

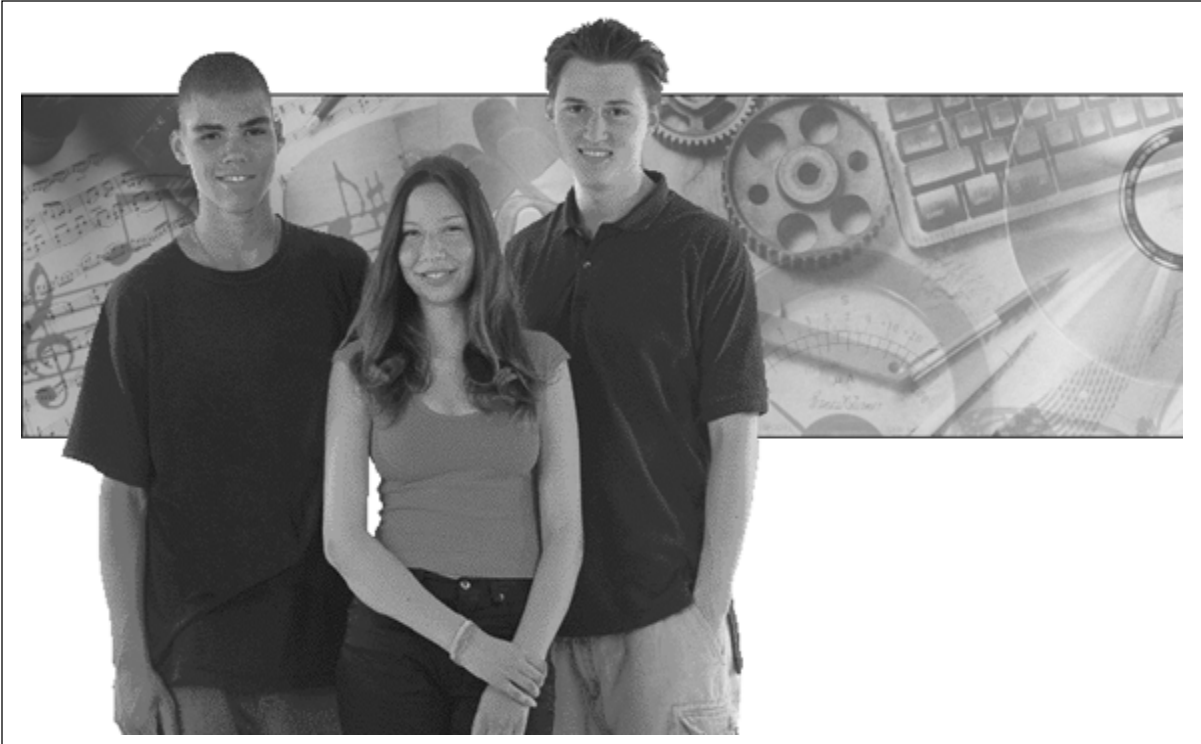


2004

CX Online™ User Guide

A step-by-step
guide for Students

Explore • Plan • Apply



Module 7:

Staying on Top of College Application
Requirements with the Student Planner

Module 7: Staying on Top of College Application Requirements with the Student Planner

From the **Check Out Majors** tab, choose the **Student Planner**.

Whether you will be off to college soon or have a few years yet to go, the **Planner** can help set you up for academic success.

From maintaining your grades, taking SAT, ACT, and/or AP exams, and financing your college tuition, you'll find a general list of things you should do to prepare for college acceptance, as well as specific things you should be focusing on each year, starting as early as 8th grade.

Use the **Planner** to also look ahead to the next year so you can get a jump on things, and use the *Checklist* to make sure you haven't missed anything critical in your current year. It is never too late to start planning for a successful future.

The screenshot shows the Bridges.com CX Online Student Planner interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for HOME, explore CAREERS, check out MAJORS, and get the ANSWERS. A search bar and a GP logo are also present. Below the navigation bar, there is a sidebar with a list of options: Introduction, 8th Grade, 9th Grade, 10th Grade, 11th Grade (selected), 12th Grade, and Checklist. The main content area is titled "Student Planner" and "11th Grade". It features a pencil icon and a list of tasks for the year. The tasks are organized by month: August, September, October, November, December, January, and February. Each month has a list of specific actions to take.

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Student Planner

11th Grade

- Maintaining your grades during your junior year is especially important. You should be doing at least two hours of homework each night and participating in study groups. Using a computer can be a great tool for organizing your activities and achieving the grades you want.
- Talk to your guidance counselor (or teachers, if you don't have access to a guidance counselor) about the following:
 - Availability of and enrollment in AP classes
 - Schedules for the PSAT, SAT I and II, ACT, and AP exams
 - Discuss why you should take these exams and how they could benefit you
 - Determine which exams you will take (You can always change your mind)
 - Sign up and prepare for the exams you've decided to take
 - Ask for a preview of your academic record and profile, determine what gaps or weaknesses there are, and get suggestions on how to strengthen your candidacy for the schools in which you are interested
 - Determine what it takes to gain admission to the college(s) of your choice, in addition to GPA and test score requirements

August:

- Obtain schedules and forms for the SAT I, SAT II, ACT, and AP exams.

September:

- Register for the PSAT exam offered in October. Remember that when you take the PSAT in your junior year, the scores will count towards the National Achievement Program (and it is good practice for the SAT I).

October:

- Take the PSAT. Narrow your list of colleges to include a few colleges with requirements at your current GPA, a few with requirements above your current GPA, and at least one with requirements below your GPA. Your list should contain eight to 12 schools you are seriously considering. Start researching your financial aid options as well.
- Begin scheduling interviews with admissions counselors. If possible, schedule tours of the school grounds on the same days. You and your parent(s) may want to visit the colleges and universities during spring break and summer vacation, so that you do not have to miss school. Some high schools consider a campus visit an excused absence, however. You may be able to schedule interviews and visits during the school year, without any penalties.

November:

- Review your PSAT results with your counselor to identify your strengths and determine the areas you may need to improve upon.

December:

- You will receive your scores from the October PSAT. Depending on the results, you may want to consider signing up for an SAT preparatory course. Many high schools offer short-term preparatory classes or seminars on the various exams, which tell the students what to expect and can actually help to boost their scores.

January:

- Tour campuses to further narrow your list of colleges to match your personality, GPA, and test scores.

February:

- Register for the March SAT or the April ACT tests. Find out from each college the deadlines for applying for admission and which tests to take. Make sure your test dates give colleges ample time to receive test scores. It is a good idea to take the SAT or ACT in the spring to allow you time to review your results and retake the exams in the fall of your senior year, if necessary.



Achieve education and career success

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