



COLLEGE PLANNING FOR JUNIORS

Fall

- Make an appointment to meet with your school counselor as early as possible.
- Examine your courses for the year. Be sure to select the high school courses required for college admission.
- Be extremely focused and motivated. Colleges pay close attention to grades in your junior.
- Be involved in community service and public service. GPA and test scores are not the only thing schools evaluate.
- Consider taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These are high school courses which will count for college credit.
- Take the PSAT which is given in October (if you have not done so already).
- Register and prepare for the SAT/ACT as early as possible. It is important to take the test now; so if you don't score as high as you would like; you will have time to retake the test during the spring.
- Research and learn about colleges by looking on their websites. List the college features that interest you.
- Build your college list.
- Generate a file to manage your college search
- Discuss budgeting and how to pay for college with your family. Research how to obtain financial aid with parents/guardians.
- If you are interested in sports, drama, music, art, etc., start gathering information for your portfolio.

Spring

- Remain focused and keep your grades up.
- Narrow your list of colleges and target the remaining schools to find out about their application requirements.
- Take the SAT, ACT or both in the spring. You can retake these tests in the fall if you don't score as high as you would like.
- Check your school's admission standards against your grades and test scores.

- Make a binder to hold all of your college documentation. Include sections for a calendar for college applications deadlines, entrance requirements, contact information, high school transcript, letters of recommendations, test scores, financial aid information and budgets, and community service, etc.
- Visit colleges and take college tours to upgrade your list of schools during the spring and summer. You can speak with students and observe classes.
- Check out grants and scholarships at your potential schools.
- Continue to evaluate potential schools. Talk to family members, recent graduates or teachers who graduated from those schools.
- If you are in AP classes, you can register for the AP exams that are given in May.
- If you are an athlete and plan to continue playing a sport in college, register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in the summer at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net .
- Find a part-time job, summer job to offset college tuition; or participate in a summer internship, volunteer position, and summer camp or college program. Colleges look for these characteristics.
- Generate a résumé to record your accomplishments, activities and work experience; beginning with your freshmen year of high school.