

EBA High School College Preparation 4-year Planning Calendar

Freshman

all year

- solid academic footing
- extra-curricular activity & community service
- start recording on Interest & Activity Summary (IAS): include extracurricular activities, awards (academic and other), volunteer hours, church and community activities, employment, family chores, hobbies

September

- **GC-offer orientation for freshmen**
- *opt.-attend WI Education Fair (was Sept 24, 2012, also Oct 1, 2012)*

October

- PLAN test given at school
 - parents & students are encouraged to talk about results
 - GC meets w/ student - suggest ways to improve, areas on which to focus
- *opt.-attend a college fair (Christian College Fair at Elmbrook Church Oct 18, 2012)*
- **GC-field trip to local college(s) during school day**
- *opt.-attend a Preview Day at a local college, usually offered on Friday or Saturday*

NOTES:

- generally, it is considered to be too early to take ACT & SAT tests
- If targeting Ivy League/highly competitive schools – research their incoming freshman profile for goals to achieve during high school (grades, test scores, activities).
- If targeting art schools (visual, performing arts, creative writing), begin to compile portfolio/video record highlighting your skill set.

EBA High School College Preparation 4-year Planning Calendar

Sophomore

all year

- continue with strong academics
- continue extracurriculars & community service
- continue charting on IAS

September

- *opt.-visit college campuses - Preview Days in fall, or schedule times over breaks*
- **GC - fall field trip to local college(s), together with freshmen**
- PSAT test given at school (students who do well next year could qualify for National Merit Scholar program, which could lead to scholarship opportunities)
- *opt.- attend EBA College Night to observe & learn*
- *opt.- attend WI Education Fair (Sept 24, 2012, also Oct 1, 2012)*

October

- *opt.-visit college campuses - Preview Days in fall, or schedule times over breaks*
- *opt.-attend Christian College Fair at Elmbrook Church (Oct 18, 2012)*

Dec & March

- *opt.-if looking at distant colleges, consider a family vacation to visit college(s) during Christmas or Spring breaks*

Summer Break

- get familiar with websites for college & career search, & testing (i.e. CollegeBoard)
- if planning on participating in NCAA athletics or NAIA (for many Christian schools), register with NCAA and third party registry firm for recruiting

EBA High School College Preparation 4-year Planning Calendar

Junior

all year

- keep academics strong - colleges look for stability, or upward trend in grades
- continue extracurricular & community service activities
- show leadership in some area of involvement (school, church, volunteering, work)

September

- **required** College Night at EBA (one hour meeting for students AND their parents)
- PSAT given at school (this determines who qualifies as a National Merit Scholar!)
- complete Interest & Activity Summary; go over it with Guidance Counselor
- **recommended:** attend a college fair, if you haven't already
- *opt.-attend WI Education Fair (Sept 24, 2012, also Oct 1, 2012)*

Sept - June

- take ACT and/or SAT no later than June, each is offered 6 times during the year
- know your SSN & have an official photo ID, plan for 45 minutes to register online
- look for resources to study for these tests either online or in the GC office
- SAT registration deadlines & test dates at www.collegeboard.org
- ACT registration deadlines & test dates at www.actstudent.org

October/November

- *opt.-visit college campuses - Preview Days in fall, or schedule times over breaks*
- *opt.-Christian College Fair at Elmbrook Church (Oct 18, 2012)*
- *opt- Milwaukee College Fair at downtown Delta Center (1st Sun in Oct)*

Dec & March

- *opt.- if looking at distant colleges, consider a family vacation to visit college(s) during Christmas or Spring breaks*

Feb & March

- *opt.- attend Taming the High Cost of College Workshop (about \$10 fee)*
<http://www.baldridgecollegesolutions.com/workshops.html> offered thru Rec. Depts.

March

- *opt - attend Greater Milwaukee College Workshop (March 24, 2013)*

May

- **GC assigns summer “homework” for college application process:**
 - begin searching for colleges (websites, visits, requesting info, networking)
 - begin searching for careers (websites, networking)
 - determine at least two people who could write letters of recommendation (1-2 academic, 1-2 service, 1 extracurricular/pastor). Ask if they are willing; if so, provide necessary info to them using the EBA form
 - begin searching for scholarship opportunities; some deadlines are in fall
 - go on college tours (summer isn't the best, but better than no visit at all)
 - write a “What is my purpose/goals” general essay, or at least an outline

EBA High School College Preparation 4-year Planning Calendar

Senior

September

- **required** College Night at EBA (one hour meeting for students AND their parents)
- meet with GC one on one
- keep up academics all year long!
- begin applying for colleges (find the online application - you can often begin & do a little at a time, saving as you go.)
- Check Common App site for desired schools accepting common app.
- take another ACT or SAT early in the fall, if you want to try for a higher score
- begin applying for scholarships
- all seniors write a college essay in English class; edited by peers & the teacher
- Any male students turning 18 – register for Selective Service (required if applying for scholarships/financial aid - <https://www.sss.gov/regver/wfregistration.aspx>)

October

- if applying for Early Decision or Early Action, finish college application now
- take final opportunities to tour colleges, especially on days off of school

November

- Nov 1 is a common deadline for Early Action or Early Decision applications

December

- **December 10** is EBA's deadline for college applications, in order to allow enough time for the GC to gather all materials for the College Application Packet and get it submitted by many colleges' deadlines (some as early as Dec 31).

January/February

- complete FAFSA form for financial aid (must have either completed your taxes or be able to use an estimate based on prior year taxes and correct it later)
- For some private schools, complete CSS or custom financial profile for that school: available at www.collegeboard.org
- submit 1st semester grade results, if required
- Submit additional recommendation letters and updates on activities/awards for those schools where you are on the wait-list.

January-April

- For those college(s) where you get accepted, consider attending "Accepted student" events to verify/confirm college of choice
- notify college of acceptance as soon as you are sure you want to accept; May 1 is a common deadline, but you may miss out on scholarship opportunities or housing - or may even lose the opportunity to ATTEND if you wait that long.
- once you have accepted at a college, complete any additional forms required for housing and financial aid (specific to that college).
- keep up the academics - colleges can rescind their offer if your grades fall!