Groton School
College Planning Calendar

Third Form Year

Build strong academic, mathematical, and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses at the appropriate level and participating in activities.

September: ☐ Apply for a Social Security Number, if you do not have one already (generally applicable only to U.S. citizens).

March: ☐ Course selection: make sure you take courses that are challenging yet appropriate for you.

July-August: ☐ If you are an athlete and wish to play in college, try to attend a summer camp or recruiting showcase.

Fourth Form Year

Concentrate on academic preparation and continue to develop basic skills while being involved in extracurricular activities.

September: ☐ Registration for the October PSAT is automatically done by the CCO

October: ☐ PSAT is offered. The PSAT for Fourth Formers is just for practice.

December: ☐ Read your PSAT results thoroughly to see where you can improve.

March: ☐ Course selection: make sure that you are taking courses that are challenging yet appropriate for you and that will meet graduation requirements.

March: ☐ If you are taking an honors level course and doing well, consider registering for the SAT Subject tests given in June.

May: ☐ If you are an athlete who wishes to play in college, talk to your high school coach and reach out to college coaches.

June: ☐ SAT Subject tests are offered.

July-August: ☐ If you are an athlete and wish to play in college, try to attend a summer camp or recruiting showcase.
☐ Consider taking a SAT/ACT test preparation class.

Use these check lists to keep track of your college plans.
Fifth Form Year

Begin the college counseling process. In the winter, meet with your college counselor, attend group meetings, college fairs, and financial aid seminars.

* Students should take the SAT and the ACT at least once during their Fifth Form year.

**September:**
- □ The CCO automatically registers students for the October PSAT.
- □ The CCO will register students for a September ACT.
- □ Register for an October or November SAT, and maybe a December ACT.

**October:**
- □ PSAT is offered. The PSAT for Fifth Formers is also the National Merit qualifying test.

**November:**
- □ Attend form meeting to get a general overview of what lies ahead in the college process.
- □ Consider registering for the January SAT Reasoning and the February ACT.
- □ Consider taking the November SAT.

**December:**
- □ Results of the PSAT arrive.
- □ Read your PSAT score report thoroughly to see areas in which you need to improve.
- □ Consider taking the SAT Reasoning test.
- □ Consider taking the ACT.
- □ Attend form meeting to learn how to use Naviance.

**January:**
- □ Complete and submit questionnaire, which formally begins Groton’s college process.
- □ Familiarize yourself with this college handbook.
- □ Attend form meetings to begin to familiarize yourself with the college process.
- □ Encourage your parents to attend the kick-off to college counseling parent program.
- □ Consider taking the SAT Reasoning test.
- □ Sign up to have an individual meeting with your college counselor.

**February:**
- □ Try a college search on Naviance.
- □ If you plan on visiting colleges over spring break, meet with your college counselor to develop a preliminary list of colleges to visit.
- □ Develop a standardized testing plan with your counselor.
- □ Consider taking the ACT.
- □ Register for any tests you may wish to take in March or April.
- □ Arrange visits to colleges for spring break, if possible and convenient.
- □ If you are an athlete who wishes to play in college, contact college coaches either through their websites or by writing letters and emails.

**March:**
- □ Visit various types of colleges over spring break, if possible.
- □ Consider registering for the ACT in April.
- □ Consider registering for the SAT Subject or Reasoning tests in May and/or June.
April:
- Continue to meet with your college counselor and discuss standardized testing plans and possible courses for Sixth Form year.
- Research colleges; look in this handbook for a list of sources.
- Attend form meetings relative to your interests (athletics, the arts)

May:
- Take SAT subject tests and AP exams, if planned.
- Continue to meet with your college counselor.
- Begin to refine a preliminary college list.
- Register for the June ACT.
- Brainstorm which teachers you will ask to write recommendations.
- Musicians, thespians, and artists should talk with teachers about CDs and portfolios.

June:
- Take SAT subject tests, if planned.
- Plan summer college visits—tours, information sessions, and interviews; remember that appointments fill early. Try to visit with professors and/or coaches, if appropriate.

July-August:
- Visit and tour colleges, interview when possible, and request supplements.
- Complete Common Application and summer questionnaire.
- Take an SAT preparatory class at home, if you wish.
- Register for the September ACT or the October SAT.
- Continue to revise your college list.
- If you are an athlete who wishes to play in college, try to attend a summer camp at a school you are interested in attending or a recruiting showcase.
- Musicians and artists should begin to make portfolios.

Summer time...
Visit colleges • Complete Common Application
- Take an SAT preparatory class at home if you wish
  • Register for fall ACT or SAT
Sixth Form Year

Apply to colleges. Make decisions. Attend informational sessions with College Admissions representatives. Continue to meet with your college counselor and prepare to graduate from high school.

September:   □ Hand in your Common Application and fall questionnaire to your counselor by September 30.
   □ Sign up on Naviance for any college visits.
   □ Attend mini-fairs on Monday evenings.
   □ Meet with your counselor to discuss the colleges that you visited.
   □ Confirm which teachers will write your recommendations.
   □ Work on applications, especially essays.
   □ Financial aid applicants: file a CSS Profile registration form.
   □ Encourage your parents to attend the Sixth Form fall meeting.
   □ Review your testing plan with your counselor.
   □ Register for any November or December SATs you wish to take.
   □ Register for the October ACT.
   □ Check your email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.
   □ Attend the form meeting if you intend to apply to UK universities, including Oxford or Cambridge.

October:    □ Continue to meet with your college counselor.
   □ Sign up on Naviance for any college visits.
   □ If you take an SAT, consider having your scores sent to four colleges.
   □ ACT is offered.
   □ Early applicants should hand in a School Materials Request Form to the college office.
   □ Early applicants should touch base with their teachers about recommendations.
   □ Work on applications and essays.
   □ Consider visiting a college or two if there is a day off from classes.
   □ Check your email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information
   □ Complete all early applications

November:  □ SAT tests are offered. Consider having the scores sent to colleges on your list.
   □ Register for the December ACT.
   □ Early applications are due November 1 and 15.
   □ Continue to meet with your college counselor.
   □ Check your email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.
December:  
☐ ACT is offered.  
☐ Continue to work on applications (even if you applied early).  
☐ Wait for decision letters if you applied early (mailed by December 15).  
☐ Hand in your Final College Form to the college office before break and update the office on any early results.  
☐ Check your email, voicemail, and mailbox regularly for pertinent information.  
☐ Thank your teachers for their recommendations.

January-March:  
☐ Keep working—grades still matter!  
☐ If you are applying for financial aid, CSS Profile and FAFSA forms are due in early February.  
☐ Attend Sixth Form transition program

April:  
☐ Receive decision letters between March 25 and April 15.  
☐ Meet with your college counselor if you plan to stay on a waiting list.  
☐ Notify the college office and your teachers of your decisions.  
☐ Return all reply cards to colleges, even if you are not attending.  
☐ Attend revisit days to the college of your choice; you may be able to register for classes.

May:  
☐ Mail deposit to one college.  
☐ Fill out final college forms and return to the college office.  
☐ Fill out all forms for housing and classes; research to see if you have summer reading.  
☐ Sign up for orientation programs.

Summer time...  
Congratulations Graduates