



Junior Year College Checklist

Fall (September – December)

- Talk with your counselor about the year ahead. Confirm that your courses will put you on the right track for college admission. Work hard academically, junior year is a very important year!
- Ask about dates for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
- Start developing a resume-a record of your accomplishments, activities, and work experience. This will be an important part of your college application.
- If you haven't participated in many activities outside of class, now is the time to sign up. Consider clubs at school, team sports, leadership roles, or involvement in a community group.
- Take the PSAT. Taking the test as a junior will qualify you for some scholarship consideration and identify you to colleges as a potential applicant.
- Begin to prepare for the ACT or SAT. Plan to take at least one of these tests in the spring.

Winter (January-February)

- Work with your counselor to set your senior schedule. Enroll in the most challenging courses.
- Register for a spring SAT / ACT at www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org.
- Explore summer opportunities on college campuses – a great way to find out what college life is all about!

Spring (March – May)

- Start researching colleges and universities. Go to college fairs and open houses. Learn as much as you can about colleges online.

- Begin planning college visits. Try to visit colleges near you over spring break. Include a large, medium size, and small campus.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Go online to request additional information.
- Take a look at some college applications. Make note of all the pieces of information you will need to compile and find a system that helps keep you organized. Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults who could write letters of recommendation.
- Consider lining up a summer job or internship.

Summer (June-August)

- Continue investigating colleges and narrow down your list. Your goal is to know where you want to apply at the beginning of your senior year.
- Schedule campus visits at the schools that interest you.
- Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August.
- Start brainstorming and working on your college essay. Some essay topics will be already be released.

Source: NACAC: Preparing for College: Junior Checklist.