



## **FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE**

Your College Prep Timeline



## Now you're in high school—

your first major step toward deciding what you want to do with your future. It can be intimidating. The Princeton Review has compiled a **step-by-step timeline** so you know what you need to do and when you need to do it to **reach your goals**.



# Your College Prep Timeline: **Freshman**

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## **Challenge yourself.**

Freshman year is the time to focus on getting good grades. If you figure out how to get good grades now, it puts you on the right track for the rest of high school. If you need help with homework and building your GPA, our expert tutors are only a click away with our 24/7 Homework Help service. Get started at [PrincetonReview.com/HomeworkHelp](https://www.princetonreview.com/homeworkhelp).



## **Don't take extra tests—not even the PSAT®.**

That may seem counterintuitive coming from The Princeton Review, but freshman year is a time to get acclimated, not add the stress and worry of taking unnecessary tests. Instead, focus on getting used to the new and exciting challenges you'll experience in high school.



## **Build your vocabulary.**

Now's the time to start expanding your word knowledge. No matter which test you end up taking, vocabulary is going to help you score better. The Princeton Review's book *Word Smart* is an easy way to get started.



## **Choose a few extracurricular activities.**

Don't clutter your schedule with a ton of activities—colleges would much rather see you passionate about a few worthwhile endeavors than marginally involved with a ton of clubs. Colleges also love to see students demonstrate leadership skills, so choose activities where you can grow and possibly take on a leadership role.

# Your College Prep Timeline: **Sophomore**

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## **Practice with the PSAT.**

The PSAT is optional during sophomore year. If you want to take it, intensive preparation isn't necessary, but we do offer several prep options that are a relatively relaxed way to become a skilled test taker.



## **Sit for SAT Subject Tests™ right after you finish the related classes.**

Many selective colleges require you to take one-hour Subject Tests. To get the best results, take them immediately after you finish the related class in school, when the material is fresh in your mind.

Visit [PrincetonReview.com/SubjectTests](https://PrincetonReview.com/SubjectTests).



## **In May, take AP® exams for the AP classes you've taken.**

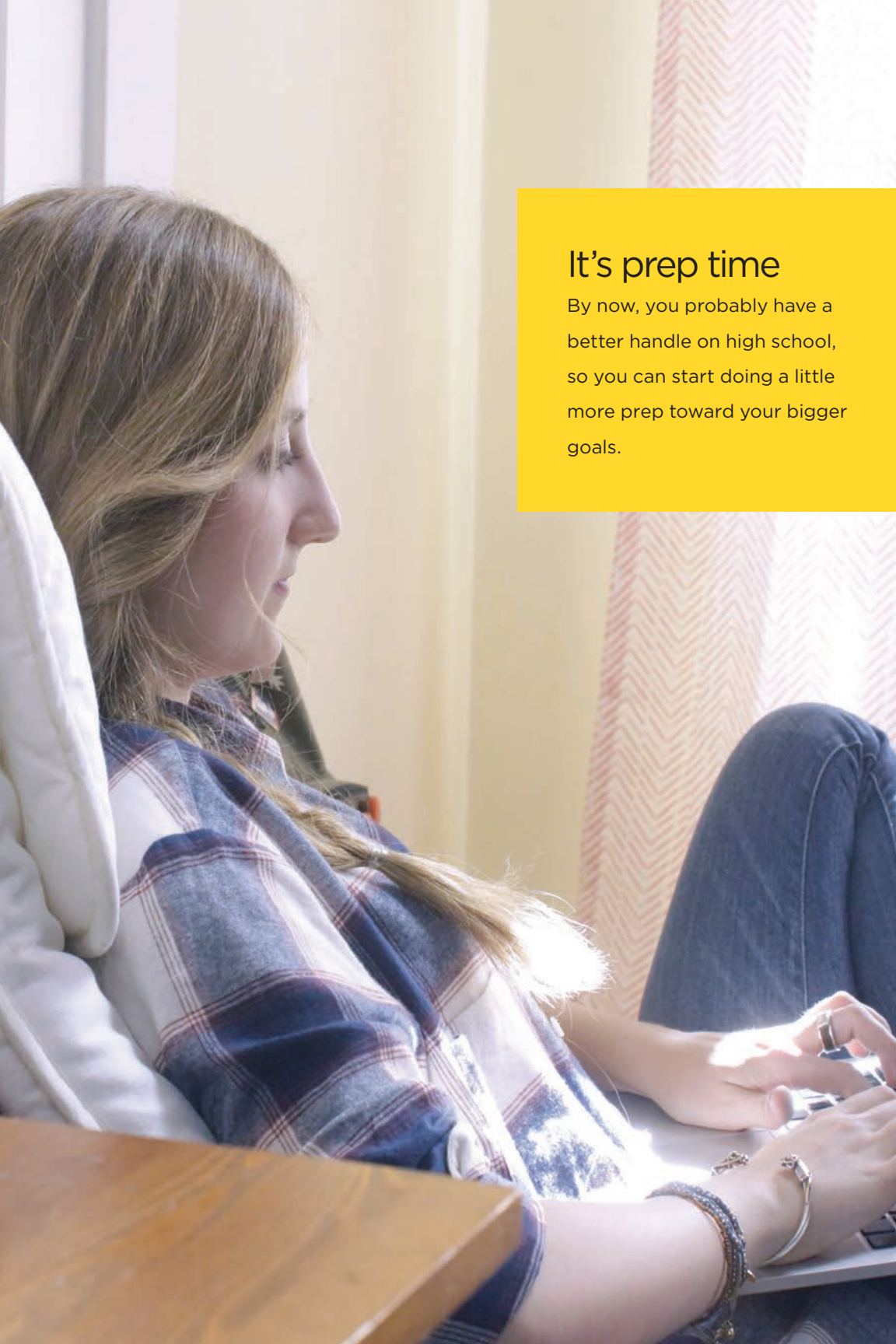
Good performances on AP exams are one indicator for admissions officers of your potential for achieving in college. More than 1,400 colleges and universities accept high scores on AP exams for course credits, helping you save time and money.



## **The summer after sophomore year, start preparing for the SAT® and/or ACT®.**

With no academics or extracurriculars busying up your summer schedule, you can take a low-key approach toward getting ready for the SAT and/or ACT with a prep course or a private tutor. Plus, it will help you improve your junior year PSAT scores, which can put you in the running for scholarships like the National Merit® Scholarship program.





## It's prep time

By now, you probably have a better handle on high school, so you can start doing a little more prep toward your bigger goals.

# FAQs: Freshman and Sophomore Years

## Should I start prepping for the ACT or SAT?

Short answer: not yet. Long answer: during freshman year, get used to your new high school. Choose clubs and activities that you want to be involved in and focus on academics. Start your test prep the summer between sophomore and junior years.

## What can I do now?

Read! Read anything you're interested in—newspapers, magazine articles, novels, whatever you enjoy most. This will help improve your reading skills and comprehension, which will help you in school and on your college admissions tests.

## What about clubs and activities—how many should I join?

There's no magic number. Colleges would rather see you heavily involved in only a few activities than marginally involved in a bunch. Pick a few clubs or sports you like and plan to stick with them throughout high school.

## How do I get a great GPA?

It's important to start building great grades freshman and sophomore years. If you want to stay on track, help is just a click away. The Princeton Review's Homework Help powered by Tutor.com provides 24/7 access to an online academic tutor for help in math, science, languages and more.



Go to [PrincetonReview.com/HomeworkHelp](https://PrincetonReview.com/HomeworkHelp) to connect with a tutor 24/7 and help boost your GPA.



## Tip for **Sophomores**

The World History Subject Test focuses on non-European cultures. So if you're coming out of AP European History, you'll struggle if you don't prepare.

# The Princeton Review

## Can Help You Reach Your Goals

For more than 30 years, students and their families have trusted The Princeton Review to help them get into their dream schools.

**We help students succeed in high school and beyond by giving them resources for better grades, better test scores and stronger college applications.** Our proven methodology gives you test-taking strategies and a guaranteed better score.†

With a range of options, including one-on-one private tutoring, semi-private and traditional classes, and online prep, The Princeton Review offers the flexibility to fit your schedule and learning style.



Test Prep Courses



Private Tutoring



On-Demand Homework Help



Admission Counseling



Best-Fit College



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