

CCS COLLEGE ADVISING – TIMELINE

FRESHMAN YEAR

Freshmen students should focus on developing excellent study habits, keeping in mind that all grades in high school contribute to the student's GPA that colleges and universities will consider during their admissions reviews.

Freshmen should plan their class schedules to complete electives necessary to meet graduation requirements.

Students must earn **two** (2) physical education/athletic credits. One credit may be earned in the following manner:

- One (1) semester of M/W/F P.E. class **OR** two (2) semesters of T/Th P.E. class = one credit
- One (1) season of varsity or junior varsity team sports participation = one credit

Freshmen are encouraged to try a variety of activities, which may include athletics, student government, the arts, and clubs, both inside and outside of school.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Sophomore students should continue to develop interests outside the classroom while doing their best academically.

Sophomores should consider standardized test options, which include AP exams (each year), PSAT/NMSQT (junior year), and ACT, SAT, and SAT subject tests (generally, junior and seniors years), as well as TOEFL for international students (senior year).

JUNIOR YEAR

Juniors should continue to focus on academic excellence, as the GPA earned by year end will be what they submit on college applications.

In mid-October, juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). Results, returned to students in December, identify areas of strength and weakness and can help direct students in their studies for the SAT exam.

Juniors should meet individually with their college advisors during first semester to make sure they are on schedule to complete all necessary graduation requirements and standardized testing, as well to talk about the college application process. College Advisors will help students explore college options and scholarship opportunities.

Juniors should take advantage of visits to CCS by college and university representatives. These visits help students formulate ideas about the opportunities available at a wide variety of schools and allow them to meet admissions representatives in person.

Students should begin visiting prospective colleges, preferably while classes are in session. Consider asking to attend classes and meet with department heads in your student's area of interest. Christianity-based extracurricular organizations are often happy to have prospective students attend meetings and meet directors, as well.

SENIOR YEAR

Seniors meet with their College Advisors during August. As students complete their college applications, they will need to submit requests to CCS College Advising for transcripts, school reports, and recommendations to be sent to prospective schools. Students should pay careful attention to application deadlines and allow ample time for completion of these requests, usually at least two weeks ahead of deadlines.

For those planning to apply for financial aid, parents should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) form as soon as possible after tax statements are received in January and February.

As decision letters arrive from schools, students will make final selections. Pay close attention to enrollment deposit deadlines, which vary by school.