

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

September	Attend the 11th Grade College Night with your parents. Learn about the college application process and the upcoming PSAT.
September – November	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.
October	Take the PSAT . You will be automatically registered for this test.
October – November	Attend local college fairs to begin learning about the variety of college options.
January	Attend 11th Grade College Night .
January – March	Complete the Initial Self-Assessment and schedule an individual appointment with your College Counselor. Appointments with juniors begin after the 11 th Grade College Night and continue through the end of 3 rd trimester.
January	Parents attend the Researching Colleges Workshop . A similar session (as well as other workshops) will be offered to 11 th graders during flex time.
February – June	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.
February	Visit colleges during mid-winter break.
February – March	Research and apply for scholarships, summer internships, work, academic/arts programs, and/or service opportunities.
February – July	Take the SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL .
March – April	Visit colleges during spring break.

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.

Early May

Final individual appointment with your college counselor to wrap up your process.

May - August

Colleges make decisions on **Wait List** candidates.

June

Graduate from NWS!