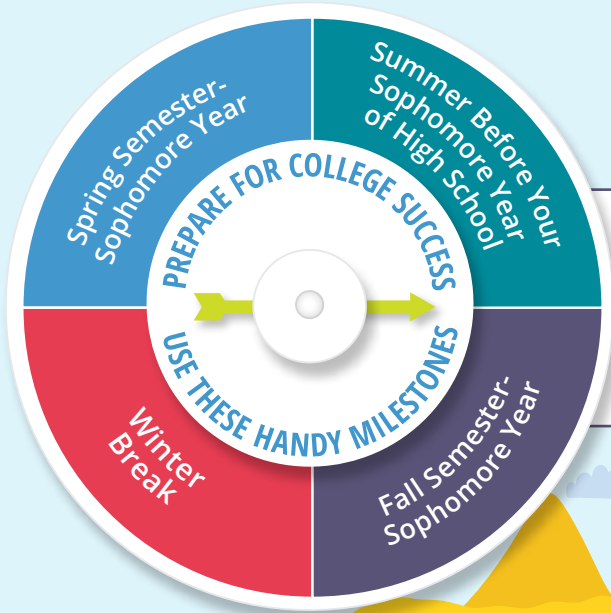


MILESTONES FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION— RISING SOPHOMORES

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**

**PREPARING
FOR COLLEGE**

A
**START
LOOKING
INTO
COLLEGES**

**WORK/
VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

B
**MAKE THE
MOST OF YOUR
SUMMER**

E
**TAKE ON
A LEADERSHIP
ROLE**

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AND OTHER
THINGS**

D
**MAKE THE
MOST OF
VOLUNTEERING**

**PREPARING
FOR COLLEGE**

C
**SIGN UP
TO TAKE
PRACTICE
TEST FOR
COLLEGE**

**STANDARDIZED
TESTING/CLASSES**

**PREPARING
FOR COLLEGE**

F
**NARROW
DOWN YOUR
LIST OF
COLLEGES**

**WORK/
VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

G
**CONTINUE TO
VOLUNTEER**

**STANDARDIZED
TESTING/CLASSES**

H
**START
PREPARING
FOR YOUR
SATS/ACTS**

**PREPARING
FOR COLLEGE**

I
**CONSULT
YOUR
GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR
ABOUT
JUNIOR
YEAR
CLASSES**

K
**APPLY FOR
A SWENEXT
AWARD**

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AND OTHER
THINGS**

J
**APPLY FOR A
SUMMER JOB
OR INTERNSHIP**

**WORK/
VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCE**

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE A SOPHOMORE!

You survived your first year of high school and are just three years away from college.

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

SUMMER BEFORE YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

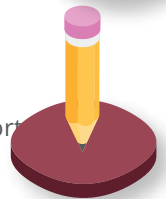


- A** • Start looking into colleges to figure out what you may or may not want in your college experience. This might help you narrow down a list of potential candidates later.
- B** • Any summer job can help you learn important work skills and earn money for college.
 - If you haven't already, start to get involved in local volunteering opportunities.
 - Do a job shadow of an engineer to learn about what they do.
 - If you have the opportunity, see if you can sign up for a local STEM summer camp! You can work on your technical skills and also make friends with similar interests.

FALL SEMESTER – SOPHOMORE YEAR



- C** • Take the practice tests for the SAT/ACT through yourself or find free practice testing resources online. Although the scores from your Junior year are used to qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship competition, you can get great practice by doing a trial run in your Sophomore year. [Learn more here!](#)
- D** • Volunteering on a regular basis during the school year may be difficult, but it's rewarding both in the short and the long term. Doing volunteer work is often one of the factors considered for college scholarships.
- E** • If you're involved in clubs already, look into becoming an officer or leader in the ones you are most passionate about! You'll make rewarding friendships, memories, and you'll be able to show what kind of student and person you are when you apply to college in a couple years.



WINTER BREAK



- F** • Make a list of criteria for selecting colleges and then start to narrow your list. Start thinking about which ones you want to visit. No pressure though — you still have plenty of time to consider your choices!
 - Former SWENexters and collegiate SWE members at university Sections/Affiliates would also love to help you with your college choices. If you're not sure who to reach out to, [search the Section/Affiliate map](#).
- G** • Continue to volunteer in your spare time between putting up lights and spending time with your family.

SPRING SEMESTER – SOPHOMORE YEAR



- H** • Start thinking about how you're going to prepare and study for the SATs, ACTs, or other standardized tests. Look into prep classes that teach you the ins and outs of these tests so you'll be prepared. If you can't take a prep class, no worries! Many exams have online self study programs or free practice tests.
- Take any AP/IB/Cambridge exams you've been in classes for. They can get you class credit at most colleges (requirements and number of credits vary by school).
- I** • Consult your guidance counselor about your junior year classes — this is typically when heavier college-prep material starts appearing in your curriculum. Think about any AP/IB/Cambridge classes available to you and sign up for some of these higher level classes if you think you're up to the challenge!
- J** • Apply for a summer job or internship. If you find an internship available within your desired career path, all the better! This will give you important work experience and may dictate what direction you want to take your future career.
 - If you are not able to apply for a job or internship, you can look into applying for STEM camps instead.
- K** • Learn more about [SWENext Awards](#) you might be eligible for.
- If you're planning on applying for merit scholarships for college later on, keep an eye on your grades. Some scholarships require your grade point average (GPA) to be at least a 3.5. However, don't let that stress you out — there will be plenty of scholarships out there without high GPA requirements. Not sure where to look for scholarships? [Check out our Scholarships and Financial Aid SWENextTV episode.](#)

