College Counseling Timeline: An Overview

**9th & 10th Grades**

Students work closely with advisors to set and achieve academic and personal goals. Every class that a student takes at the Northwest School is college preparatory by design, so by focusing on the academic and co-curricular offerings here, students are well prepared for college admissions. In the spring of 10th grade, the College Office proctors a mock ACT exam to expose all students to this college admissions exam. These test results can be compared to PSAT results from the fall of 11th grade to determine a college admission testing plan for each student.

**11th Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Attend the 11th Grade College Night with your parents. Learn about the college application process and the upcoming PSAT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September – November</td>
<td>Meet with college representatives who visit Seattle. Juniors can attend college sessions at NWS during free periods. A schedule of visits will be posted on Naviance, in E-News, and outside the College Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Take the PSAT. You will be automatically registered for this test.</td>
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<td>October – November</td>
<td>Attend local college fairs to begin learning about the variety of college options.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Attend 11th Grade College Night.</td>
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<td>January – March</td>
<td>Complete the Initial Self-Assessment and schedule an individual appointment with your College Counselor. Appointments with juniors begin after the 11th Grade College Night and continue through the end of 3rd trimester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Parents attend the Researching Colleges Workshop. A similar session (as well as other workshops) will be offered to 11th graders during flex time.</td>
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<td>February – June</td>
<td>Following your initial individual appointment, schedule a family appointment (boarding students, this can happen via Skype, or you can schedule a second individual appointment). Continue to meet with your college counselor as needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Visit colleges during mid-winter break.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February – March</td>
<td>Research and apply for scholarships, summer internships, work, academic/arts programs, and/or service opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February – July</td>
<td>Take the SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March – April</td>
<td>Visit colleges during spring break.</td>
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April

Attend the **Case Studies** workshop with your parents to learn more about how college applications are reviewed. **Mock interviews** will also be offered for students at Northwest during the school day.

April

Attend the **Seattle Spring College Fair**.

**Summer**

July

Complete the **School Letter Self-Assessment** by August 1.

July-August

Retake **SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL**, if necessary.

July-August

Work on the **Common Application, Other College Applications, Essays, and Activities Resume** in preparation for college applications. See resources in your College Reference Guide. Visit colleges. Also, **do something you love!**

July-August

*International Students*: Take the **TOEFL**. Complete the **Certification of Finances** and obtain bank documents and previous high school transcripts to bring back to the U.S. with you.

August

Create a Common Application (CA) account, if needed.

August

Attend **College Jumpstart** at NWS.

**12th Grade**

September

Turn in **Common Application, Personal Essay in progress, and Activities List** to the College Office for review. Schedule an **appointment** with your College Counselor to round out and finalize your college list.

September

Attend **12th Grade College Night**.

September – December

Retake **SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL**, if necessary.

September – November

Meet with **college representatives** who visit NWS and Seattle. Seniors must give teachers two days’ notice if they are to miss class. A schedule of visits will be posted on Naviance, in E-News and outside the College Office.

October

Turn in **Final Application List** to College Counseling.

October – November

Attend a local **college fair** to connect with visiting representatives.

October – December

Attend **college application work parties**, hosted by the college office.

October – February

Complete **financial aid forms**, including CSS Profile and FAFSA.

December

Last recommended **SAT, ACT, and TOEFL** for regular decision applications.

December – April

**Admission decisions** mailed by colleges.

March – April

**Financial Aid awards** mailed by colleges.

May 1

Decision Day! **National Reply Deadline** for all U.S. colleges.
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<th>Early May</th>
<th><strong>Final individual appointment</strong> with your college counselor to wrap up your process.</th>
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<tr>
<td>May - August</td>
<td>Colleges make decisions on <strong>Wait List</strong> candidates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td><strong>Graduate from NWS!</strong></td>
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