

## COLLEGE COUNSELING TIMELINES: PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

### NINTH GRADE

1. Begin mapping out your curriculum plan for all four years in the Upper School. Take English, math, science, history, and world language classes; if appropriate, take **honors and/or Advanced Placement** classes.
2. Pursue 2-3 **extracurricular activities** which you enjoy; also pursue those out-of-school activities which are important to you (scouts, volunteer work, community service, dance, piano, etc.)
3. Become involved in **leadership roles** in your activities; take advantage of leadership opportunities available to you.
4. Begin to familiarize yourself with general college requirements. Check out college websites.
5. When possible, talk with college representatives who visit Darlington.
6. **Work hard** in all of your classes! **Read more** - this will improve your standardized test scores!
7. Take the **PSAT** in October for experience with standardized testing.
8. Make good use of your summer; get a job, go to camp or work as a camp counselor, travel, attend a summer program, etc. You will find that these experiences may provide material for your college application essay(s).
9. Make use of family trips to take a first look at colleges.
10. Use **Scoir** to explore colleges and search for those that match your interests and abilities.
11. **Parents:** begin **financial planning** for college now! Don't wait! Investigate college costs, savings plans, etc., and begin saving now if you haven't already.