## **Sophomore Year College Prep Checklist**

As sophomore year begins, you likely feel a little more confident in what to expect from the day-to-day of high school. This is also the year to really start making an effort to uncover some of your interests as they related to advanced academic study at university. This is also the year to start sharpening your extracurricular focus a bit more – dropping the 9th grade approach that was all about trying lots of new and different thins and adopting an approach that is still open to new, interesting experiences but is informed by what you learned last year and what you want to try this year.

**First & Second Semester**

* Get more involved in the extracurricular activities you are most interested in
* Prepare for the PSAT, which is typically administered in October (but not always)
* Academically, you are still focused on making good grades and doing your best. Many of the courses you take this year are pre-requisite courses for more advanced junior year courses. Do your best!
* Build relationships with your teachers and counselors.
* Discuss your academic interests and any university goals you might have with teacher, counselors, parents, college counselors, etc. This is a great group of mentors in your life who might have insight into what you could do next!
* Attend college fairs, visit with college reps who visit your high school
* Set up a meeting with your college counselor at school
* Begin researching universities local to where you live. This is a great way to being your university research – start by understanding the universities and colleges in your state and then build your research out from there.
* Continually evaluate your extracurricular activities.What are you enjoying? Where are you really learning, engaging, etc? What do you want to change? What do you want to build upon?
* Choose appropriate course for junior year
* Consider whether or not you are ready to take an ACT or SAT

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### **Summer**

When the summer between your sophomore year and junior year beings, guess what? High school is already halfway over! Can you believe that?!?! Amazing!

Using the summer to continue building your extracurricular profile, continue researching universities that might interest you, and continue preparing for the rigors of junior year is a smart thing to do, and it CAN still be a fun, relaxing summer too.

* Go on college visits – see the campus, talk to students, think about if you can see yourself on that campus as a college student
* If you are traveling for vacation, consider visiting universities nearby that you might want to apply to in the future
* Put your resume together this is a great exercise to evaluate your extracurriculars so far and make plans for your junior year
* Begin to write down your university list, if you haven’t already
* Continue building your extracurricular profile through the summer
* Start preparing for your junior year of high school!