



CONCORD

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

9th Grade College Planning Timeline

During 9th Grade:

- Review grades and standardized test results (PreACT) from middle school to look for academic strengths and weaknesses. Your student received PreACT score reports in the spring of 8th grade.
- Look at the results of your PreACT career interest inventory.
- Your grades count! Your academic record, transcript, is crucial to college admissions because it shows your academic skills over a 4-year period.
- Colleges look for strong grades and rigorous course choices. Challenge yourself in areas where you have strengths and interests.
- Start your college search now- Ask broad questions...Christian college vs. secular, large vs. small college, public vs. private university, selective/Ivy League?
- Research colleges/universities: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search/filters>
- Start a college list
- Character counts- be mindful of your attitude and behavior- you will need administrators and teachers to complete college/scholarship recommendations.
- Community service is important to college and scholarship applications. Focus on activities that interest you- quality rather than quantity.

Fall:

- Start to evaluate your gifts and interests. Take a personality test, personal values assessment, or career assessment to learn a little more about yourself.
- Set realistic goals for post-high school plans.
- Start a resume of activities (choose 2 or 3 to develop depth over the years). This can include church activities, sports, theater, dance, music, scouts, robotics, work, caring for siblings, community service, mission trips, family activities, or any kind of hobby.

TIP: If interested in Ivy League or Military Academy, then start preparing now.

TIP: If you want to participate as a NCAA Division I athlete, register with the NCAA [eligibility center](#) and make sure you have the 16 core course requirements planned through 12th grade.

Winter:

- Grades are important! Do your very best. Get tutoring if necessary.

- Review course options and plan 10th grade classes based on interests/goals and graduation requirements.

Spring:

- Plan summer to include a job, ministry, or activity.
- Prepare for the PreACT which will be administered in April.
- Continue to build your resume- add activities, awards and leadership positions.

Summer:

- Use time wisely to build a resume with community service or other extra curricular activities.

TIP: Summer experiences are great college essay topics. For example, if you went on a trip, journal about it in the moment so you have material to pull from when it's time for writing those college admissions essays.

TIP: If you want to participate as a NCAA Division I or II athlete, register with the NCAA [eligibility center](#) and make sure you have the 16 core course requirements planned through 12th grade.