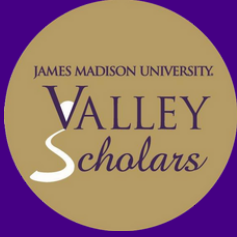


STAYING ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE:



FRESHMAN YEAR

9TH GRADE

SUMMER



PREPARE

Finish your summer reading. High school will require more accountability than middle school; teachers expect independence.

FUN

School's out! Get outside & enjoy yourself before the next big steps!

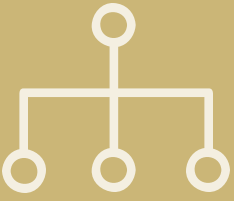
CREATE



A High School Plan:

- ✓ **Advanced Class Schedule**
(AP/Honors/Dual Enrollment)
- ✓ **Standardized Tests**
(PSAT/SAT/ACT)

FALL

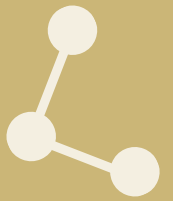


REGISTER

Take the PSAT this year if offered. *Ask guidance about fee waivers. Also, register for these helpful accounts:

- ✓ **Coalition Application**
(online portfolio)
- ✓ **Khan Academy**

CONNECT



Explore extracurricular opportunities offered at your school. Talk to upperclassmen about the options, and make a wise choice about which peer group you'd like to invest your time with during high school.

- ✓ Music or visual arts?
- ✓ Athletics?
- ✓ Drama or Debate?
- ✓ Volunteer organizations?
- ✓ Academic/Leadership groups?



MEET

Your guidance counselor can be a very helpful source of advice throughout high school. Make sure to introduce yourself!

WINTER



DEVELOP

Note-taking and studying are skills, which require practice. Try different ways, choose a method most effective for you, and then stick with it!

THINK

Start off strong academically! Ninth grade coursework will count towards your cumulative GPA.

SPRING



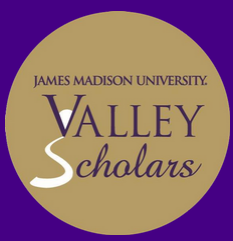
SAVE

If it's within your family's means, consider opening a savings account towards your future living expenses at college. Every little bit will help!

PARTICIPATE

Seek out extra learning opportunities! Consider looking for a supplemental summer program in an area that is of particular interest to you.

STAYING ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE



SOPHOMORE YEAR

10TH GRADE

FALL



VISIT

the Governor's School to find out about the program.

If you decide to apply, submit your application early!



SET UP

accounts for the Coalition Application and Khan Academy if you have not already done so.

TAKE



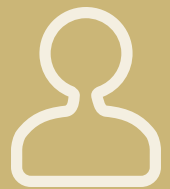
the PSAT to help sharpen your test-taking skills for the SAT.
**Ask guidance about fee waivers.*



CONSIDER

potential leadership opportunities you could pursue in school groups or extracurricular activities.

ATTEND



a local college fair. Do any schools seem especially interesting to you?

WINTER



EXPLORE

college options that potentially interest you, and become familiar with the admissions information listed online.

FOCUS



on your studies. Working hard in 10th grade will help you prepare for the academic rigor of AP or DE classes next year.

SPRING



IDENTIFY

your stronger areas of study, and consider taking the SAT subject test in those subjects.

It's not vital, but it can set you apart from other college applicants.

FIND



external scholarship opportunities offered in your community. *Check the VS website for help!*

SUMMER



SAVE

for college expenses if possible: summer earnings & with your parents

ENGAGE



with your community to find summer volunteer opportunities and/or a summer job. Consider whether you could start saving some money for college expenses.

 You're well on your way!

STAYING ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE



JUNIOR YEAR

11TH GRADE

SUMMER



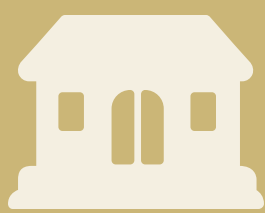
CHECK

your class schedule,
consider
AP/Honors/Dual Enrollment



LEARN

about colleges that interest you
search online and call
ask counselors/Valley Scholars staff
find scholarship opportunities



VISIT

colleges with the
Valley Scholars
summer program
or on your own



REGISTER

for fall college open houses
through your school

FALL



ATTEND

college open house days



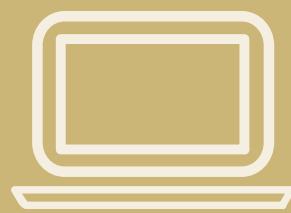
START

AP/Honors/Dual Enrollment courses
Studying for the SAT/ACT



REGISTER

for SAT/ACT tests
many dates offered
fee waivers may be available



APPLY

for leadership positions
in your school and extracurriculars
governor's school programs

SPRING



TAKE

SAT/ACT tests
can retake next year



FINALIZE

a list of schools to apply for
scholarship applications



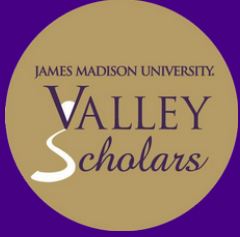
MAINTAIN

Coalition Application
Khan Academy Practice
Academic Focus
Positive Peer Influences

On to Senior Year!



STAYING ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE:



SENIOR YEAR

12TH GRADE

SUMMER



REVIEW

application requirements and deadlines for each school.
SAT/ACT scores - retake if needed & ask about fee waivers



PLAN

to gather all materials you'll need for applications.

FINALIZE

the list of colleges to which you would like to apply.
scholarship applications



- ✓ Application deadlines?
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ Transcripts
- ✓ Recommendation letters
- ✓ Essay supplements
- ✓ Scholarship applications

FALL



COMPOSE

your admissions essays.

SEND

essays to teachers, VS mentors, or counselors for help revising.



REQUEST

letters of recommendation, your transcripts, and SAT/ACT scores.

COMPLETE

- ✓ **FAFSA forms with parent help (OCTOBER or BEFORE)**
- ✓ Early Decision (binding) & Early Action (not binding) (NOVEMBER)



WINTER



SEARCH

for other scholarships/aid and complete applications.

SUBMIT

regular decision applications (Deadlines are in JANUARY or FEBRUARY)



SPRING



EVALUATE

Acceptances
Financial Aid
Scholarships

RESPOND

to your chosen college and confirm your acceptance.



Congratulations!