



2018-2019 COLLEGE COUNSELING CHECKLIST AND TIMELINE

Dexter Southfield CEEB Code: 220262

CLASS 9

	December 3	College Office Meeting Block
	January 15	Naviance access granted to students and parents. Students are assigned to a college counselor (listed in Naviance).
	February 6	Parent Coffee with the College Counseling Office
	February/March	Register for next year's classes.
	March	Register for June SAT Subject Test in Biology (ecological) if appropriate. See SAT Subject Testing Guide for guidelines. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register.

CLASS 10

	December 3	College Office Meeting Block
	January 15	Naviance access granted to students and parents. Students are assigned to a college counselor (listed in Naviance).
	February 6	Parent Coffee with the College Counseling Office
	February 27	Take PSAT 10 at school. No registration necessary.
	February/March	Register for next year's classes.
	March	Register for June SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. See SAT Subject Testing Guide for guidelines. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register.

- Work hard in school; take the most challenging courses you can while still earning A's and B's.
- Read, read, read!
- Get involved in the school community through sports, theater, music, clubs, volunteering, and leadership opportunities.
- Get involved in your local community.
- Follow school rules and build strong relationships with teachers and classmates.

- Keep important school work, essays, and projects in a portfolio.
- Stay informed about current national and global events by reading and watching reliable and trustworthy news sources.

Summer

- Get a job.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Try something new; learn a new skill or hobby.

CLASS 11:

September	Meet with college representatives who visit campus as well as attend college fairs and local college events and information sessions.
October	Register for optional December SAT. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register. (Registration Deadline: November 20)
October 10	Take PSAT/NMSQT at school. No registration necessary.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Questionnaires emailed to students. • Register for Summit Educational Group ACT or SAT prep course offered at Dexter Southfield on Saturday mornings. <p>ACT prep course registration: (Deadline: January 18) https://mytutor.com/product/ds-apr19act/</p> <p>SAT prep course registration: (Deadline: January 25) https://mytutor.com/product/ds-may19sat/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to take the ACT Practice Test at school. Go to https://mytutor.com/dexter-act/ to register. (Registration Deadline: December 27)
November 27	Class 11 Student and Parent College Night
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write draft of college essay in English class. • Register for optional March SAT. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register. (Registration Deadline: February 27) • Register for optional April ACT. Go to www.act.org to register. (Registration Deadline: March 8)
January 5	Take ACT Practice Test at school.
January – May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend 10 College Meeting Blocks. Naviance will be introduced to students.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for either SAT or ACT test (attend Summit Saturday ACT or SAT prep class at school, hire private tutor, or prepare individually)
	January – May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Class 11 College Counseling Appointments:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Student meets with assigned college counselor. Counselor begins to learn about the student, their goals and interests, and what types of schools may be a good fit. Student and counselor generate a preliminary college list. – Parent(s) and college counselor meet (with student if possible) to discuss preliminary college list. – Student meets with college counselor to discuss college visits and to modify college list.
	February 18-19	Plan to visit colleges over Presidents’ Day and Winter Holiday and interview if possible.
	February	Register for optional May SAT. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register. (Registration Deadline: April 5)
	March 9	Take optional SAT.
	March 16-31	Spring Break: Set aside time to visit colleges.
	March	Register for June SAT Subject Test(s) if appropriate. Students should consult with their teachers about whether they should take test(s). Go to www.collegeboard.org to register. (Registration Deadline: May 3)
	April 13	Take optional ACT test.
	April 28	Attend BISCCA College Fair at Milton Academy.
	May 4	Take optional SAT test.
	May 6-10, 13-17	Take AP exam(s) in school if enrolled in AP course(s).
	May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask two junior year teachers to write you recommendations (ideally history, English, science, or math teachers). Consult with your college counselor first. • Begin Common Application online in College Block. • Register for optional July ACT. Go to www.act.org to register. (Registration Deadline: June 14)
	June 1	Take SAT Subject Test Date.
	June	Register for August SAT. Go to www.collegeboard.org to register.
	July 13	Take optional ACT test.

Academics:

- Take more challenging courses. Strength of curriculum is an important factor in admissions decisions at selective colleges.

- Work hard in your classes; this is the last full year of grades that colleges will evaluate upon applying. Try to improve on last year's grades if possible.
- Remember to build positive working relationships with your teachers. Two of your junior year teachers will write college recommendations for you. You want them to be able to describe your work ethic, approach to challenging material, how you handle disappointment, how you work with groups of peers, how you contribute to class discussions, the level of your analysis, and how hard you push yourself beyond basic expectations.

Standardized Testing:

- We recommend juniors take, at a minimum, one SAT or ACT test prior to the summer of their senior year. Plan and consult with your college counselor about a testing plan.

Extracurricular Activities:

- Stay involved in sports, theater, clubs, and volunteering. See where you could be a leader either formally or by example. Start your own initiative if there is an issue or concern that you want to address. Do your best to remain consistent in your participation – don't jump around too much between sports and activities. Think quality over quantity.
- If you are interested in playing a sport at the college level:
 - Talk to your coaches to create a list of colleges and an indication of the level of competition for which you project.
 - Complete institutional online recruiting questionnaires and contact respective coaches.
 - Students interested in playing Division I or II college athletics will need to register on the NCAA website (<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>) and complete the Athletic Recruitment Forms by the end of the school year. The College Counseling Office will send final Class 11 transcripts to the NCAA for students who have registered.

Explore and Research College Options:

- Start thinking about WHY you want to go to college. Imagine who you want to be by the end of your college years – who do you want to become? Which types of colleges, programs, and experiences can help you grow into that person?
- Start touring college campuses to get a feel for large, medium, small; urban, suburban, rural; research universities, liberal arts colleges, STEM colleges, business colleges, arts colleges, etc.
- Do effective, quality research on your college list: read *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, *The Best 384 Colleges: 2019 Edition*, *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges*, and other dependable college research guides.
*Beware of online sources such as niche.com, College Confidential, and other sources that are not compiled by educational professionals in the counseling field.
- Read reliable news sources to keep up with important local, national, and international events. Try to stay engaged or at least be aware of important events in the world around you.

Reflect:

- Check your social media presence – only share photos and information you would share with your grandmother.
- Focus on yourself; don't worry about what other people are doing, what they think, the gossip you hear, the myths that are spread, etc.

Special Interests:

- If there is interest in a U.S. military academy, request a pre-candidate questionnaire and complete it.
- Work closely with the Art Department if you are preparing an art portfolio.

Summer Before Class 12:

- Update your resume.
- Get a job or do something interesting, productive, or educational. Push your boundaries. Seek out an experience that you haven't had before.
- Tour colleges to try to narrow down your prospective colleges list. If possible, schedule interviews as well.
- Those interested in pursuing a sport in college, attend camps and showcases.
- Complete your Common Application, essay, and supplemental essays.
- Polish the college essay draft that you produced in English class.
- Keep reading for fun.
- If you plan on submitting a portfolio of art or music, begin to collect your work.
- Make sure that you can explain WHY you want to apply to each college on your list. If you don't know why, you need to do more research to provide specific, concrete reasons.

CLASS 12:

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete your online Common Application, essay, and supplemental essays.• Register for optional October SAT and/or SAT Subject Test(s). Go to www.collegeboard.org to register. (Registration Deadline: September 7)
August 25	Take SAT test.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students meet with college counselor to discuss summer adventures, teacher recommendations, college visits, and to finalize college list and deadlines in Naviance and on the Common Application.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with college representatives who visit campus as well as attend college fairs and local college events and information sessions. • Register for optional November SAT and/or SAT Subject Test(s). Go to www.collegeboard.org to register. (Registration Deadline: October 5) • Be aware of the requirements for each of your schools and their specific programs (i.e. financial aid deadlines, SAT IIs, foreign language, levels of math, supplemental essays, recommendations, portfolios, or auditions). • Bring to your first senior meeting: Completed Common Application and essay.
	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those applying for financial aid, parents should complete the FAFSA as early as possible (https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa). Some schools, particularly private colleges, also require the CSS Profile (www.collegeboard.com). These forms are due when applications are due.
	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all early action and early decision applications.
	November 3	Take optional SAT test and SAT Subject Test(s).
	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and submit all regular decision applications. • Add results of early applications to your Naviance account. • Report all early application results and merit aid packages to your counselor.
	January	Ensure all applications are complete at each college.
	February	Contact colleges where applications have been deferred with updates, news, and additional information if helpful.
	March-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update colleges on any news, additional information, new awards, or accolades. • Contact colleges that deferred your application in the early round to communicate your continued strong interest. • Meet with college counselor to discuss acceptances, options, and to compare financial aid packages if necessary. • Report all regular decision results and merit aid packages to counselor.
	May 6-10, 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take AP exam(s) in school if enrolled in an AP course(s).
	May 1	By 5/1, deposit at one college.

	May-June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend College Transition meetings at school to learn and discuss valuable, real-life skills and challenges you may encounter in college (i.e. managing money, staying safe and healthy, dating and consent, being smart about drugs and alcohol, social life, finding and using campus resources, etc.)• If waitlisted by any college, respond to the college to confirm or deny your wish to remain on the waitlist. Work with your counselor to communicate your strong interest in colleges where you are waitlisted.
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Practice Life Skills

- Learn how to do your own laundry.
- Learn how to cook a few simple meals.
- Write thank you notes to the teachers who wrote your recommendation letters.

Important College Paperwork

- Promptly complete and return all information you receive from college regarding dorm choice, roommates, class registration, payment, etc.