

# 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 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 ten months. Keep this schedule handy to remind you of the activities and deadlines.

## SUMMER BEFORE YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

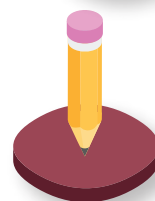


- A** Start looking into colleges to figure out what you may or may not want in your college experience. This might help you narrow down a list of potential candidates later.
- B**
  - Any summer job can help you learn important work skills and earn money for college.
  - If you haven't already, start 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** Sign up for and take the PSAT through your school. 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-term and for the long haul. Doing volunteer work is often one of the factors considered for college
- E** Live near a Society of Women Engineers WE Local conference? Apply for a SWENext Community Award, typically November through March. If you're involved in clubs already, look into becoming officers or leaders 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. [Check out the program here!](#)



## WINTER BREAK

- F**
  - Make a list of criteria for selecting colleges and then start to narrow your list of colleges. Start thinking about which ones you want to visit. No pressure though – you still have plenty of time to consider your choices!
  - Former SWENext members and other collegiate SWE members at your nearest university SWE chapter would also love to help you with thinking about your college choices. If you're not sure who to reach out to, feel free to contact us at [swenext@swe.org](mailto:swenext@swe.org).
- 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. Look into prep classes that teach you the ins and outs of these tests so you'll be prepared. If you can't take an SAT prep class, no worries! [You can do self-study by taking free practice tests here!](#)
  - 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**
  - Interested in attending SWE's Annual Conference? Apply for a Global Innovator Award. Learn more about SWENext Awards you might be eligible for, typically May through August. [Learn more about SWE awards here.](#)
  - If you're planning on applying for merit scholarships for college later on, keep an eye on your grades. Some of the better scholarships require your 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.](#)

