



Harker's mission is to educate students for success at college and beyond. We help our students discover their passions and find colleges that align with their talents, personalities and goals. We take pride in the wide range of colleges on our matriculation list, representing the great diversity of talent and interests possessed by Harker students and alumni.

Timeline for applying to college

Grade 9

- Students and parents should attend the “Grade 9 Academic Planning” seminar in October.
- Research academic opportunities at the upper school and draft a viable four-year academic plan with the support of trusted adults.
- Get involved in school or community activities. Don't overload! Choose two or three things that interest you.
- Plan your summer activities. Consider programs, classes, camps and other opportunities in your areas of interest.
- Track your activities and notable moments from grade 9.

Grade 10

- Take the PSAT in October at Harker as a preparation for either the SAT or ACT.
- Revisit your academic plan before registering for grade 11 classes.
- Plan summer activities. Consider programs, classes, camps or other opportunities that align with your areas of extracurricular or academic interest.
- Begin visiting Bay Area and Northern California colleges.
- Track your activities and notable moments from grade 10.

Grade 11

Fall:

- Take the PSAT at Harker. This is the sitting that qualifies students for National Merit consideration.
- Students and parents should attend the “A Healthy Approach to College Admissions” event on Nov. 14, 2023.

Spring:

- Meet with your college counselor regularly as you complete college counseling assignments and begin to build your college list.
- Attend college counseling class.
- Take college admission tests as recommended.
- Investigate and plan summer activities.
- Schedule visits to colleges over February and/or spring breaks.
- Track your activities and notable moments from grade 11.

Summer:

- Research colleges. Organize college application materials. Write college essays. Research scholarships. Make decisions about your early plan.

Grade 12

September-December :

- Continue to meet regularly with your college counselor and attend college counseling class.
- Meet with college representatives visiting Harker.
- Take college admission tests again, if recommended.
- Finalize college list and work on applications.

December-April:

- Receive college acceptances!