

COLLEGE COUNSELING TIMELINES: PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

ELEVENTH GRADE

1. Continue to take **strong, college-preparatory courses** and make sure your courses meet the requirements for the kinds of colleges that interest you.
2. Make the best grades possible in the most rigorous courses you can handle! Many admissions decisions will be made based on your grades through the junior year.
3. Take the **PSAT/NMSQT** in October. This is the year that counts towards their scholarship competition. It's excellent practice for the SAT, too!
4. Continue to build a solid personal and extracurricular record through involvement and commitment to your school activities.
5. Take the school-day SAT in March. Take additional SAT or ACT tests in April, May, June, or July if you wish.
6. Visit colleges. Darlington's winter and spring breaks are excellent times to do this, but you can also take a college leave if needed. The leave form is available in the Student Life Office. Attend college night programs, college fairs, and college-hosted functions in Atlanta.
7. **Make good use of your summer.** Volunteer, get a job, travel, attend a summer program - anything that interests you! You will find that these experiences may provide material for your college application essay(s).
8. Check out colleges' websites.
9. Be sure to get financial aid information from colleges.