HOMESCHOOL FRONTIER · FREE PRINTABLE

High School College Prep Timeline

Year-by-year roadmap from 9th grade through college applications — for homeschool families.

9th Grade

Academics
Establish strong study habits. Start high school transcript. Aim for 4–5 solid courses.

Testing
No tests required yet. Explore PSAT format for awareness.

Extracurriculars
Start building consistent activities — co-op, sports, music, volunteering, or part-time work.

Planning
Research college types (liberal arts vs university vs community college vs trade).

10th Grade

Academics
Stay consistent. Consider dual enrollment if available in your state.

Testing
Take the PSAT/NMSQT in fall (practice run — scores don't count for scholarships yet).

Extracurriculars
Deepen commitments from 9th grade. Leadership or creative output is a plus.

Planning
Start a draft college list. Visit a campus if possible.

11th Grade

Academics
Hardest year academically. Take your strongest courses. Dual enrollment if possible.

Testing
SAT / ACT: take in spring. PSAT/NMSQT in fall (National Merit eligibility).

Extracurriculars
Take on leadership. Start any major personal project, research, or business.

Planning
Finalize college list. Request homeschool portfolio guidelines from target schools.

Summer
Visit colleges. Consider a summer program, internship, or rigorous online course.

12th Grade

Academics
Finish strong. Transcript must be complete and polished before applications.

Testing
Retake SAT/ACT in fall if needed. Some schools are test-optional — check each.

Applications
Common App opens Aug 1. Early Decision/Action deadlines: Nov 1–15. Regular: Jan 1.

Documents
Finalize transcript, course descriptions, and activity list. Get evaluator letter if required.

Financial Aid
FAFSA opens Oct 1. File as early as possible. Research homeschool-specific scholarships.

Homeschool portfolio tip: Contact each college's admissions office directly — homeschool requirements vary widely by school. Most colleges now have a dedicated homeschool admissions process. Ask early and follow up.