



## Post-Secondary Planning

Junior Year

### High School & Beyond—XELLO

Students are required to complete the High School & Beyond requirement each year which is done through XELLO. Please visit our Xello Page - <https://lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling/high-school-beyond-plan>. Different activities are added each year, and students must stay on track to graduate.

#### Fall

- Keep your grades up - admissions counselors look closely at your junior year grades.
- Stay involved and take on leadership roles in your extracurricular activities.
- Increase college research. Look at their websites. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college.
- Consider taking the PSAT again in October. (Dependent on Covid restrictions)
- Attend virtual college visits and don't be afraid to contact college representatives for more information.
  - Ask questions. This is the perfect time to learn about specific universities that interest you.
- Attend a virtual college fair presented by NACAC <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/>.
- Prep for the ACT or SAT, and review winter/spring test dates at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). (Check to see if the schools you are applying to are going test-optional)
  - Check out the SAT/ACT Test Prep in Xello.
  - You can also check out SAT/ACT prep books from the College & Career Center.
- Think about teachers, coaches, community members or employers you can ask for recommendations next year.
- Think about your reasons for going to college or going directly into a specific trade. What are your goals? What learning opportunities are most important? Do your college plans include career plans?
- Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.

#### Winter

- Update your college list and use XELLO to refer back to your top choices for information.
- Attend virtual college fairs. You may be able to narrow your choices or add a college to your list.
- AGAIN: Focus on maintaining good grades.

#### Spring

- Consider taking the ACT/SAT (check to see if the schools you're applying to are going test-optional)
- Have a discussion with your parents about the colleges and careers you are interested in. Examine financial resources and gather information about financial aid. The College & Career Center has lots of resources.
- Ask teachers, coaches, community members, or employers to write your recommendation over Summer.
- Inquire about personal interviews at your favorite colleges, call or write for early summer appointments.
- Visit the College & Career Center for on-campus summer programs for high school students.
- Meet with your counselor in your junior meeting to review senior year course selection and graduation requirements.
- Contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- Apply for a summer job. Get yourself prepared to pay for college applications and testing fees in the fall.
- Start to gather documents for financial aid: Be sure to keep a copy of your/your guardian's tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1 of your Senior year.

#### Summer

- Be active; get a job, internship, or volunteer to boost your resume.
- Go online to request college view books, application forms, scholarship information, and financial aid information from your selected college list. (Make sure all applications are dated for the appropriate filing year as a new freshman.)
- Visit the campuses of your top college choices.
- Gather application materials from colleges.
- Start brainstorming for admission essays.
- Start your list of colleges. By the end of summer, you should have narrowed your list down to 10-12.
- Common Application – Many colleges use the Common Application, found online. You can register a Common App account and become familiar with it over summer.
- Register for the **SAT or ACT (check with your school to see if they've gone test-optional)**
- Planning on playing a sport in college? Register for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center if you plan to continue playing a sport in college: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>.
  - Read the info on the website to make sure you are meeting all necessary academic requirements.