



Our Lady of the Elms High School

College Planning Guide

Freshman Year

[It is never too early!]

- _____ Focus on academics; build strong language, mathematics, and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.
- _____ Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.
- _____ Study hard and earn your best grades possible.
- _____ Join extra-curricular activities and become involved.
- _____ Create your Naviance account, our college web-based system, and become familiar with all it can do for you.
- _____ Research careers and take the StrengthsExplorer and Career Interest Profiler on Naviance.
- _____ Build awareness of colleges and admission requirements.
- _____ Observe upper-class students' and older siblings' preparations for college.
- _____ Know the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] requirements if you want to play college sports.
- _____ Organize a family plan to explore paying for college.
- _____ Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record. Naviance's "About Me" tab allows you to build your resume.
- _____ Consider summer enrichment programs.
- _____ See your counselor.