

LOOKING
AHEAD...



Looking Ahead...

BY GRADE LEVEL

Guidance counselors in high schools help students plan for their future. NLISD students should plan their course schedules with the campus counselor to ensure classes that are best suited for their post high school plans. The following timeline will help students understand the steps to take before graduation.

GRADE 9 FRESHMAN

Talk to adults to determine what they like/dislike about their jobs and what kind of education is needed.

Make sure that your program of studies includes at least two or three years of a language other than English.

Participate in a variety of extracurricular activities.

Check for PSAT/SAT and for ACT practice test.

Consider taking a PSAT/SAT preparation course.

Read books as a supplement to school assignments. SAT/ACT performance is higher for regular readers.

While taking required core curriculum courses, you will have the opportunity to find out about elective courses available in high school. As you take a few elective courses, you may discover an interest you never considered. Courses in this guide will help you determine your path and eliminate unnecessary detours.

GRADE 10 SOPHOMORE

August

Colleges are more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones. At registration check credits to make sure you are on schedule for graduation requirements.

September

Register to take the PSAT.
Review for the PSAT. Practice online test.

October

Take the PSAT. On the test form, check the box for college information.

December/January

Review your PSAT score Report Plus. Use this information to focus your preparation for SAT.

GRADE 11 JUNIOR

August

Work to earn good grades
Check credits for graduation requirements.

September

Register to take the PSAT
Start thinking about what sort of college or technical school you'd like to attend
Register for ACT, SAT or ASVAB prep class
Review for the PSAT. Practice using on-line test.

October/November

Contact the colleges that interest you for information and application for admission.
Ask about special admission requirements, financial aid and deadlines.

December

Study college information.
Collect information on scholarships and financial aid
Consult your counselor about Early Admission

January/February

Gather application packets for colleges, technical school or service academy.
Check registration deadlines for the SAT, ACT, and Achievement Tests.

March/April

Plan program of study for senior year with your counselor
Register for college entrance tests.

May/June

Take SAT or ACT, Achievement test(s)

In August begin thinking about personal statements for college admission essays. Reflect on interesting experiences you have had.

GRADE 12 SENIOR

August

Work to earn good grades
Check credits for graduation requirements

September

Apply online for college or technical school
Consider financial needs for college
Apply for scholarships
Prepare a resume, ask for recommendations

October

Review each college's entrance requirements
Prepare admission essay

December

Visit college campuses while classes are in session
Request and send transcripts as needed
Applications should be in by January 1

January/February

File FAFSA (Federal aid) forms after January 1
Estimate the required tax information. Keep a record.
Research for scholarships and loans

March/April

Look for acceptance notices and choose a college
Decline other colleges by May 1
Finalize plans for housing, aid and scholarships

May/June

Notify counselor of college choice/scholarship awards
Request final transcript to be sent to your college
Take any AP examinations previously decided

Follow up on each application and admission document to be sure your college of choice has received the items as requested.