

MILESTONES FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION— RISING FRESHMEN

Utilize the spinner key to navigate the milestones you will need to accomplish this school year. Each letter corresponds to a specific milestone on page 2, to be completed throughout the school year. The most important milestone is being a SWENexter, so don't forget to sign up for free if you haven't already.



**START
HERE**

**STANDARDIZED
TESTING/CLASSES**

A
**START
PLANNING
YOUR
CLASS
SCHEDULE**

**GET AHEAD
BEFORE YOU
START HIGH
SCHOOL**

B
**KEEP
UP WITH
SUMMER
READING**

E
**JOIN OR
START A
SWENEXT
CLUB**

**GET INVOLVED
AT SCHOOL**

D
**FIND A
STUDY BUDDY**

**STANDARDIZED
TESTING/CLASSES**

C
**GET THE
MOST OUT
OF YOUR
SUMMER**

**VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE/
STEM CAMPS**

**WORK/
VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

F
**MAKE THE
MOST OF
VOLUNTEERING**

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AND OTHER
THINGS**

G
**APPLY FOR
LOCAL OR
NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**GET A HEAD
START ON
COLLEGE**

H
**EXPLORE
STEM
FIELDS**

**WORK/
VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AND OTHER
THINGS**
LEARN HOW TO
APPLY FOR A SWE
SCHOLARSHIP

K
**BUILD REGULAR
STUDY HABITS**

**CHOOSE
CLASSES FOR
SOPHOMORE
YEAR**

J
**TAKE YOUR
AP/IB/
CAMBRIDGE
EXAMS**

**STANDARDIZED
TESTING/CLASSES**

I
**CONTINUE
TO LOOK FOR
VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITIES**

L
**SIGN UP FOR
STEM SUMMER
ACTIVITIES**

M
**APPLY FOR
A SWENEXT
AWARD**

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE A FRESHMAN!

It's your first year of high school and you're just four years away from college.

To set yourself up for college success, take a look at the typical milestones a high school freshman goes through in the next 10 months. Keep this schedule handy to remind you of the activities and deadlines.

SUMMER BEFORE YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

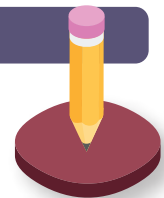


- A** • Plan out what classes you will take for all of high school, not just your freshman year. Include AP/IB/ Cambridge classes, if available at your school, to challenge yourself. Take into account what classes are required for graduation in addition to what classes you're interested in.
- B** • Do your summer reading assignments so you won't be behind when you get to school!
- C** • Start looking for local volunteering opportunities that you can get involved in.
• Attend STEM events or a STEM camp.
• Do a job shadow of an engineer to learn about what they do.



FALL SEMESTER – FRESHMAN YEAR

- D** • Find a study buddy or two. Throughout high school, the classes will get more challenging. Having a study buddy can make learning easier and more fun. You will be studying the same material and doing the same quizzes and assignments, so pooling your knowledge, resources and skills will increase your success rate.
- E** • Set up a first appointment with your school's guidance counselor about what you can do to prepare for college.
• Get involved with school activities early on based on your interests. Join a STEM club, or start your own [SWENext Club!](#)
- F** • Volunteering on a regular basis during the school year may be difficult, but it's rewarding both in the short and long term. Giving back to the community is a different type of learning experience. Joining a student organization like Key Club or looking into local opportunities on your own is important to personal growth. Colleges look for applicants who show initiative and a passion for bettering the world.
- G** • Apply for any local/national scholarships after consulting with your guidance counselor. Not sure where to look? [Check out our Scholarships and Financial Aid SWENextTV episode.](#)



WINTER BREAK

- H** • Start researching engineering careers by checking out [SWE's STEM Pathways](#).
• Get more ideas by watching our [Meet an Engineer video series](#).
- I** • Continue to look for volunteer opportunities in your area, or continue with what you found over the summer!



SPRING SEMESTER – FRESHMAN YEAR

- J** • Take any AP/IB/Cambridge exams if you've been in classes for them. They can get you class credit at most colleges (requirements and number of credits vary by school).
• Choosing the right classes for your sophomore year is essential. Then think even farther ahead and plan out your class schedule for as much of your high school career as you can. Think about what subjects interest you the most, but make sure to fulfill all your requirements for graduation and for college admission.
- K** • Build regular study habits during the semester and you won't have to regret cramming for your finals the weekend before!
- L** • If you have the opportunity, look into signing up for local STEM summer camps and events!
- M** • Apply for a [SWENext Award](#).

