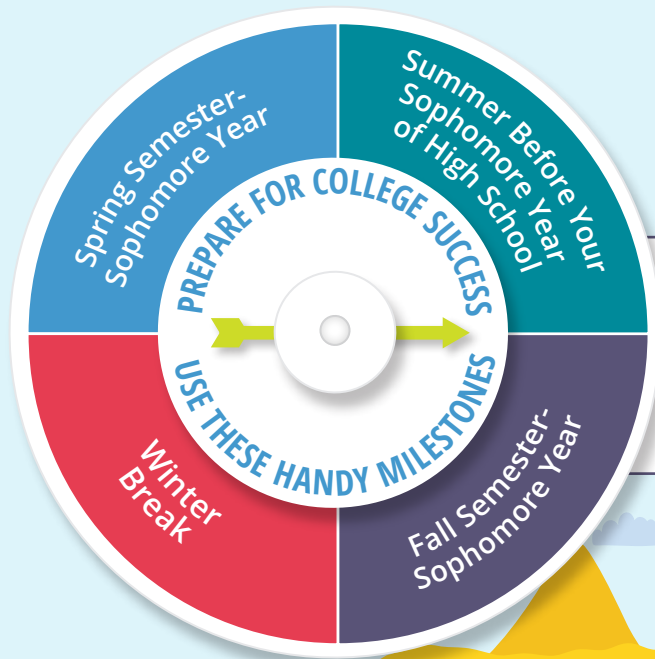


# MILESTONES FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION- RISING SOPHOMORES



**START  
HERE**

**PREPARING  
FOR COLLEGE**

**A**  
**START  
LOOKING  
INTO  
COLLEGES**

**WORK/  
VOLUNTEER  
EXPERIENCE**

**B**  
**MAKE THE  
MOST OF YOUR  
SUMMER**

**E**  
**APPLY FOR  
A SWENEXT  
AWARD**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND OTHER  
THINGS**

**D**  
**MAKE THE  
MOST OF  
VOLUNTEERING**

**PREPARING  
FOR COLLEGE**

**C**  
**SIGN UP  
TO TAKE  
THE PSAT**

**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 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 ten 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. (Don't know what these are? [Learn more here!](#)) 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 lost in English class 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! [Learn all about it here!](#)
- F** Volunteering on a regular basis during the school year may be difficult, but it's rewarding both in the short-term and for the long haul. 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 a SWENext WE Local Award between September 1 - September 30. [Learn more here.](#)
  - 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** It's never too early to start making a list of colleges you're interested in! Do some preliminary research in between making snowmen and drinking eggnog.
- 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 between January 1 - March 31. [Learn more here.](#)

