

College Baseball Recruiting Timeline

Freshman year

Work hard in school!

Summer before Sophomore year

Play on a summer team if you can

Sophomore year

Work hard in school!

Summer before Junior year

Play on a summer team if you can

In consultation with your high school and summer team coaches and your parents, make a list of colleges you might be interested in attending. From the baseball perspective, your grades and test scores will affect your options at least as much as your baseball skills.

Consider attending one or two baseball camps or showcases. You are unlikely to receive much if any notice from coaches at this point, but the experience will help you down the road.

Junior year

Work hard in school!

Visit a few colleges, ideally at a time when school is in session. If you plan to be on campus, you may want to write to the baseball coach to ask if he would have time to meet with you. Be aware that baseball coaches are busy people and, especially if you visit during the spring, this may not be possible.

Spring of Junior year

Take SATs in the winter/spring (it is best to have taken them by March). Coaches will want to know your grades and test scores. Your academic record will determine whether you can be admitted to their college and thus are someone they can consider.

In consultation with your high school and summer team coaches and your parents, update the list of colleges you might be interested in attending.

Decide which showcases and camps you will attend during the summer. Some of the more popular showcases and camps fill up early, so if you know you want to attend a particular one, do not put off registering until the last minute.

Prepare a one-page resume that summarizes your academic and athletic credentials to send to coaches. Your resume should include contact information for your high school and summer team coaches, as college coaches may want to talk with them.

Send a short letter to selected coaches to express your interest in the school and in learning more about the baseball program, tell them which showcases and camps you plan to attend, and say you hope to have a chance to talk with them. Attach a copy of your one-page resume.

Consider having a short video made to highlight your baseball skills. This does not have to be elaborate. If you are a pitcher, it should show you from several different angles throwing your different pitches. If you are a position player, it should show you at the plate, again from several different angles, and fielding balls. Players used to send out tapes or DVDs with their footage, but today it is probably more convenient for coaches to have your video posted to You Tube.

Summer before senior year

Play on a summer team if you can.

Attend selected showcases and camps. Be open to considering expressions of interest from schools that may not previously have been on your list.

Senior year

Keep working hard in school!

Apply to a set of colleges that you would be happy to attend even if you were not able to play baseball there.

Know that there is a college out there for everyone and there will be one for you too!