

JUNIOR YEAR PLANNING STEPS FOR COLLEGE



Month - to - Month Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 1) Buy a notebook or open a file for use for college information during the next two years, so that everything will be in one place.
- 2) Make a date with your parents to begin talking seriously about college plans (Consider: tuition costs, location, size of college, programs of study, coed or single-sex, social life, in or out of state, public or private). Make a list of preferences in your notebook.
- 3) Attend any available College Fair, or College Information Night.
- 4) Research colleges and scholarships online or through Naviance Student.
- 5) Register for the PSAT

OCTOBER

- 1) Take PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test). These scores are used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to identify students who qualify for recognition in its scholarship competitions, as well as by your school.
- 2) Make appointment with your school counselor to discuss your progress towards meeting college requirements and grade point average.

NOVEMBER

1. PSAT scores arrive. (To interpret results, add a zero to your score and it should be within 50 points of what you would have scored on the SAT)
2. You should now have your PSAT scores, class rank, and GPA. You should also have an idea of what general qualities you are looking for in a college. The next step is to match your qualifications and interests with the college admissions requirements through the use of QuickMatch in the Naviance Student program, or through individual college guidebooks.
3. List ten or fifteen possible choices in your notebook, or on your College Lists in the Naviance Student program. Match up your PSAT (with the zero added for SAT estimation), grade point average, and class rank with the college requirements.

Beware of Scholarship scams!

If a site requires money to apply, or to receive a list of scholarships, it is usually a scam, as that information can be found elsewhere for FREE!

[The Best Scholarship Search Platforms](#)

DECEMBER

1. Narrow your list of college preferences to ten.
2. Research each college regarding admissions requirements, freshman profile, application deadlines and name of currently enrolled students, as well as alumnus from your area.
3. Your Naviance Student account has many tools to help you narrow your choices to those that best fit your needs.

JANUARY

1. Start thinking about an interesting summer job, college course, or travel experience.
2. As the college materials begin to arrive, study them and list pros and cons for each.
3. Students interested in U.S. Military Service Academies should begin to inquire about the admission process.
4. Register for the SAT.

FEBRUARY

1. Question and talk more with parents and counselors, local college representatives, alumni, current students, and anyone else with personal knowledge of the colleges on your list.
2. Take ASVAB (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery).
3. Consider registering for the ACT (American College Testing) to gain more insight into your academic strengths and weaknesses.
4. Discuss college admissions strategies and questions with your counselor.

MARCH

1. Keep talking and asking questions. Most college students will be home for spring break, so this is a good time to find answers to some of your specific questions about college.
2. Receive ASVAB results if taken.
3. Register for SAT if you have not already, or if you wish to take it again.
4. Check with your counselor and guidance tech for information on scholarships that are available to you.

APRIL

1. Tour colleges during your spring break if possible. If not, take video tours of the colleges that you are most interested in.
2. ACT test is offered again.
3. If interested in Military Academies, begin the application process now.
4. Begin studying for any Advanced Placement tests that you will be taking in May.

MAY

1. SAT and Subject tests are offered for registration.
2. A.P. Exams are administered during the month of May; do your best.

JUNE

1. SAT and Subject test is offered.
2. Receive SAT scores.
3. Achievement Test scores arrive.
4. ACT test offered.
5. Focus on reading to further develop your vocabulary and strengthen your comprehension in preparation for the SAT / ACT.
6. Review and strengthen Math skills.
7. ATHLETES: Complete NCAA clearinghouse forms and send high school transcripts at the end of your Junior year.

JULY/AUGUST

1. Enjoy your summer; read, work, travel, take a college course, or volunteer - each option will help you be prepared for admissions next year.
2. Narrow your list of colleges down to the five to ten that you would like to visit, and call for a tour or interview appointment.
3. Speak with college students who are home for the summer about their college experiences.