



College Counseling Timeline

9th Grade

- Adjust to the new workload as an incoming freshman
- Explore and become involved with activities, both in and out of school
- Begin talking about probable careers that interests the student
- Learn how to become a strong self-advocate
- Learn how to ask for help when help is needed
- Develop family expectations around college, priorities, paying for college, etc.
- Develop a family plan concerning college expectations and financial planning

10th Grade

- Take the PSAT in October (scores released in December)
- Begin the process of career exploration and possible job shadowing opportunities
- Visit local campuses to become familiar with that lifestyle
- Look for volunteer opportunities to build up student resumes
- Purchase an SAT/ACT prep book, and consider SAT tutoring over the summer

11th Grade

- Take the PSAT in October if you have not taken the SAT yet (scores released in December)
- Register to take the SAT/ACT for December, March, **May, or June** (recommended)
- Attend the Pittsburgh NACAC College Fair in February
- Schedule a meeting with The University School's college counselor to help narrow down the list of desired colleges
- Contact colleges to set up tours either during the school year or over the summer
- Consider what you might want in a college (programs, location, size, culture)
- Ask teachers, advisors, and/or employers for recommendations
(If necessary, retake the SAT in the fall)

12th Grade

- Continue to visit campuses
- Write essays and complete college applications
- Meet with The University School's college counselor to refine list of colleges
- Search and apply for scholarships
- Request/confirm all recommendations
- Prepare for interviews
- Contact financial aid advisors to begin the process of completing the FAFSA forms.
- Receive college acceptances from January-April and choose one by May 1st
- Compare financial aid options