

# High School Timeline - Planning for College<sup>1</sup>

## Freshman Year

- Understand your hearing loss and any disabilities you have. Learn how to explain them to other people.
- Understand your accommodations (interpreters, notetakers, FM Systems, preferred seating, test accommodations). Learn why you have these accommodations.
- Go to all of your individualized education program (IEP) meetings. Ask questions and participate.
- Plan to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) next year. If you will need accommodations for the test, make plans for that.
- Meet with your guidance counselor. Review your schedule. Make sure you are taking courses to prepare for college.
- Get involved in school and community activities.

## Sophomore Year

- Continue being involved in your IEP and transition planning meetings.
- Find out whether rehabilitation services need to be involved in your IEP and transition planning meetings.
- Visit your school's career center or guidance counselor. Ask about college requirements.
- Think about your career interests and possible jobs you would like to do.
- If you have trouble with math or English, take extra classes or work on improving these.
- Take the PSAT. If you need accommodations, request these as early as possible.
- Continue being involved in school and community activities.

## Junior Year

- Identify possible career goals. Begin searching for colleges that can help you meet these goals.
- Think about your time management, stress management, and study skills. If you need help with these, ask your guidance counselor or IEP team.

- Consider leading your IEP and transition planning meetings.
- Make a list of the accommodations and technology you will need in college.
- Take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the ACT, or both. Consider taking them more than once. If you need accommodations, request these as early as possible.
- Visit college campuses. Meet with people from the admissions office and disability services office.
- Be sure you have updated documentation of your hearing loss and other disabilities.
- Learn about financial aid opportunities and scholarships.

## Senior Year

- Decide where you will apply for college. Make a list of their application deadlines and requirements (letters of recommendation, test scores, transcripts).
- Learn about college deadlines for housing requests and financial aid. Apply for both of these as early as possible.
- Find people to write your letters of recommendation.
- Begin writing your application essays early. Ask teachers and guidance counselors for help proofreading them.
- Before sending in college applications, make sure you have followed all the requirements carefully. Ask someone else to review them, too.
- Ask your IEP and transition teams to help you with any concerns about college. Ask them to help you identify accommodations you will need.
- As soon as you are accepted, contact the disability services offices. Find out how to request accommodations for the fall semester and housing.
- Find out if there are any summer programs for new students.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from "Preparing for College" by Elizabeth Evans Getzel, in [Going to College: Expanding Opportunities for People with Disabilities](#) by Elizabeth Evans Getzel and Paul Wehman, pp. 69-88. Published in 2005 by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland