



PrepMatters Educational Planning
College Admissions Ladder

Senior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Application How-to from start to final review Testing Strategy Finalize your strategy and finalize testing calendar Resume Fine-tune your profile Essay topics Strengthen your voice with the right topic College visits Identify schools for your final sweep College admissions Finalize your individual strategy
Junior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan a premier summer Showcase your talent and interests (good fodder for essays!) College list Identify reach, target, and safety colleges College visits Visit select colleges on long weekends, spring break and over summer vacations Resume review Make choices to balance your final year as an involved community member Testing strategy Finalize plan (SAT or ACT?) and set testing calendar (when to take test) College admissions close-up Understanding the process Senior course selection Select courses that complete your academic profile
Sophomore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer programs Seize the opportunity to develop your academic interests around a summer program Building your story How to translate your story to a resume Testing strategy Identify your best test (SAT or ACT?) and set testing calendar (when to take test) College visit plan Make early college list for warm-up visits Junior course selection Select courses with teachers who will write college recommendations
Freshman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build your story Explore summer programs that showcase academic and extracurricular interests Strategies for surviving high school Manage difficult teachers and negotiate limited course selection Study skills Develop good habits to maximize your time and energy Exploring support networks Seek specialists (where needed): tutors, psycho-educational testing, computer strategies, etc. Assess academic strengths and weaknesses Aim to maximize opportunities and minimize stress Early college list Identify colleges of interest Sophomore course selection Plan course pathway for 10th, 11th (tentative) and 12th (tentative) Demystify the college admissions process What is it all about? What matters? What doesn't matter?