

# College Selection Timeline

It is the opinion of the guidance office that too many HN students wait until it is too late to decide what they want to do after graduation. Because of this, many students are forced into jobs they don't want or they go to college with no goal and wind up paying large amounts of money with nothing to show for it. With this in mind, this office highly recommends exploring career options starting as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade!! (Dates recommended are flexible)

<b><u>Date to be Completed</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Activity</u></b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	Explore career possibilities through internet searches, job shadowing, interviews, and job site visits. Ask questions like, what will I do?, How much money will I make?, What kind of schooling do I need?, Will there be jobs available in this area when I am ready to work? .
<b>10<sup>th</sup> and/or 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Take the PSAT test. This is an excellent way to see what the ACT and SAT tests are like and what areas you need to work on.
<b>January of Jr. Yr.</b>	Choose a career you wish to pursue after high school or at least narrow it down to two or three top choices. (The more specific you are, the easier the college selection will be)
<b>11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	Look for part time jobs that will give you experience that will relate to your career of interest
<b>March of Jr. Yr</b>	Determine the type and amount of schooling needed to do the career you are interested in. Be aware that you may need nothing more than a high school diploma to get started but that additional education is almost always required. (may be in the form of training)
<b>Spring of Jr. Yr.- Fall of Sr. Yr.</b>	Visit colleges that offer training in the area you are interested in. You get one day out during your junior year and two days out during your senior. USE THEM! Try to visit a variety of schools (example: a state 4 year school, a private 4 year school, and a 2 year tech school or junior college).
<b>Spring/Summer of Jr. Year</b>	Take the ACT or SAT test for the first and second time. Most mid western colleges ask for the ACT. Register for ACT test at WWW.ACT.ORG
<b>October of Sr.</b>	Choose 2 to 4 colleges to send applications.
<b>Fall of Sr. year</b>	Search for scholarships and apply. Look for scholarships that line up with your activities. Ex. GPA, community service, athletics etc. A list of scholarships that are available through the HN guidance office are at <a href="http://www.hardinnorthern.org/guidance">www.hardinnorthern.org/guidance</a> . <a href="http://www.fastweb.org">www.fastweb.org</a> is a great search engine for scholarships.
<b>October of Sr.</b>	Fill out FAFSA form to determine financial aid. Each school that accepts you will also tell you what they will be able to provide you for aid. This is a very big help in making your final college selection.
<b>March of Sr.</b>	Choose the college that provides you with the most career options and cheapest price (and you are comfortable with). Don't look back!!