

# College Options and Scholarship Services, LLC's

## Student Planning Guide



College Options and Scholarship Services, LLC has 36 years of combined experience in college admissions and financing. This book, combined with our "Complete Guide to College Admissions and Financing" CD-ROM, is the best tool available for High School students and their parents to use as they plan for college.

A Step by Step, Month by Month, College Planning Guide for All High School Students.



## October

*Briefly discuss with your coach the "What Next?" from September.*

### **Selecting a Major** (View our video [HERE](#))

- Investigate and explore career areas of interest to help narrow down a career and education path.
- Discuss with your coach your ambitions to help focus on an appropriate degree field
  - What interests you about that type of degree? For example, if you are interested in science, what do you prefer? Chemistry? Biology? Physics?
- Research degree requirements for careers of interests—your coach will direct you to appropriate resources.
- Determine the amount of outside class preparation time required for different majors you are interested in by contacting the college or speaking with students who are currently in that major.

**ACTIVITY:** Q&A session concerning the narrowing down of choosing a major.

- Answer a series of questions if you are unsure about your interests to help narrow down your choices



### **What Next?**

- Look over your compiled information on colleges and find the schools with your areas of interest and preferred majors. Make a list of these schools and rank them

### **Staying on Track...**



- If you are taking the ACT this month, be sure to take at least one practice test first.
- If you are taking the SAT this month, be sure to take at least one practice test first.
- Attend local and regional college fairs, especially if your top schools will be at these events.



- If you plan to take the ACT this fall, the next test is in December. Remember to sign up at least a month in advance.
- If you plan to take the SAT this fall, the next test is in November. Remember to sign up at least a month in advance.
- Meet with the college representatives who visit your high school.
- Search and apply for scholarships that are due within the next month for juniors.



## November

*Briefly discuss with your coach the "What Next?" from October.*

### **Finding Information on Colleges/Selecting the Right College Returning Students:**

- Determine the ACT/SAT scores required or desired by your colleges of interest. Do your scores add up?
  - If you have not taken the ACT/SAT yet or wish to raise your score further, register for upcoming tests and/or take an ACT/SAT prep course.
  - With assistance from your coach, schedule campus visits to your top choice colleges. Prepare a list of questions to ask once on campus. See this link for suggestions:  
[Link](#)
  - Talk to current college students, if possible.
- If the college that you're interested in is local, find out about events you may be able to attend on campus to become more familiar with the campus and students.
  - This includes concerts, plays, games, etc. to get you accustomed to life at college.
- If interested in college athletics, your coach should discuss with you the junior section of the "Basic Year-by-Year Academic Primer" in the "[Understanding Athletic Recruiting](#)" guide.
- Begin reviewing this guide as a whole for future reference concerning athletics.

**ACTIVITY:** Create a "Top 10" list of colleges. ○ Weigh the pros and cons of all schools to make an accurate list.

### **What Next?**



- Start or continue researching the admissions criteria of your top schools to better prepare yourself for senior year.



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