

11th Grade Checklist

Junior year is a key year in the college planning process because you will be taking standardized tests, narrowing down your college list, and learning more about financial aid. In addition, you will need to stay involved in your high school courses and activities.

FALL

- **Stay on track with your classes and grades**
 - Meet with your counselor to see what courses you still need to take. Check on your class rank and GPA. Even if your grades have not been that good so far, it is never too late to improve. Colleges like to see an upward trend.
- **Take the PSAT**
 - Taking the test qualifies you for the National Merit Scholarship Program, which means you could earn money for college. In addition, it is a good way to practice for the SAT. Students that earn a qualifying score on the exam may be eligible to participate in the scholarship program. All 11th grade students at Godley High School will be registered to take the PSAT.
- **Evaluate your education options**
 - Now is the time to follow a more specific path. Decide whether you want to pursue full-time employment, further your education or training, or pursue a career in the military. If you are interested in attending a military academy, talk to your school counselor about starting the application process now.
- **Take standardized tests**
 - Register for and take the ACT, SAT, or TSIA2.
- **Make sure that you are meeting any special requirements**
 - If you are wanting to play Division I or II sports in college, start the certification process and check with your school counselor to make sure you are taking a core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements. <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

WINTER

- **Stay involved with extracurricular activities**
 - Colleges look for consistency and depth in the non-academic activities that you pursue. Taking on leadership roles and making a commitment to the same groups are more important than trying out tons of new activities each year.
- **Begin narrowing down your college choices**
 - Make sure you have all the information you need about the colleges that you are interested in (entrance requirements, tuition, room and board costs, course offerings, student activities, financial aid, etc.). Then begin comparing the schools by the factors that are most important to you and rank your choices.

- **Prepare a challenging schedule for senior year**

- Meet with your school counselor to determine what classes you will take next year and make sure that you are on track for graduation. When you pick your classes, do not load up on easy electives. Colleges do consider your senior year courses and grades, so stick with a schedule that challenges you.

SPRING

- **Take the SAT**

- Godley High School offers the School-Day SAT. Check with your school counselor for more information.

- **Apply for a summer job or internship**

- Summer employment and internships in fields you are interested in will look appealing on a college application or resume. The money you earn can also be used to help pay application and testing fees in the fall.

- **Set up appointments at your top college choices**

- You will often have to plan ahead when visiting colleges. Call the admissions office to set up a personal interview, tour, and/or a meeting with a professor or coach if you are interested.

SUMMER

- **Visit colleges**

- Visit the campuses of your top five college choices. Take a tour and speak with the admissions and financial aid staff. You may also be able to talk to students if some classes are in session. If you have an interview, be sure to send a thank-you letter to the interviewer once you return home.

- **Get advice from other college students**

- If you have friends or relatives in college, talk to them about what college life is like, especially if they attend a school that you are interested in. Although it is important to hear what the admissions staff has to say about a school, it is also important to get the students' perspective.

- **Start working on your application essays**

- Compose rough drafts of the essays you'll need for your college applications. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you so you can see what to work on. Make any revisions to your application essays and prepare final drafts. Do not forget to proofread your final essays a few times.

- **Make early decision preparations**

- If you plan to apply early decision to any school, take the time to visit the school again and make sure you are willing to commit. If you elect to apply early decision, you should start working on your application as soon as possible because the deadline will be earlier than others.