

WOAH! IT'S SOPHOMORE YEAR!

Now that you've been around the block, it's time to start taking real steps towards planning for the future! You've still got plenty of time to research and apply, but your sophomore year is when your grades and activities start to count. Season by season, here's what you can do to prepare:

FALL GENERAL TIPS



STAY ON TRACK

Get and keep your grades up! Colleges will be evaluating you based on your high school transcript.

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Learn as much as you can about how to get accepted. What are the base requirements? (GPA, AP classes?) How much do most schools charge for tuition? There are a lot of questions that need to be answered!

EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS

Learn more about **possible careers**. What does it take to be a doctor or a lawyer? What should you major in if you want to be a teacher?

GET ADVICE FROM YOUR COUNSELOR

If you have no idea what you're interested in, talk to your school counselor to start the brainstorming process. They've seen countless students and have the experience! If your school doesn't have a counselor, **help is here**.

WINTER START YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH

Use our **college search tool** to start looking at what kind of colleges are available.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Ohio State University
North Carolina State U

IVY LEAGUE

Harvard University
Columbia University

ENGINEERING FOCUSED

Carnegie Mellon University
Purdue University

PUBLIC IVIES

University of Michigan
UNC Chapel Hill

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Swarthmore College
Amherst College

RELIGIOUS-AFFILIATED

University of Notre Dame
Xavier University

FILM, MUSIC & ART FOCUS

U of Southern California
New York University

WOMEN'S COLLEGES

Smith College
Mount Holyoke College



SPRING

PREP FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

Decide which standardized test you're going to take: ACT or SAT. The SAT has made some recent changes to its format, forcing many recent applicants to opt for the ACT instead. Don't just follow the trend - make a decision about which test you should take based on your strengths and comfort level. Here's a quick comparison of the two tests:

	ACT	SAT
SCIENCE	Yes	No
ESSAY	Optional - you're required to form your own argument and support it	Optional - presents an argument and requires you to break it down
MATH	All multiple choice. Calculators are allowed.	2 sections - one with calculator, one without calculator. Not all MCs.
TIME	Less than 1 minute per question	1.25 minutes per question

Remember, both tests are graded on a scale. That means how you do is relative to how others do, so take a test that is advantageous to you. We can help you make that **decision!**

SUMMER

MAXIMIZE YOUR VACATION TIME



GET A DOPE INTERNSHIP

Internships aren't just for your resume; they can actually help you discover new interests. Try shadowing someone who works in an industry you want to explore. This will help you target your academic pursuits.

TRAVEL & EXPLORE

Broaden your perspective. Visit countries abroad and immerse yourself in different cultures! There's nothing better for personal development than seeing the world through a lense that's not your own.

TAKE COLLEGE CLASSES TO GET AHEAD

Use your newfound freedom to get ahead in school! It'll save you time and money in college, and looks great on your applications. Plus, you'll get to learn on a more advanced level and may discover new interests! There are dozens of resources for college courses at community colleges, universities and online. Here's a few for you to consider:

Brown University
University of Pennsylvania

Oregon State
CSU Dominguez Hills

DeVry University
Check **Coursera** for more!