**College Prep Timeline for**

**High School Students**

**Freshman Year**

* Read through this timeline
* Learn the graduation requirements- credits, testing, seals
* Create your four-year plan
* Meet with your high school counselor
* Select courses that meet college admissions requirements
* Take challenging classes
* Build strong verbal, mathematics, and reasoning skills
* Get involved in extracurricular activities
* Keep a record of extracurricular activities by completing a resume in Naviance
* Check out colleges on the internet
* Learn which schools and jobs may interest you
* Research career possibilities at ohiomeansjobs.com and Naviance

**Sophomore Year**

* Continue all activities listed under freshman year
* Continue working on your four-year plan and make adjustments if necessary
* Keep building on success- your GPA is *cumulative*
* Sign up to take the PSAT
* Talk to your counselor about your PSAT scores and future plans
* Visit Khan Academy, a great website for educational information
* Explore Polaris to make an informed decision if it’s right for you
* Plan to challenge yourself in your classes and ask for help if needed
* Research the summer program on the Counselor Corner section of the website for great educational opportunities
* Continue using Naviance - a great resource for career and college research
* Check out the Job Board on the Counselor Corner section of the website
* Use the summer to your advantage by reading books, researching colleges and careers, working, volunteering

**Junior Year**

* Take the PSAT again- a good score qualifies for the National Merit scholarship program
* Use the College Board resources to maximize the info. from your PSAT scores
* Learn how to improve your scores by continuing to use Khan Academy
* Good grades in advanced courses impress colleges and improve your chances for scholarships
* Start researching your options for grants, scholarships, work-study programs
* Make a list of colleges to discuss with your family
* Visit colleges and attend college fairs. Many college reps come to NOHS during the day.
* Research which colleges require the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests since *many* *colleges are test optional.*
* Register for the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests if necessary- **have scores sent directly to the colleges where you will apply**
* Prepare for the ACT that NOHS gives to all juniors at no cost on March 12 - take many timed practice tests
* Look at ohiomeansjobs.com for practice tests and other great information
* Attend College Planning Night at NOHS on November 13 at 6:30 PM
* Use the summer to work on college essays and narrow your college selection

**Senior Year**

* Schedule your senior interview with your counselor. You will discuss your post-graduation plans and ensure you are on track to graduate in May/June.
* Apply online to the colleges you would like to attend; have a safe school. If you apply through the Common App, match your account to Naviance and complete the FERPA
* If you are applying to a 4-year college with a priority deadline of November 1, apply by *October 20* at the latest
* Ask teachers for recommendations, if the colleges require them
* Last chance to do a college visit to see if it’s a good fit for you
* Complete college applications and essays- be sure to proofread
* Follow Naviance directions to have your official high school transcript sent to the colleges you applied to
* Have your official ACT/SAT scores sent to the colleges, if they are not test optional
* Obtain scholarship information; research scholarships on the website
* Meet with the rep from College Now Greater Cleveland- a great, free resource
* **Attend the Financial Aid Night at NOHS on November 6 at 6:30 PM.**
* Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after December 1.
* Complete the community scholarship applications and proofread your essays in January/February of your senior year.
* Review acceptances and financial aid offers to make your final decision
* By May 1, notify colleges of your decision and submit necessary deposits
* Complete your Senior Survey so your final high school transcript is sent to your college