



Freshman Year

Fall Semester

- Meet with your school counselor to receive guidance through the next four years.
- Find a mentor - teacher, coach, counselor, family friend, etc.
- Create a 4-year plan for graduation to ensure you're taking the courses colleges will require.
- Challenge yourself by taking the most demanding classes you can handle.
- STUDY! Starting now, grades count. The grades you earn in 9th grade will be on your transcript and count toward your GPA.
- Join clubs, sports, activities both in school and outside of school to learn what you like and build your resume.
- Create a resume to track your accomplishments and activities. Include report cards, awards, recognitions, projects, club activities, sports, volunteer work, work experience, etc.
- If you plan to play sports in college, visit <https://www.ncaapublications.com/> for rules.



Spring Semester

- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY to keep your grades up!
- Do a career and interest inventory. Several are listed on the MRHS College & Career website (QR code above).
- Start saving money for college. See Financial Aid section of MRHS College & Career website (QR code above).
- Plan for your sophomore year by signing up for rigorous classes, like AP or Dual Credit, and classes that prepare you for your future career.
- Visit local college campuses to start figuring out what you do and don't like. Then, start building your college list. Pay attention to admission requirements, and do your best to make yourself a competitive applicant.
- Plan your summer to include participating in summer opportunities, such as getting a job, volunteering, going to a camp, etc.

You've got this! Use your four years of high school to discover who you are and to set yourself up for success once you leave.



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Sophomore Year

Fall Semester

- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY! Even if freshman year was tough, you have this year to improve your GPA.
- Meet with your school counselor for college & career guidance.
- Update your 4-year plan for graduation to ensure you're taking challenging courses that will help you get into college.
- Complete a career and interest inventory to help you find a career you can prepare for. See the MRHS College & Career website for guidance (QR code above).
- Take the PSAT and the ASVAB.
- Attend college fairs. Many listed on the MRHS College & Career website!
- Continue with your clubs, sports, activities both in school and outside of school, and take on a leadership role or two.
- Add your accomplishments, activities, jobs, etc., to your resume.
- If you plan to play sports in college, visit <https://www.ncaapublications.com/> for rules.
- Keep saving money for college.
- Seek out help when you need it. You are your number one advocate.



Spring Semester

- Plan for your junior year by signing up for rigorous classes, like AP or Dual Credit, and classes that prepare you for your future career.
- Keep reading and writing to strengthen your verbal, writing, and critical-thinking skills. These skills are keys to success!
- Visit college campuses and college info on schools you may be interested in. Pay attention to admission requirements, and do your best to make yourself a competitive applicant.
- Consider job shadowing someone who works in a field you're considering.
- Take the SAT, ACT, and ASVAB tests.
- Plan your summer to include participating in summer opportunities, such as getting a job, volunteering, going to a camp, etc.

No matter how your freshman year went, this year is your fresh start! Do your best to prepare for college!



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Morton Ranch High School

College Prep Timeline

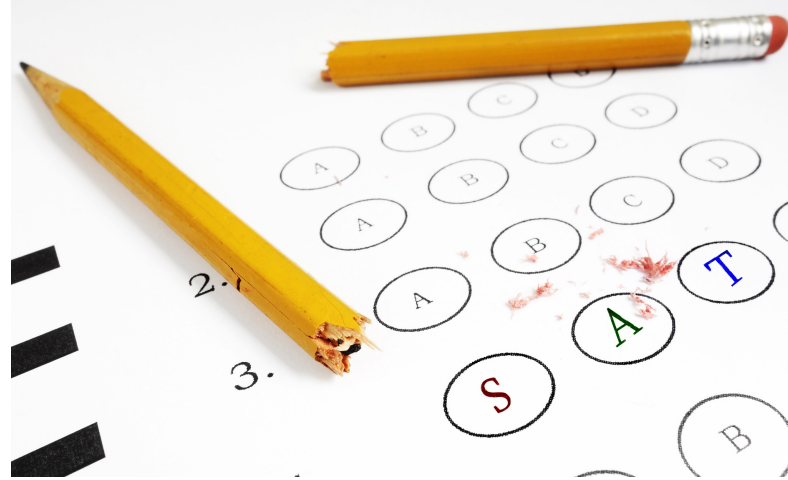
MRHS College & Career
Advising Website



Junior Year

Fall Semester

- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY! Keep/Get your grades up!
- Meet with your school counselor to review your GPA, current classes, and extracurriculars to make sure you're on track for college.
- Create a master calendar that includes:
 - SAT/ACT/ASVAB
 - Deadlines for writing essays & resumes
 - Local college fairs
 - College visits at MRHS
 - Dates you plan to visit college campuses
 - Application deadlines for summer programs
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT. See counselors.
- Attend meetings with college reps.
- Attend college fairs to get valuable information about colleges and admissions. See the MRHS College & Career website for some fairs (QR code above).
- Research colleges. Consider location, majors offered, size, admissions requirements, etc. Now is the time to explore, so cast a wide net. See college research sites on MRHS College & Career website.
- Check MRHS calendar and website for special events, such as Junior Night, College Panels, Financial Aid, etc.



- If you plan to play sports in college, visit <https://www.ncaapublications.com/> for rules.
- Set up an organization system to keep track of all your documents and passwords if you haven't already.
- Develop a testing plan, including when you will start test prep and when you will take the SAT/ACT/ASVAB/AP tests. Free test prep sites are listed on the MRHS College & Career website (QR code above).
- Research and plan for the cost of college. Every college website has a net-price calculator to help families plan for educational expenses. Refer to the MRHS College & Career website for a link to the Net-Price Calculator from the Texas Higher Ed Coordinating Board.



Junior year is your last chance to build a strong resume and GPA for your college applications. Do your best, and remember, there's a college out there for everyone!



Winter

- Register for the spring SAT and ACT tests. Taking both tests allows you to compare your scores. Repeat the test you score higher on to try to raise your score.
- Plan a junior-year meeting with your school counselor and your family. Discuss your academics, college planning, and college application process.
- Plan your college visits. Spring break and summer are perfect times to visit campuses with your family so you can get a better feel for the campus.
- Plan for your senior year by signing up for challenging courses. Taking AP and/or Dual Credit courses is *strongly* recommended because they allow you to earn college credit at a MUCH lower cost!
- Update your 4-year plan for graduation, and make sure you're on track for admissions requirements for college.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency/commitment, depth, and leadership. If possible, get involved with something that aligns with your possible career interests.

Spring Semester

- Take the SAT/ACT/AP tests.
- Ask your core teachers for letters of recommendation. Meet with your counselor for guidance. Colleges use letters of recommendation to learn more about the student as a person both inside and outside of the classroom, such as academic strengths, challenges overcome, personal traits, leadership qualities, and contributions to the school and community. Make sure you share with your recommender what you plan to study, why you want to go to the college(s) you plan to apply to, etc.
- Attend college fairs and visits from reps who visit MRHS, and ask questions! Tips are posted on the MRHS College & Career website!
- Search for summer opportunities, internships, specialty programs, etc.

Summer

- Visit colleges.
- Participate in summer programs or work.
- Start your college essay.
- Narrow down your college choices.
- Start thinking about whether you want to submit any Early Decision (binding) or Early Action applications.
- Start your college applications on Apply Texas and/or Common App.

*You're almost done with high school
and ready to apply for colleges!
Keep up the good work!*



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Senior Year

Fall Semester

- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY! Keep/Get your grades up!
 - Finalize your college list, making sure it's balanced with reach, target, and solid colleges. (Scan QR code for more info).
 - Reach: colleges whose average admitted students have higher GPA or test scores than you.
 - Target: colleges whose admitted students' GPA and test scores match with yours.
 - Solid: colleges where your GPA and test scores are higher than the average admitted student, making your chances of acceptance high.
 - Research college costs, keeping in mind that actual cost is usually different from the list price. (Scan QR code for more).
 - Meet with your College Counselor to review your college list, discuss the application process, and discuss your letters of rec.
 - Develop a master calendar with:
 - ALL college application deadlines.
 - ALL college financial aid deadlines.
 - FAFSA deadlines (opens 10/1).
 - Scholarship deadlines.
 - SAT/ACT test dates. **For early action, early decision, and priority deadlines, your application materials will be due in October or November. Check with the colleges you're applying to.*
 - ALL MRHS college application deadlines.
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- Any special interest deadlines (auditions, portfolios, etc.)
 - ALL NCAA athletic deadlines.
 - Your own deadlines for completing essays, resumes, etc.
 - Local college fairs and college visits to MRHS.
 - Dates you plan to visit campuses.
- Take the SAT/ACT one more time if needed. This will likely need to happen in September or October.
 - Check with your recommenders about the status of their letters and share your deadlines with them.
 - Complete your college essay and all supplemental essays, if applicable.
 - Complete early decision, early action, priority, and rolling college applications. Check deadlines with each college (typically between 10/15-11/15).
 - Complete *at least* one application by November 1st.
 - Apply for scholarships with early deadlines. **LOTS of scholarships are due between October and January.*



Winter

- STUDY! Colleges want to see that you're maintaining good grades. They will get your final transcript after graduation and can change their offers.
- Request that your counselor sends your mid-year reports to all colleges you applied to.
- If accepted early decision, withdraw your applications from all other colleges. Early Decision is binding.
- Submit your FAFSA if you haven't already. Jan. 15th is the Texas deadline!
- Continue applying for scholarships.
- Keep hard copies of your applications.
- Set up and check your college portals for any to-do items, missing items, and admissions or financial aid updates.



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Spring Semester

- Compare financial aid packages (award letters). Most colleges post these in your college portal.
- Attend "Admitted Student Day" activities for any college you're considering.
- May 1st is Decision Day! Time to commit!
- Pay the deposit for your chosen college.
- Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you will not be attending there.
- If waitlisted, let the college(s) know if you would like to stay on or leave the waitlist.
- Complete financial aid requirements.
 - See College Counselor if you are selected for verification.
- Make sure you've done everything on your master calendar.
- Take AP exams.
- Request your final high school transcript to be sent to your intending college.
- Send college admissions decisions, award letters, and scholarship awards to your College Counselor.
- Send thank you notes to recommenders.
- GRADUATE!

You did it! Congratulations! We are so proud of you and know you will go on to do amazing things!