

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Work on improving your study skills.
- Keep your grades up - this is the most important thing you can do.
- If you have completed geometry, consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) which is given in October at EHS. This is excellent practice and the Student Score Report provides valuable feedback. Sign up in the counseling office when announced.
- Visit the Career Center and become familiar with the various reference materials. It is not too early to start researching careers, colleges and financial aid/scholarships.
- Attend college and career fairs. These usually take place in the fall and spring.
- Start building a resume of what you have done in high school. Include all honors, awards, extracurricular activities, employment, community service and special skills.
- When registering for next year's classes, remember that course selection is almost as important as grades. Challenge yourself! Explore the option of taking Advanced Placement courses. AP exams are taken in May. High scores on these national tests may allow for advanced placement or credits given when a student enters college.
- Get involved in some extracurricular and community service activities. Many colleges and scholarship programs look at how you spend your free time - your involvement in school, sports, volunteer work, church, or the community.
- Plan to do some college campus tours – if possible take advantage of family travel.

JUNIOR YEAR

Fall

- Plan to take the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) which is given in October at EHS. Not only is it excellent practice but it is also necessary for qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sign-up in the counseling office when announced.
- Work hard to keep your grades up - remember transcripts sent out to colleges in the fall of your senior year will only have grades through your junior year.
- Start exploring the colleges you are interested in attending. Go online and look at their Web sites and use the resources in the Career Center and the King County libraries. Learn as much as you can about the following:

Application procedures and deadlines	Student activities
Entrance requirements	Course offerings
Required tests	Faculty composition
Tuition and fees	Financial aid
Room and board costs	
- Prepare/update your resume listing all your school activities, out-of-school activities, community service, employment, and honors and awards.
- Attend the National College Fair at the Convention State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle.

- Attend presentations made by the various visiting college and military representatives when they visit Eastlake High School.

Winter

- Register to take the SAT and/or the ACT in the late spring. Register online at www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org. Register early for the best chance to test at a convenient testing location.
- If you need scores from the SAT Subject Tests, register to take them in the spring or fall, preferably as soon as possible after completing the specific courses being tested. You cannot take the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests on the same day. You may take three Subject Tests at one time.

Spring/Summer

- When registering for the senior year make sure your course selections meet the requirements for high school graduation as well as for the colleges you may wish to attend. Be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
- Familiarize yourself with the scholarship bulletin posted in the career center and on the EHS Web site. There are a few scholarships offered to juniors. Both Eastlake's Career Center and the King County libraries have books on scholarships.
- Attend the College Fair at BC in March and/or the PNACAC College Fair in March/April.
- Continue to participate in extra-curricular and community service activities – keep in mind that commitment and level of involvement is more important than number.
- Continue the research on a variety of colleges, but start narrowing down your list based on your preferences and academic record.
- If you are considering a military academy or ROTC scholarships, begin the application process in early April.
- If possible, make plans to visit some of the colleges on your list during the spring and summer breaks.
- Potential collegiate athletes of all levels should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Start to build your sports portfolio and resume.

SENIOR YEAR

September/October

- If you need to take or retake the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT, register for these tests early in the fall. Students for whom English is their second language should take the TOEFL. Register online at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org.
- Finalize your list of college application choices.
- Download applications and financial aid information from all colleges you are planning to apply to.
- Update your resume. Include all extra-curricular activities, community service, employment, honors and awards, and special skills.
- Be aware of all your college application deadlines. They will vary – you must meet all deadlines. Try to submit all applications by December 1. This is a common priority scholarship deadline at the colleges.
- If applying for early decision or early action at a first choice college, begin preparing applications in September. Allow plenty of time for all teachers and counselors to get their information to you. Make sure you do not miss the deadlines.

- If the colleges on your list require recommendations, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. Complete the form in the brochure, "Requesting a Letter of Recommendation" (available in the Career Center and on the EHS Web site) and give a copy to everyone who will be writing letters for you. Teachers will not write recommendations without this completed form. Be sure to inform them of deadlines, especially if they are Early Decision deadlines. Be considerate; allow teachers sufficient time (at least four weeks) to complete your letter. Provide properly addressed, stamped envelopes. Teachers will usually mail their recommendations separately. Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations for you.
- Work on essays required for college and/or scholarship applications.
- If you plan to apply for scholarships, begin to investigate opportunities early in the year. Keep informed of available scholarships through the Eastlake Scholarship Bulletin, Web sites, and the scholarship books in the Career Center and King County libraries. Refer to the list of online resources posted in the Career Center. Make a note of scholarship deadlines.
- Attend the presentations made by the various colleges and military representatives when they visit Eastlake High School. Representative visitations are announced in the bulletin and on the EHS Web site and are posted in the Career Center.
- Attend the National College Fair at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.
- If you have not already done so, set up tours to visit the colleges you are seriously considering.

November/December

- Request transcripts from the Counseling Office – allow 3 school days.
- Order SAT and ACT scores directly from the testing agencies.
- Before mailing, make copies of all materials you submit to colleges.
- Encourage parents to attend Financial Aid Night in December, at Eastlake High School.
- If you plan to apply for financial aid, pick up a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) worksheet from the Career Center – available in mid December. This is the federal form necessary to secure financial aid at most colleges and universities. DO NOT submit before January 1.
- Continue to check scholarship information in the Career Center.
- Order cap/gown and graduation announcements.

January-March

- Prepare the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and submit it as soon after January 1 as possible. Be sure you sign and date the form.
- Check with colleges to see if they need any additional financial aid forms. Some schools require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and/or their own financial aid form. PROFILE registration information is available online at www.collegeboard.com.
- Watch financial aid deadlines; they vary from school to school and change yearly.
- Complete remaining college applications. Remember to request your transcripts and test scores.
- Make sure all mid-year school reports are sent to the colleges that have requested them.

- Continue to keep informed of scholarship opportunities available to you by checking the scholarship resources in the Career Center. Many scholarships have deadlines at this time.
- Sign up for Advanced Placement testing if appropriate. Registration usually begins in February. Testing starts the first week of May.

April-June

- Notify the Counseling Center of any scholarships or awards you have received – for recognition at scholarship reception and listing in the graduation program.
- Attend the Scholarship/Awards Reception, if appropriate. Be sure to write a "thank you" note to the sponsor who has awarded you a scholarship. Also, give them the name and address of the college you plan to attend. Most sponsors send the money directly to the Financial Aid Office.
- Reply to all colleges that offered you admission. You must respond by May 1.
- Sign and return your financial aid acceptance letter as soon as possible.
- Complete college housing application forms.
- Notify the Counseling Office where you would like your final transcript sent.
- Attend "New Student Orientation" at the college you have selected.