

SAGE Scholars' High School Timeline for College Preparation

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Freshman Year

Fall

- Meet with your school counselor—they'll be guiding you through the next 4 years.
- Find a mentor—a teacher, counselor, or coach.
- Create a 4-year plan for graduation to ensure your courses are ones that colleges will require.
- Take the most demanding classes for you.
- STUDY STUDY STUDY—GRADES COUNT. The grades you receive in 9th grade will go on your transcript and be calculated into your grade point average (GPA).
- Sign up for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) at your school's counseling office.
- Participate in clubs, activities, and sports—in and out of school. Select a variety of activities that interest you.
- Keep a portfolio (file of records) of your accomplishments. Include report cards, awards, recognitions, group projects, and materials related to clubs, activities, sports, volunteer work, and work experiences.
- If you're planning on playing a sport in college, check out The Guide for College-Bound Student-Athlete (ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA18.pdf).



Spring

- STUDY STUDY STUDY—stay on top of your grades.
- Do a career and interest inventory (mynextmove.org/explore/ip; mynextmove.org/find/browse?c=56).
- Start saving for college (studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/consider/costs).
- Plan for your sophomore year by signing up for challenging classes. Make sure classes align with your career interests.
- Research Advanced Placement (AP) courses, as well as dual-enrollment classes taken at the college level.
- Start thinking about college. Make a list of possible colleges. Visit local colleges.
- Think about summer opportunities. Have fun and get a job, volunteer, or join an enrichment program.

You can do this. You're in the same boat as every other freshman. High school is your next great adventure!