

## STEPS FOR PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

(ADVICE FOR FRESHMEN AT THE END OF THE YEAR)

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Study hard and earn great grades.
- Become involved in a couple of school or community activities in which you are interested. (Be committed, attend regular meetings, and offer to help.)
- Plan to take pre-collegiate classes and challenging classes.
- Take a career assessment on [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://www.CollegeInColorado.org)
- Talk to adults about careers every chance you get.
- If you don't already have one, sign up for a free email address at [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)
- Keep a file of any volunteer activities you participate in and any work experiences.

### JUNIOR YEAR

- Study hard and earn great grades.
- Take on leadership roles in the school or community activities in which you are participating.
- Continue taking pre-collegiate classes and challenging classes (X and AP classes)
- Continue talking to adults about careers. Ask for informational interviews with people who are in careers that interest you.
- Search for Careers and Majors on [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://www.CollegeInColorado.org)
- Begin to study for the ACT or SAT. You can take a free online course and practice the test on [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)
- Identify 10 colleges to which you would like to consider applying. (Research colleges on [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://www.CollegeInColorado.org))
- Take virtual tours of college campuses on [www.eCampusTours.com](http://www.eCampusTours.com)
- Become familiar with the admission requirements of these colleges.

### SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR

- Visit Colleges to which you might apply.
- Study for ACT or SAT if you plan to retake it.
- Search for Scholarships on [www.denverscholarship.org](http://www.denverscholarship.org)
- Write a college essay or personal statement.
- Work, or do community service, or do something meaningful with your time!

### SENIOR YEAR

- Study hard and earn great grades throughout the ENTIRE year.
- Continue to participate in school and community activities.
- Finalize your list of colleges to which you will apply. (Include one reach school, one safety school, and a few on target schools.)
- Apply by Thanksgiving to all of the colleges you might attend.
- Begin the Financial Aid process in January of your senior year.