

Manchester Academy



College Planning Timeline

Freshman and Sophomore Years

- Create a file for all of your records.
- Keep academic records and lists of awards, honors, and activities at school and in the community.
- Participate in extracurricular activities, academic programs, summer camps, community service, etc.
- Gather information about colleges.
- Create a professional e-mail account (example: firstnamelastname@gmail.com) and check it regularly. This is how ALL colleges will communicate with you.
- Prepare for standardized testing. Answer the ACT question of the day/ACT practice test/ attend workshops: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>
- Take the ACT so you can familiarize yourself with the test.

Junior Year

- Plan to visit a Get2College Center. These centers are a valuable resource to Mississippi students who are planning to go to college. Get2College offers a variety of free information and college planning services to help Mississippi's high school students get to college. The centers offer a friendly environment where both students and parents can come to learn more about what it takes to be accepted and pay for college. Students and parents can receive free help with ACT prep, completing admissions and financial aid applications, resume building, career exploration, college selection, and more! Visit the Get2College website at www.get2college.org, the Get2College Metro Jackson location at 2600 Lakeland Terrace, Jackson, MS 39216, or call 601-321-5533.
- Continue to prepare for the ACT test.
- Start researching colleges. Develop a list of colleges to which you may to apply and gather information about these schools.
- Participate in extracurricular activities and get involved in community service.
- Take the ACT. Thorough preparation is the best way to ensure success. You should take the ACT at least twice your junior year so that you have time to retake it in the summer and fall of your senior year if necessary.
- Begin to research financial aid sources and the availability of scholarships.

Senior Year

Fall Semester

- Make campus visits to colleges.
- Continue extracurricular involvement.
- Take the ACT.
- Schedule a visit to the Get2College center. Contact information is located above.
- Narrow down college choices and apply for college admission, meeting priority deadlines.
- Ask your counselor to send transcripts to the colleges to which you apply.
- Finalize resume and write required essays.
- Apply for scholarships. Be sure to observe deadlines so you don't miss out!
- Request letters of recommendations and other admission requirements two to four weeks before they are due.
- Apply for housing.
- Inquire about scholarship qualifications at each college where you applied. Start the financial aid application process for each school.

Spring Semester

- Update your resume.
- Complete your Mississippi Grant (MTAG) application.
- Decide which college to attend and notify the school of your decision. Notify the schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Final transcripts should be sent after graduation. If you take a dual enrollment class, YOU will need to contact Holmes to request transcripts to be sent to the college you will attend in the fall after graduation.
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- Observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork including award letters, promissory notes, housing information, etc. You may be required to log in to the college website to complete these steps.