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

PUBLIC IVIES
University of Michigan
UNC Chapel Hill

IVY LEAGUE
Harvard University
Columbia University

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES
Swarthmore College
Amherst College

ENGINEERING FOCUSED
Carnegie Mellon University
Purdue University

FILM, MUSIC & ART FOCUS
U of Southern California
New York University

RELIGIOUS-AFFILIATED
University of Notre Dame
Xavier 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAY</td>
<td>Optional - you’re required to form your own argument and support it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>Optional - presents an argument and requires you to break it down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All multiple choice. Calculators are allowed.</td>
<td>2 sections - one with calculator, one without calculator. Not all MCs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>Less than 1 minute per question</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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!