

Key Milestones Parent-Student Action Plan

Use this handy reference calendar to remind our students of milestones that they must meet to get into their college of choice.

Freshmen Year

Fall Term

- **Plan ahead.** Your students should schedule time to meet with their guidance counselor and plan a strategy of courses that will meet college entrance requirements.
- **Look for Early College Opportunities.** The Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools partnership is pleased to offer the [Early College Program](#) to qualified MCPS students. The program is offered at all MC campus locations, and provides students an opportunity to graduate from high school with both their HS diploma and an associate's degree from Montgomery College.

Sophomore Year

Fall Term

- Students should speak with their guidance counselor about taking the PSAT and gather preparation material for SAT and ACT.
- Once scores are received, students should consult with their guidance counselor to investigate ways to improve scores on standardized tests.
 - Montgomery College offers [SAT and ACT prep](#) courses through Workforce Development and Continuing Education. These instructor-led, interactive classroom programs have been helping Montgomery County, Maryland students raise their scores for 30+ years.

Spring Term

- Have your student register and take for the upcoming May [SAT Subject Test](#).

Junior Year

Fall Term

- Assist your student in mapping out a testing schedule for the upcoming year, including the PSAT/ SAT, ACT, Accuplacer, and any other encouraged standardized testing. Pick the test dates that will work with your students' schedules, taking into consideration family events, extracurricular activities, and holidays.
- Students should meet with their guidance counselor to review their course plan for the school year.
- **Parents: Check your students' transcript.** Are they on track to complete all the credits required by colleges they are interested in applying to?
- **Begin to establish criteria for the college search.** Is your student interested in a small rural college or a large urban campus? Visit local colleges to learn what your student does and does not like.
- [Start conversation on how you will pay for college.](#) Understanding tuition costs at all colleges your student is considering, and if they are in YOUR budget are important. Start doing research with your

student on scholarships and financial aid. When planning to pay for college, you should not think about paying one semester at a time. Think about how you and your student will pay for the next five years.

Spring Term

- Student should [register for any upcoming SAT or ACT tests](#), and call colleges they are interested in to find out which test is required. This may also include taking Advanced Placement (AP) tests.
- During Spring Break, **plan on visiting the college campuses** your student is interested in attending.
- **Encourage your student to continue to visit colleges.** Call ahead and ask for appointments with the departments of financial aid, admission, academic advisors, professors, and even department areas.

Senior Year

Fall Term

- **Encourage your student to meet with the high school counselor.** This year, he or she will work with the counselor to complete and submit college applications. Learn more about [the counselor's role in applying to college](#).
- **Create a calendar with your student.** This should include application deadlines and other important dates. Your student can find specific colleges' deadlines in College Search. If your student saves colleges to a list there, he or she can get a custom online calendar that shows those colleges' deadlines.
- **Help your student prepare for college admission tests.** Montgomery College accepts SAT, ACT and Accuplacer. Students meeting [minimum score requirements](#) will not have to take the Accuplacer at the College. There are resources to assist your student in [preparing to take the test](#).
- **Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid beginning Oct. 1.** The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read [How to Complete the FAFSA](#) to learn more.

Winter

- **Work together to apply for financial aid.** FAFSA is due by March 1. Make sure you work to meet the priority deadline. Have your student contact the [financial aid offices](#) at Montgomery College or visit a [Welcome Center](#) on any of the three campuses to receive assistance in completing the application. Don't Delay!
- **Learn about [Ways to Pay](#) for college and payment options.** Montgomery College has many options when it comes to paying tuition and fees. Work with your student to [review tuition costs](#) to budget the next four (yes, FOUR) years of college. There are also [scholarships available at MC](#). Research those together.

Spring Term

- **Encourage your student to meet with an MC Recruiter at his/her high school.** MC Recruiters visit the high schools on a regular basis to assist in answering questions and helping your student through the enrollment process. The schedules are posted on Naviance or in the Career Center. The high school CCIC will have the schedule as well.

- **Visit MC and attend an event.** The College has events starting in early April through June to assist students and parents through navigating the enrollment steps, as well as answer questions. Check the [Future Students](#) page and sign up for events.
- **Complete and turn in MC financial Aid forms.** To officially accept loans or grants, students must complete and turn in the required documents for financial aid, which are located in his/her [MyMC](#) account under “Required Financial Documents”. These documents are due before a student registers for class.
- **Complete the [MC enrollment steps](#) by June 1.** All new students must complete an application, take the Accuplacer or turn in college-level SAT/ACT scores, complete the required online orientations and meet with a Counselor BEFORE he/she can register for class. Class fill up quickly, so make sure you and your student are [aware of deadlines](#).

Summer

- **Attend Montgomery College’s [First Year Experience](#) (FYE) program.** Program is a series of orientation activities, programs, and courses to help you ease into the demands and challenges of college life; forge connections with counselors, faculty, staff and peers; and prepare you for academic success at MC

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-12th-grade>