

# COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE



*for Students  
Entering in Fall*

## Freshman Year

- Make sure you are meeting graduation requirements in Math, Science, Social Science, and English
  - Do well in all of your classes to keep your GPA and class rank high (this could mean more scholarship money)
- Seek opportunities to take Honors and AP Classes
- Explore your interests and passions through involvement in clubs and organizations
- Begin looking into the ACT test
- Talk to your counselor about available college resources
- Start visiting college websites to examine admissions requirements

## Sophomore Year

- Utilize your counselor for guidance in the college search
- Register for the ACT and PSAT practice tests
- Revisit college websites for specific major requirements and scholarship information
- Visit colleges if you have a day off or your school allows

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## Junior Year

- Take classes for college credit through your high school or a college nearby
- Register for the ACT, PSAT, and SAT
  - PSAT will qualify students for National Merit Scholarships and Programs in Fall
  - Students can take the SAT in Spring
- Attend College Fairs and College Night events
- Begin narrowing down schools that fit your needs and interests
- Revisit or begin visiting those schools still on your short list
- Research sources of funding for college
  - FAFSA and scholarships
- Connect with your admissions counselor to navigate the application process
- Begin communicating with college faculty or advisors to get a head start on planning

## Senior Year

- Visit colleges
- Find or research programs you can participate in to get you accustomed to the college experience
- Confirm that you will meet graduation requirements
- Utilize the FAFSA4caster tool to gauge the amount of financial assistance you will receive
- Begin completing college applications by sending in test scores, transcripts, and senior schedule
- Complete FAFSA (Available in October – ESU Priority Deadline is April 1)
  - Priority deadlines vary
- Apply for first-year scholarship opportunities at institutions and begin comparing award packages and tuition rates (ESU Scholarship Deadline is typically in February)
- Make any final college visits
- Notify your college that you will be attending, and ensure that you have everything you need taken care of
- Deadlines and Planning: Financial Aid (October-April at ESU), Housing (January-February at ESU), Scholarship (February at ESU), Enrollment (March at ESU)

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■ UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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[emporia.edu/admissions](http://emporia.edu/admissions)