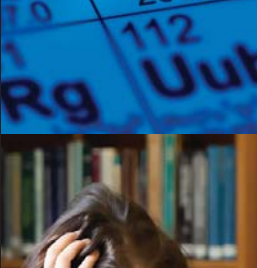


TRACK IT! - ALL THE WAY TO COLLEGE

DONE	YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY... SOPHOMORE YEAR		NOTES
☐	COURSE PLAN - Review your class plan and make sure you will meet high school and college requirements. Grades continue to be extremely important, along with taking challenging classes. Colleges like to see growth in a student's academic skills. Take the most challenging classes you can handle – and then aim for the best grades possible.		
☐	ORGANIZE – Continue to keep examples of your best writing. If you are an artist, create a portfolio. If you are an athlete, start collecting videos of your highlights. Test dates and deadlines will become even more important this year. Stay on top of your calendar.		
☐	STUDY SKILLS - Now that you have a year of experience, take a moment to re-examine your study skills. Are you using your time well? Are you focusing your attention on your weak areas? Speak with your teachers to see if they have any additional tips. Consider getting tutors for classes you are finding overly challenging. Remember: the pay off for hard work is more options when you are heading to college!		
☐	EXTRACURRICULAR – Now that you are more comfortable with high school, really take the time to get involved with campus organizations and opportunities. Try new activities and challenge yourself to take on leadership roles. Think of this as a time to explore your interests so that you can head to college with an idea of what you are interested in doing or studying.		
☐	TESTS (PSAT, AP, SUBJECT TESTS) – Sign up to take the PSAT in the fall. This test will allow you to see the format of the SAT and will give you an indicator of how you might do on the actual SAT. Plan to take any Subject Tests that match the courses you take this year. It is best to take these tests as soon as you finish the course – not after summer when the content might not be as fresh in your mind. If you are taking any AP classes, study hard for the AP test at the end of the course. A good score can earn you college credit at many schools!		

TRACK IT! - ALL THE WAY TO COLLEGE

DONE	YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY... SOPHOMORE YEAR		NOTES
<input data-bbox="147 401 220 474" type="checkbox"/>	READ (AND THEN READ SOME MORE!) - Did we mention this Freshman year? Yep! Reading continues to be an important part of your preparation for college. In addition, you should work hard to increase your vocabulary. The SAT and ACT require a strong vocabulary, and the more challenging your classes get, the more challenging the vocabulary will be.		
<input data-bbox="147 741 220 814" type="checkbox"/>	COLLEGE SEARCH – Sure you have two years until you apply, but high school will be busy. Take advantage of free time now by researching colleges online or visiting them when you are on vacations or trips. Start imagining what type of school you would like to attend: large or small, rural or urban setting, certain majors available, conservative or liberal, etc.		
<input data-bbox="147 1081 220 1155" type="checkbox"/>	FIND A MENTOR - Adults, aside from your parents, can provide additional perspectives on your journey to college. Teachers, coaches, and advisors are some people you may look to for advice. These role models can give you advice and wisdom — and, one day, they may even write a letter of recommendation for your college application!		
<input data-bbox="147 1421 220 1495" type="checkbox"/>	Add your own!		
<input data-bbox="147 1761 220 1835" type="checkbox"/>	Add your own!		

TRACK IT! - ALL THE WAY TO COLLEGE

DONE	NEARLY THERE... JUNIOR YEAR		NOTES
<input data-bbox="175 380 248 449" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE PLAN - Continue studying hard and aiming for top grades. This year is extremely important on your application. In the spring, consider signing up for interesting summer enrichment courses at a local community college. Take challenging courses. Colleges like to see a progression in your coursework and in your grades.		
<input data-bbox="175 709 248 779" type="checkbox"/>	ORGANIZE - Begin gathering important data for your applications: social security number, test scores, transcripts, your school's CEEB number, and personal data record. Continue collecting examples of your best work and create a résumé of your activities and achievements. Include leadership roles and awards. Create a calendar to record dates for PSAT, SAT Subject Tests, SAT and ACT tests, AP tests, College Nights, and College Fairs.		
<input data-bbox="175 1014 248 1083" type="checkbox"/>	EXTRACURRICULAR - As you learn more about your interests and skills, make a plan for your next two years of high school so that your extracurricular activities will relate to the things you enjoy. Look for volunteer, job shadowing or intern opportunities over the summer that will give depth to your interest area. Seek opportunities for positions of responsibility and leadership in your clubs, sports or other activities.		
<input data-bbox="175 1325 248 1394" type="checkbox"/>	TESTS - This is the big year! Get your mind in testing mode. Take the PSAT and/or ACT Aspire in October. Begin test prep. Plan to take our first SAT or ACT January - June. Plan to take it again after more prep to raise your scores! Take SAT subject tests in your best academic subjects in May and June. These tests are recommended by many schools and required by others. Continue studying hard in your AP or IB classes for the AP tests or IB exams.		
<input data-bbox="175 1713 248 1782" type="checkbox"/>	COLLEGE SEARCH - Begin researching colleges. Keep in mind the 'Key Criteria' you decided were important. Attend college fairs and college rep events at your school. Go online and visit colleges in person when you can. Visit local colleges to help you understand which characteristics are most important to you. Go online to request information from schools and to make appointments for tours during spring break and summer. Call academic departments you are interested in for more information. Create college lists for applications. Get excited! This is the fun part!		

TRACK IT! - ALL THE WAY TO COLLEGE

DONE	NEARLY THERE... JUNIOR YEAR		NOTES
<input data-bbox="152 405 224 478" type="checkbox"/>	MENTOR - Continue forming relationships with teachers, coaches and professionals for advice and guidance. Arrange to meet a professional in your career of interest to learn more about his or her day-to-day job. By the end of junior year, have in mind which teachers you will ask to write a letter of recommendation for you.		
<input data-bbox="152 745 224 819" type="checkbox"/>	SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL AID - Sit down with your parents and review how the Financial Aid process works. Visit: WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV Begin researching scholarship opportunities. Bookmark scholarships you find that aren't due until senior year. Keep a list of all potential scholarships. Apply often!		
<input data-bbox="152 1089 224 1163" type="checkbox"/>	ESSAYS - This spring, begin brainstorming the 'key message' you hope admissions officers will get out of your essays. Review essay questions listed on the Common Application and on other college websites. Work hard over the summer to complete an essay or two that tells a strong story about you. Having these essays completed before senior year begins is a huge relief and makes it easier for you to enjoy your last year of high school!		
<input data-bbox="152 1434 224 1507" type="checkbox"/>	Add your own!		
<input data-bbox="152 1778 224 1852" type="checkbox"/>	Add your own!		

TRACK IT! - ALL THE WAY TO COLLEGE

DONE	HOMESTRETCH... SENIOR YEAR		NOTES
<input data-bbox="175 348 245 422" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE PLAN - Tempting as it may be, this is no time to slack off in your classes. Keep your grades up and remember that colleges notice increasing challenge and improving grades. These are both signs of your commitment to college readiness.		
<input data-bbox="175 716 245 789" type="checkbox"/>	ORGANIZE - Before you start your applications, review your collection of achievements, activities, and other useful information. Record any additional testing signup dates, test dates, application start and due dates for college admissions and scholarships. Gather necessary information to give your letter of recommendation writers to remind them of your strengths and achievements. Include copies of written work or other examples to jog their memory. Make copies of all applications you submit for your records.		
<input data-bbox="175 1083 245 1157" type="checkbox"/>	EXTRACURRICULAR - Continue staying involved on campus and exploring opportunities that will help you understand your interests and goals. Remember to include some fun activities so you don't get burned out before you start college. Enjoy your senior year! You deserve it.		
<input data-bbox="175 1398 245 1472" type="checkbox"/>	TESTS - Hang in there! You are almost finished with most of the testing you need to do. Evaluate your SAT and ACT scores from the spring/summer and decide if you need more prep and another shot at the test. Continue to work hard in any AP courses you are taking so you can score high on the AP test. Remember, at many colleges high scores can translate into saved money on lower level college classes.		
<input data-bbox="175 1755 245 1829" type="checkbox"/>	COLLEGE SEARCH - Finalize your college list (8-12 colleges) and consider if you will apply Early Decision or Early Action to any. Attend any college fairs or college rep meetings at your school to continue your knowledge of the schools you are interested in. Contact schools for more information about their campus, departments or activities. Continue to visit colleges if you are able. Schedule any interviews with colleges you are applying to that require them.		

TRACK IT! - ALL THE WAY TO COLLEGE

DONE	HOMESTRETCH... SENIOR YEAR		NOTES
☐	ESSAYS - Finalize your essays. Hopefully you worked hard over the summer and they are almost complete. Have someone you trust read them over to see if they convey your 'key message.'		
☐	APPLICATIONS - At last! Carefully check your calendar for all start and due dates for applications. Double check dates if you are applying Early Action or Early Decision. Make certain you have requested letters of recommendation (with instructions for submitting them, due dates and information about you) with ample time for them to be completed. Request your high school to send your official transcript to schools that require it.		
☐	SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL AID - Continue researching scholarships and sending in applications. Remember to 'recycle' your essays from your college applications when you can. FAFSA filing is from January 1 - early March depending on your state. You should aim for as close to January 1 as possible. If you are applying to private colleges that require the CSS Profile, register for that in October. In February, double check that all colleges you applied to have all the necessary financial aid information for you. Review the SAR (Student Aid Report) when it arrives and make certain all information is current and correct.		
☐	FOLLOW UP - Send thank you notes to all interviewers, letters of recommendation writers and anyone who has given you extra help. After submitting your applications, continue to check with the colleges to make sure there are no outstanding application requirements. If you are wait-listed, send an 'appeal' letter expressing your strong interest in the school with any extra supporting documents and letters from teachers or coaches.		
☐	WAIT - Now comes the hard part. You can expect admission responses from the beginning of March to the end of April or earlier if you applied EA or ED. Review your reasons for applying to each college before you choose your final destination. If you are on a wait list, send a follow-up with new, compelling information to express your interest in the school. Finally, be sure to let each school know your final decision by May 1. Check your email frequently for required deposits and next steps.		
☐	HAVE FUN!! - Enjoy your senior year. Of course you don't want to slack off in your classes, but you should take the time to enjoy this last year with your high school friends.		