

COLLEGE PREP CALENDAR FOR JUNIORS

MONTH	MONTHLY GOALS	NOTES
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend all programs and seminars such as College Nights, Career Fairs, Financial Aid, and Pre-AP/AP Parent Nights presented by your school's guidance office. • Meet with all college admissions representatives that visit your school. Get their card and email them with questions or just to say, "Thank You," for coming to your school. • Meet with your guidance counselor to review your courses for this year and plan your schedule for senior year. Plan to take a fourth year of rigorous high school Pre-AP or AP math and science courses. Colleges are more interested in the courses you are taking your senior year than your GPA. • Register for the October PSAT through the counseling department in your high school. The PSAT is a preliminary test that will prepare you for the SAT Reasoning Test. • Save samples of your best work for your academic portfolio. • Update your extra-curricular resume. Stay involved. Participate in student government, debate, theater, dance, band, athletics, etc. Look for leadership positions. College admission officers will factor in these activities when evaluating your application. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities. 	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs. So, even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still a good idea to take the PSAT. The more times you take standardized tests, the more familiar you will become with the format and the types of questions asked. If you wish to receive free information from colleges, indicate on the PSAT test answer form that you want to participate in the Student Search. • Tour colleges and universities during the fall and spring semesters. Consider using teacher in-service days so you are able to visit on a week day. Attend a class or two, sporting event, theater performance, or other events taking place on campus. Spend the night on campus if possible. Call in advance and schedule your tour to make the best use of your time. • Review Financial Aid websites such as www.studentaid.ed.gov 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior year grades are extremely important in the college admission process, because they are a measure of how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses. Grades also are used to determine scholarships and grants for which you may be eligible. So put in the extra effort and keep those grades up! • If you will require financial aid, start researching your options for grants, scholarships and work-study programs. Make an appointment with your guidance counselor or start by visiting NACAC's Web Resources for the College-Bound to do research on your own using the Internet. 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During December you should receive the results of your PSAT. Read your score report and consult your school counselor to determine how you might improve on future standardized tests. The PSAT is excellent preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test, which you will take in the spring. 	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet and use the college resources in the guidance office or library. • Ask your parents for your Social Security number (required on many college applications). If you were never 	

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	issued a Social Security number, contact the closest Social Security office as soon as possible to obtain a number.	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your preliminary list of colleges. Discuss whether your initial list of colleges meets your needs and interests (academic program, size, location, cost, etc.) and whether you are considering colleges where you are likely to be admitted. You should be optimistic and realistic when applying to colleges. 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register on line for the SAT Reasoning Test www.collegeboard.com and the ACT with the optional Writing section www.act.org in April, May or June. Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT by doing the SAT/ACT practice tests available on line or in the counseling office. Use the Internet to request admission literature and financial aid information from the colleges on your list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid. 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically. Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate. Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests. 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get a jump start on summer activities-consider pursuing a summer enrichment program at a college/university, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. Visit colleges. Phone to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly! Remember to take the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT with optional writing. 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents. Create a list of what you are looking for in a college/university so you will be happy for 4 to 5 years in that location. Do you want a large or small institution? Near a large city such as Dallas, Houston, Austin, or more rural area similar to College Station? Do you prefer a warm or cold climate—do you mind stomping through snow to get to class? Are you okay with dorm style living or do you need a campus with apartment style residences? What are the off campus living options? Do you want a school with “Greek Life,” or more club and organization oriented? What about sports- Division I, II, or III? Take the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests and the ACT with optional writing <u>if you did not take</u> 	

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	<u>the April or May</u> exams.	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you. 	
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities. Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft application essays; collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes. If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships. When you begin your senior year-early September complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form if you hope to play Division I or II sports. (This form cannot be mailed until you complete your sixth semester of high school and requires a transcript) 	

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