

College Preparation Timeline

Grade 8

- Each student should carefully complete a four-year high school academic plan.
- Each student will have an opportunity to meet with his/her counselor to plan course selections for the high school years.
- Parents and students will be invited to general information sessions.
- It is strongly recommended that each student carefully read the course selection guide and carefully choose courses for high school.
- Look over specific college catalogs and publications that give college profiles.

Grade 9

- Goals and objectives that were chosen in the eighth grade need to be re-evaluated.
- Careful consideration should be given to reviewing the four-year graduation plan.
- Review college catalogs and publications which give college profiles.
- Attend the MISD College and Career Night in the fall.
- Begin keeping in your portfolio report cards, test scores, honors, school activities, community activities, and work experience.
- You may also want to keep samples of your major school projects, papers, etc.
- Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.
- Take courses that are challenging and work to your full potential.
- Be a self-advocate, attend tutorials and do not let yourself fall behind in your classes.

Grade 10

- Review the four-year graduation plan.
- Take courses that are challenging and continue working to your full potential.
- Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) which is offered only once per year in October as practice for the PSAT/NMSQT that juniors take for scholarship consideration.
- Analyze the PSAT results and establish personal goals in January.
- Take the PLAN test. As a “pre-ACT” test, PLAN is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT. PLAN focuses attention on both career preparation and improving academic achievement. Typically, PLAN is administered in the fall of the sophomore year.
- Continue to review college publications. Begin to visit colleges in the summer, especially if you are interested in a highly selective college.
- Study to make your grades representative of your abilities.
- Continue adding to your portfolio.

Grade 11

- Review the graduation plan and narrow college choices.
- Confer with parent(s) and the counselor to decide on courses for the senior year and to discuss post-graduation plans.
- Take challenging courses.
- Attend the MISD College and Career Night in the fall and talk to the college personnel.
- Take the PSAT offered only once per year in October.
- Apply for any scholarships that your parents' employers may provide and any scholarships that are available to junior competition.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT in the late spring.
- Send early decision applications in June and July.
- Visit colleges in the summer. Send for college information and applications.
- Make grades representative of your ability.
- Continue adding to your portfolio.

Grade 12

- Finalize college choices and send letters/applications to the colleges of your choice.
- Check with the counseling center on your campus, the Internet and the catalog from the college(s) of your choice to apply for any scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Confer with your counselor in early fall.
- Attend the MISD College and Career Night in the fall with your parent(s) and plan to attend the Financial Aid Seminar.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT and necessary achievement tests in October or November.
- Send regular decision applications in the fall semester (preferably by December 1).
- Send in housing applications in early fall, especially to colleges that are highly competitive for dorm space.
- Analyze SAT and ACT test results in December.
- Send the Financial Aid applications (FAFSA) in January.
- Continue adding to your portfolio.
- Common Application: Texas offers a common application for all public universities. This application may be obtained from the counseling center on your high school campus or online at www.applytexas.org.