Postsecondary Planning Timeline for Students

11th Grade

First Quarter

Action Steps

- Ensure that you are enrolled in recommended courses needed for college admission.
- Reflect on your grades thus far in high school and make a plan to earn the best grades possible to boost your GPA. Remember that colleges look at the cumulative GPA you have earned during the first three years of high school as you apply at the beginning of senior year.
- Update your college list on Scoir by adding schools to the "Following" tab to begin further research.
- Consider taking the PSAT to potentially qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Attend college visits either in person or virtually. You may engage in virtual college tours on YouVisit on Scoir and follow-up with college representatives.
- Attend college/career fair to receive information on potential schools.
- Attend M-DCPS' College Month Virtual Workshop series in October to begin planning for next year's application process.
- Prepare to fully participate in your Transition Individual Education Plan (TIEP) meeting this year. The TIEP meeting will assist you in connecting with agency support like Vocation Rehabilitation and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. This meeting will also include consideration of deferral of receipt of standard high school diploma for participation in postsecondary programs.

Resources

- CollegeBoard- Why Take the PSAT Now
- Study Skills for Students
- Study and Practice for the PSAT/NMSQT
- 4 Things to Consider in Choosing a College or Career School
- NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete
- National Merit Scholarship Program Guide
- Transition Programs and Services – Deferral of Receipt of the Standard High School Diploma

Second Quarter

Action Steps

- Continue exploration of college and career options. Be reminded that you can complete and/or review the PrinciplesYou Career Assessment. Once this is completed you may want to update your college lists and adjust the schools you are "Following" on Scoir based on your results.
- Begin researching upcoming scholarship opportunities and your eligibility for them.
- Prepare and register for the SAT/ACT throughout spring and summer. Inquire about your eligibility for a testing fee waiver.
- Remember to use your PSAT results to identify your strengths and weaknesses as you prepare for the SAT.
- Use Khan Academy for free test preparation and to link prior PSAT scores for custom test preparation.
- Study for any upcoming AP exams.
- Consider which advanced courses you want to take next year that best meet the requirements of your college preferences.
- If you are exploring the possibility of joining one of the branches of the military, begin talking to recruiters and take the ASVAB exam.
- Make plans to attend the Miami National College Fair.

Resources

- How Do I Link My Khan Academy Account to CollegeBoard?
- Take the PrinciplesYou Character Assessment
- CollegeBoard- Find Your Scholarship Matches
- CAP Paying for College Webpage
- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB)

PRINCIPLES YOU

Postsecondary Planning Timeline for Students

11th Grade

Third Quarter

Action Steps

- Complete college net price calculators using your parent's tax return to have a better idea of future tuition costs and financial aid eligibility.
- Continue virtual campus visits to learn about each college campus and student life.
- Update new careers of interest to you by reviewing the results of your PrinciplesYou Career Assessment.
- Research application decision types, such as Early Action/Early Decision, and review potential deadlines for each program.
- Develop or update your resume. Completing your "Personal Bio" in Scoir will allow you to "Export Resume" for later use.
- Start brainstorming for the first draft of your personal statement and college essay.
- Attend the Miami National College Fair to engage with a variety of national and international institutions.
- Ensure that you have all required documentation to receive testing accommodations for any SAT/ACT exam that you may be taking if you have an IEP or 504 Plan.

Resources

- Estimate Your Federal Student Aid
- College Essay Resources
- Writing A High School Resume That Stands Out
- Picking Your College: Early Actions vs Early Decision
- College Essay Guy: College Application and Essay Resources
- Miami National College Fair
- College Board: How to Request Accommodations
- ACT Test Accommodations and English Learner Supports

NACAC National College Fairs

Fourth Quarter

Action Steps

- Begin moving colleges to your "Applying" tab in Scoir to plan for application requirements and upcoming deadlines.
- Update the "Personal Bio" in Scoir to maintain an accurate resume and provide background for any teachers needing information to assist with possible letters of recommendation.
- Review college application requirements and if needed, begin to ask teachers for recommendation letters through the "Application Documents" tab on your Scoir account.
- Start to compile application materials that may be needed such as personal statements, portfolios, essays, resumes, etc.
- Use your summer break to visit local colleges and other postsecondary institutions that interest you.
- Gain work experience by finding a summer job/internship.
- Create your FSA ID in preparation for upcoming FAFSA completion.
- Review scholarship requirements and deadlines, especially for the colleges to which you plan to apply.
- Begin the application process for military academies or ROTC scholarships this summer before senior year.
- Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association Eligibility Center if considering college athletics.
- Attend a technical college fair to learn more about the many career pathways available in our local technical colleges.
- Update your RaiseMe account.
- Attend college visits, if possible.

Resources

- CollegeBoard- Find Your Scholarship Matches
- 9 Myths About the FSA ID
- Creating and Using the FSA ID
- M-DCPS Technical Colleges