MILESTONES FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION—RISING FRESHMEN

1. GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNSELOR
2. GET AHEAD BEFORE YOU START HIGH SCHOOL
3. FIND A STUDY BUDDY
4. GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SUMMER
5. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE/STEM CAMPS
6. APPLY FOR A SWENNEXT AWARD
7. START THINKING ABOUT SAT SUBJECT TESTS
8. GET AHEAD BEFORE YOU START HIGH SCHOOL
9. MAKE A LIST OF COLLEGES
10. WORK/ VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

11. SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER THINGS
12. BUILD REGULAR STUDY HABITS
13. CHOOSE CLASSES FOR SOPHOMORE YEAR
14. TAKE YOUR AP/IB/CAMBRIDGE EXAMS
15. CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

PREPARE FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

16. PLAN AND PREPARE YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE
17. KEEP UP WITH SUMMER READING
18. MAKE THE MOST OF VOLUNTEERING
19. SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER THINGS
20. APPLY FOR A SWENNEXT AWARD
21. START PLANNING YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE
22. STANDARDIZED TESTING/COURSES
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CONGRATULATIONS! YOU’RE A FRESHMAN!

It’s your first year of high school, and you’re just four years away from college.

To set yourself up for college success, take a look at the typical milestones a high school freshman goes through in the next ten months. Keep this schedule handy to remind you of the activities and deadlines.

SUMMER BEFORE YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

A. Plan out what classes you will take for all of high school, not just your freshman year. Include AP/IB/Cambridge classes, if available at your school, to challenge yourself. (Don’t know what these are? Learn more here!)

B. Do your summer reading assignments so you won’t be lost in English class when you get to school!
   - Start looking for local volunteering opportunities that you can get involved in.
   - Attend STEM events or a STEM camp.
   - Do a job shadow of an engineer to learn about what they do.

FALL SEMESTER – FRESHMAN YEAR

D. Find a “study buddy” or two. Throughout high school, the classes will get more challenging. Having a study buddy can make learning easier and more fun. You will be studying the same material and doing the same quizzes and assignments, so pooling your knowledge, resources and skills will increase your success rate.
   - Set up a first appointment with your school’s guidance counselor about what you can do to prepare for college.
   - Get involved with school activities early on based on your interests. Join a STEM club, or start your own SWENext Club! Learn all about it here!

E. Volunteering on a regular basis during the school year may be difficult, but it’s rewarding both in the short-term and for the long haul. Giving back to the community is a different type of learning experience. Joining a student organization like Key Club or looking into local opportunities on your own is important to personal growth. Colleges look for applicants who show initiative and a passion for bettering the world.

F. Live near a Society of Women Engineers WE Local conference? Apply for a SWENext Community Award, typically November through March. Check out the program here!

WINTER BREAK

H. Start thinking about SAT Subject Tests, which you may be learning the material for in one or more of your classes. Some colleges require or recommend them. Learn more about SAT Subject Tests here!

I. It’s never too early to start making a list of colleges you’re interested in! Do some preliminary research in between making snowmen and drinking eggnog.

J. Continue to look for volunteer opportunities in your area, or continue with what you found over the summer!

SPRING SEMESTER – FRESHMAN YEAR

K. Take any AP/IB/Cambridge exams if you’ve been in classes for them. They can get you class credit at most colleges (requirements and number of credits vary by school).
   - Choosing the right classes for your sophomore year is essential. Then think even farther ahead and plan out your class schedule for as much of your high school career as you can. Think about what subjects interest you the most, but make sure to fulfill all your requirements for graduation and for college admission.

L. Build regular study habits during the semester and you won’t have to regret cramming for your finals the weekend before!

M. Live near the SWE Annual Conference city? Apply for a SWENext Community Award, typically May through August. Check out the program here!

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