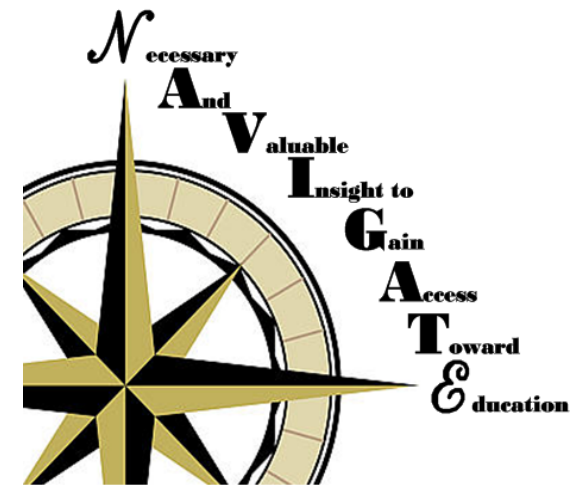


- in. Make personal connection with these reps so that they know who you are, which might help you get better deals at those schools.
- Confirm that you have application materials for all the colleges you are applying to. Send for any missing materials.
- Give recommendation forms and stamped envelopes addressed to the colleges' admissions offices to people who have agreed to write your letters of recommendations.
- Request that your transcript be sent to your schools of choice.
- Research scholarships! Develop an action plan for completing all the scholarships applications. You are eligible for many!
- Write your essays. Polish them. Get people (i.e. teacher, honest friend – 2 editors at least) to read and give feedback on your essays. Polish again.
 - Fill out the college application. Send completed ones in by deadlines – the earlier the better.
- Check and double check that all applications materials have been sent out, including: transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.
- Send thank you notes to all the people who have helped you in the process.
- Vary that all your application materials have been received by the colleges you applied to.
- Ask your colleges if you can fill out a paper FAFSA to show your financial need (send only to your admissions counselor – not the government!).
- Complete all scholarship applications by their deadlines.
- What the mailbox – college and scholarship decision letters will be arriving. Make sure to send in any other info they might request.
- Evaluate your financial aid offers. You will have to make a decision by May 1st as to what college you will attend and then notify other schools that you won't be attending.
- If you still need financial aid, try to raise funds by asking family, relatives, friends, etc. It's **OKAY** to ask!
 - Work hard in your last semester!
- Have your last transcript sent to your chosen college.
- Find out when certain fees are due and when orientation and classes start.
 - Inquire about students services (ie. Multicultural Affairs, Writing Center).
- Write thank you letters to those who helped you throughout the process.
- Try to see if there are other students at your school in the same situation as you. Get connected!

College Planning Student Timeline



Project NAVIGATE
(Necessary And Valuable Insight to
Gain Access Toward Education)

Visit www.navigatemn.org
Contact team@navigatemn.org
(651)-231-0974

*NAVIGATE - a project that seeks widen
the path to higher education for
undocumented immigrant high school
students in Minnesota.*

During 9th & 10th Grade

Things to do:

- Study hard! Ninth and tenth grade A's and D's **DO** count when you apply to college.
- Join Clubs and activities in and outside of school to develop your interests, abilities and leadership skills.
- Visit guidance counselor and plan a curriculum that will meet college entrance requirements and put you in the most challenging courses you can handle.
- Visit your career center. Become familiar with the resources available there.
- Read for pleasure, but read challenging material that can help build your vocabulary skills for the ACT.
- Register to take the PSAT or the PLAN test if they are offered to sophomores at your school. These tests will help you prepare for the ACT
- Discuss your PSAT test results with your guidance counselor and figure out how to make improvements. Look and register for FREE practice test events in your area: www.kaplan.com or www.princetonreview.com
- Open a savings accounts specifically for college. Certain banks do not require a Social Security Number.
- Attend a summer program or camp to develop skills and talents. Visit www.mmep.net for info.

- Spend some time researching colleges and visiting campuses. You can visit any college regardless of immigration status. Check out www.nacac.com/exhibit/fair.cfm - a site for the National Association for College Admission Counseling

During your Junior Year

Things to do:

- Get serious about your grades – junior and senior year grades are the **MOST** important in the eyes of admissions counselors.
- Attend college fairs and sessions when college admissions officers visit your school. Take advantage of meeting representatives from your potential future college. Fill our cards requesting info from these schools and gather info about specific schools and programs of study. You are qualified to all of this!
- Talk to your parents about attending college and how much they can contribute to your education. Remember that you are most likely to not pay all school expenses out-of-pocket.
- Become familiar with college applications and timelines, and make an action plan for your own applications (give teachers and counselors time to write recommendation letters and get transcripts).
- Start searching for scholarships that do not require a social security number or citizenship, including at your school. Visit www.navigatemn.com for a list.
 - Take the PAST in the fall.

- Check to see if your schools prefer the ACT or SAT.
- Register for the spring ACT. Request a **fee waiver** from your counselor.
 - Visit colleges and introduce yourself to admissions counselors. Find out what you can do to increase your chances of getting accepted and more aid.
 - Take the ACT test in the spring.
 - Sign up for a summer program or camp at a college that you are interested in attending. Check www.mmep.net
 - Take advanced placement tests if you are eligible.
 - Participate in a summer program or camp to gain some experience in a field. These will sharpen your leadership skills.
 - Compile a list of activities, honors, leaderships positions (and job experience if you work) and pit it in a resume.
 - Ask colleges to send you their application materials.

Senior Year!

Things to do:

- Check your course list one more time. Work hard this term. Your first-semester grades will be included in your transcript to colleges.
- Attend the College Fair again. This time really focus on the schools you are interested