challenging courses show that you are prepared for college coursework.
- Schedule interviews with prospective colleges. Practice your interview skills before heading in for the actual interview.
- Set up a budget for college and application costs.
- Get your applications in order by creating files for target schools. Make a list of application requirements (essays, transcripts, recommendations, etc.) and deadlines for each. Consider creating your own personal timeline or calendar for this process.
- Request letters of recommendation from recent teachers, advisors and employers. Provide enough time so they can reply. Include a list of activities and accomplishments.
- Work on college application essays.
- Seek out jobs, internships and/or volunteer work in your community or through your school. In addition to being a rewarding experience, show an admissions office your commitment to improve your community.

Get a custom search of
\$3 billion in scholarships
and over 4,000 colleges
www.fastweb.com