

Junior College Checklist

FALL

- Maintain and improve grades during your junior year. Grades can make the difference in whether or not you receive scholarships and grants.
- Register and take the PSAT in October. Your junior year scores can be used for National Merit Scholarship consideration.
- Begin researching colleges. Look at websites, search sites, online campus tours, student reviews.
- Take a career assessment to begin exploring a major or a career you would like. Some include:
 - <https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/careersAssess>
 - <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
 - <https://www.yourfreecareertest.com/>
 - <https://www.princetonreview.com/quiz/career-quiz>
 - <https://www.actprofile.org/>
- Get involved if you haven't already! Attend club meetings or consider joining a sports team. Look for volunteer opportunities.
- Make sure you are getting to know your counselor, they are a huge wealth of college and career information
- There have been increasing concerns about how students' social media image could be affecting their college and employment prospects. Check out the considerations and tips [here](#) and [here](#) to be more social media savvy!

WINTER

- Take a free practice test for the ACT and SAT to see on which test you perform better. Sign up for a prep class if you are taking the early spring exams OR use the free resources online at Khan Academy and ACT Academy.

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- Fee waivers for standardized tests are available for students check with your guidance counselor to see if you qualify.
- Investigate scholarship and financial aid options. Discuss your family's financial resources and review plans for financial aid. Attend Financial Aid Programs
- Continue researching colleges and universities that interest you. Make a list of your Top 10. Decide which colleges that you might like to visit and prepare questions for upcoming tours.
- Review the admissions requirements for the colleges that interest you and make sure you are taking the appropriate courses to meet their entrance requirements. Make a timeline of deadlines to remind yourself when things need to be sent in.

SPRING

- Look for a summer job, volunteer opportunity, or other enriching experience to boost your resume
- Register to take the SAT (www.collegeboard.org) and/or the ACT (www.actstudent.org)
- Continue to research colleges and universities that interest you. Use a search tool like Big Future (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>). Make a list of your top 10.
- Visit those colleges and attend college fairs.
- Get on college mailing lists so you can be notified if admissions reps will be holding any info sessions or attending any college fairs nearby
- Create a professional email address that you will later use for your applications
- Think about which teachers you would want to write a college recommendation letter; give them a heads up that you will be asking them in the fall

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SUMMER

- Continue to review catalogs and admissions information from your top-choice schools
- If you are planning on taking the SAT or ACT again in the fall, begin reviewing or take a prep course
- Brainstorm and outline a few essay ideas.
- Create a resume of your high school activities and recognitions
- Create a binder or spreadsheet to keep all of your information and application forms organized
- Begin working on your applications before the stresses of senior year kick into full gear. Save all your application account usernames and passwords in a safe place!