

College Planning Calendar for International Students



As international students consider the college planning process, here are some points to consider and recommendations to help students prepare for college admissions:

1. **Be Involved** – LMH has great opportunities for extracurricular involvements that colleges consider valuable. We encourage international students to participate in areas such as sports, dramas, student clubs, music and volunteer service opportunities. Talk to a teacher or a counselor who can help you identify a good place to become involved.
2. **Practice English** – The best way to prepare for college is to read, write and speak English. This will help international students prepare for the SAT/TOEFL tests and will aid in the social transition to college life.
3. **Begin Early** – Often the college planning process for international students is more involved and typically requires many steps along with the regular application.
4. **Prepare for Tests** – Adequate SAT and TOEFL scores are necessary for acceptance into college. There are many ways to prepare for these tests. Along with speaking, writing and reading English – there are online resources and preparation classes available to prepare for these tests.
5. **Course Selection** – Take rigorous courses throughout each year of high school. LMH offers many advanced, honors and advanced placement courses. School counselors can serve as a support for course selection.
6. **International students who regularly associate with native English speakers** can score higher on SAT and TOEFL. Many international students make the serious mistake of spending most of their time speaking their first language with students from their own country.

General Timeline

**Recommended Each Year of High School

Grades 9 & 10

- Become familiar with the college admissions process**
- Begin to explore all possibilities, both selective and less selective schools**
- Connect with college representatives when they are visiting LMH**
- Take rigorous courses**
- Read, write and speak English. This is best accomplished by surrounding yourself with native English speakers.**
- Meet with your school counselor**
- Take assessments in October (9th – Terra Nova, 10th – PLAN)
- Attend local college fairs**
- Begin to see what specific colleges require for admissions. This includes SAT scores, TOEFL scores, and other requirements.**
- Take career and personality assessments**

Grade 11

- Take PSAT in October
- Take SAT twice in the spring semester (once in January and again near the end of the school year)
- Take TOEFL – Near the end of your junior year (before returning to your home country) is probably a good time.
- Attend and participate in Shadow Day and College/Career Fair

- Determine which colleges are a good fit for **you** – start to narrow down your list
- Start working on a college essay
- Consider who you will ask to write recommendations
- Start developing a college resume
- Plan for potential summer college visits and/or college camps
- Request applications from your list of suitable/realistic colleges
- Have a good understanding of the admissions requirements for your suitable/realistic colleges

Grade 12

- Follow the more detailed “College Planning Calendar for Seniors” on the LMH website
- You should come into your senior year with already having an SAT and TOEFL score
- If you want to take the SAT and TOEFL again, you need to complete this early in the senior year
- When meeting with your school counselor in September, you should have a list of realistic schools – take note of the admission deadlines (consider early decision or early action)
- Completed applications by Thanksgiving which include:
 - Application
 - Student Essay
 - Test Scores
 - Transcript (if you transferred into high school from your home country, some colleges will require your high school transcript from your home country along with your transcript from LMH)
 - Recommendations
 - Family’s Financial Documents
 - Portfolio (typically for music or art students)
 - If taken, AP scores (scores should be sent directly through the College Board’s website)
- Process financial aid and scholarship possibilities with the college’s international advisor