

Junior year checklist

Fall–Winter

College planning

- Meet with your college counselor about your coursework and college plans
- Become or stay involved in extracurricular activities
- Check college websites for admission requirements
- Create a professional email address to use when applying for scholarships, registering for college entrance exams, and completing college applications
- Attend college fairs and/or college information events
- Meet with college and university admissions recruiters when they visit your high school

College search

- Tour local campuses and visit non-local colleges during winter and spring breaks; consider campus size, location and academic programs
- Try online college fairs and virtual campus tours (www.collegeweeklive.com, <https://campustours.com>)
- Use college search sites to explore your college options (www.cappex.com)
- Prepare your college list, and sort by reach, match and safety schools

Career exploration

- Attend a local career fair and/or a career technical education fair
- Take an online career inventory to help connect your interests and skills with a career (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers>)
- Make a list of careers that may interest you and research the education level required for each profession
- Talk with professionals in careers you are curious about and ask about their work
- Enhance skills that would be useful in a career of interest through your extracurricular activities

Spring

College entrance exams

- Register and take your first college entrance exam during spring semester so you can take it again fall of senior year, if you want
 - Many campuses may be test optional, check <http://fairtest.org> for the most updated list
 - SAT, with essay option SAT (www.collegeboard.com); free SAT test prep help (www.khanacademy.org)
 - ACT, with essay option ACT (www.act.org); free ACT test prep help (<https://academy.act.org>)
 - Subject tests, recommended by some colleges for certain majors (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>)

Academics

- Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
- Plan your senior year schedule with your counselor
- Review your college preparation coursework and GPA with a college advisor
- Create a list of teachers, coaches and other mentors who will be able to write personalized letters of recommendation

Prepare for summer

- Apply for summer jobs or internships
- Seek volunteer opportunities in your field of interest
- Register for community college courses and earn college credit while in high school, also referred to as concurrent/dual enrollment
- Review your SAT/ACT test scores to determine if retesting is needed
- Plan a test preparation schedule if you plan to retake the exams (www.khanacademy.org, <https://academy.act.org>)

Summer

College application season begins

- Check websites of colleges on your list, review admissions application process and timeline
- Draft your application essays and/or personal statement; work with a college advisor for feedback
- Prepare a scholarship resume and/or a “brag sheet” that includes all your non-academic activities and honors
- Study for summer/fall college entrance exams (SAT or ACT) if you plan to retake them
- Communicate with college admission representatives for questions you may have

College finances

- Learn about the types of financial aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types>)
- Visit College Board's BigFuture EFC Calculator to see how financial aid can help pay for your education (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator>)
- Search and apply for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- Learn how money works; take a financial literacy course (www.fdic.gov/moneysmart)
- Use the College Scorecard to compare costs, degree programs and outcomes for the colleges you are interested in (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>)
- Open a bank account and save money