**High School Sophomore Timeline and Checklist**

The countdown to college has begun. The primary focuses of your sophomore year should be: keeping your grade point average up ([**What is a GPA?**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/BAD94AE7/What-is-a-GPA/)), getting involved in extracurricular activities and preparing to take standardized tests like the SAT or the ACT.

* **Fall (September-November)**
  + [**Evaluate your course load**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/4F85F299/Evaluate-Your-Course-Load-to-Organize-Your-College-Prep/) and find out how much you know about college planning.
  + Register for and take the [**PSAT (pre-SAT) and/or PLAN (pre-ACT) tests**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/ACF104C6/PSAT-and-PLAN-Register-and-Take-the-Tests/).
  + Increase your commitment to extracurricular activities so you will stand out on your college applications.
  + Create a [**college calendar**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/C856EF91/Create-a-College-Calendar-Track-College-Prep-Deadlines/) to keep track of important dates and deadlines.
  + Get familiar with [**college planning**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/5FEA5FEE/Get-Familiar-With-Year-by-Year-College-Planning/) and the admissions process so you'll know what to expect before college.
* **Winter (December-February)**
  + Develop your [**standardized testing plan**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/9C1B7A81/Develop-Your-Testing-Plan-and-Start-With-the-First-Step/) and take the tests you're ready for.
  + Discover unique tips on how to [**organize your college prep**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/53209B96/Find-New-Ways-to-Organize-Your-College-Prep-Checklist/) activities.
  + Start your [**essay prep**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/A7DBD957/Start-Writing-Now-Avoid-Last-Minute-Essay-Prep/) by writing often now, so you can reap the benefits later.
  + Capitalize on [**college planning resources**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/9B9560C9/How-to-Capitalize-on-Your-College-Planning-Resources/) and learn more about colleges and universities.
* **Spring (March-May)**
  + Consult your counselor to make sure you're prepped for junior year classes.
  + Expand your knowledge about prospective schools by attending [**college fairs**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/7FD5A84B/Sophomores-Attend-College-Fairs-and-Info-Sessions/) and information sessions.
  + [**Plan a solid summer**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/2187A11C/Plan-a-Diverse-Summer-Volunteer-Work-Internships-and-Fun/) filled with volunteering, internships and of course, fun.
  + Ask your counselor or teachers about [**AP testing**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/5E455EC7/Explore-AP-Testing-Consider-Taking-a-Test-Early/) to see if you're ready to take AP classes or sign up for the AP exam.
* **Summer (June-August)**
  + Talk with your family about creating a [**college budget**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/3E59DFE4/College-Finances-Plan-With-Your-Family/).
  + Secure a summer job and [**build credentials**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/D6130AAB/Summer-Jobs-Build-Credentials-and-Your-Network/) while having fun!
  + Enroll in [**ACT or SAT prep**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/FBCCFBF7/Summer-Strategy-Register-for-the-SAT-and-ACT-Tests/) over the summer while you still have free time.
  + [**Visit college campuses**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/356E9AB1/Sophomores-Visit-College-Campuses-This-Summer/) to see which types of schools appeal to you.