

9th AND 10th GRADE

Start Planning

- Use a notebook or planner to track important dates and prioritize work.
- Create a physical and digital file for college paperwork and documents.
- Create a resume.

Talk To Your Supporters

- Talk to your parent/guardian or other trusted adult and start researching schools.
- Meet with your school counselor and teachers to talk about your plans for after high school.

Prepare Financially

- Start learning about financial aid and ways to pay for college.
- Start saving money.
- Visit the Finance Authority of Maine FAME website.

Challenge Yourself

- Take the hardest classes you can handle.
- Consider college prep and academic enrichment programs (Geiger Scholarships are great for this!).

Learn about Standardized Tests

- Take the PSAT and start prepping for the SAT and/or ACT.

Try New Things

- Join clubs or teams and take on leadership roles.
- Look for volunteer and internship opportunities.
- Visit colleges.

11th GRADE

Fall (September-December)

Keep doing everything you were doing in 9th & 10th Grade and:

- Attend virtual and in-person information sessions and college fairs.
- Attend workshops with your parents/guardians to learn about financial aid. Check the FAME website for updated information.

Spring (January-June)

- Meet with your school counselor to identify suitable colleges and check your progress towards graduation.
- Sign up for 12th grade classes and make sure that they align with college admissions requirements.
- Prepare for and take the SAT or ACT.
- Take AP exams if applicable.
- Ask teachers to write college recommendations for you.
- Apply for the MAP Scholarship.

Summer

- Begin the college application process.
- Start your college essay.

MAP Checklist

12th GRADE

Fall (September-December)

- Continue to meet with your school counselor.
- Prepare for and take the SAT or ACT including SAT Subject Tests if needed.
- Finalize your list and apply to colleges – keep track of deadlines.
- Update your resume and give a copy to your recommenders.
- Submit your FAFSA application (December 2023)
- Determine if you need to submit the CSS Profile (check with your colleges).

Spring (January-June)

- Apply for scholarships.
- Analyze your admissions offers and financial aid packages.
- Choose your college and accept their offer before May 1. Send in deposit and paperwork.
- Work with your parents/guardians, your school counselor, and the financial aid office at your college to apply for loans as needed.
- Make a realistic budget to account for indirect college expenses such as books, phone, computer, and travel expenses.
- Take AP Exams if applicable.

Summer

- Check your college portal, email, and snail mail often to meet all deadlines for classes, housing, etc.
- Check your medical insurance coverage at school and provide requested records.
- Set up a payment plan with the Bursar's office at your college if needed.
- Contact your future roommate(s) to plan what to bring for your dorm room.