

JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE

The following is meant to be a general timeline. Every student will be at a different point in this process from now until graduation.

AUGUST

- Do your best to start the school year off strong
- Begin to consider characteristics that are important to you when researching colleges. For example the type of student body, location, campus, travel abroad options, etc. Create an initial list of schools to research based on some of these characteristics.
- Use resources such as NAVIANCE and College Board to search for schools.

SEPTEMBER

- Students may have a list of college(s) which they are interested. They are invited to attend meetings held in the Counseling Center with college admission representatives. Students are required to sign up in the Counseling Center at least a day in advance and get their pass signed by the classroom teacher. Students are responsible for all missed work. Ultimately it is a teacher's decision to allow a student to miss class for these visits. Prepare a list of questions for the admissions representative. Upcoming visits are posted in NAVIANCE. Check the NAVIANCE website for an updated list.
- IEP and 504 students who are eligible for SAT and ACT testing accommodations for standardized testing can speak to their support teacher or the 504 coordinator regarding the application process. Some students may have completed the application process during their sophomore year.
- Attend Academy Night if you are considering applying to one of the following: U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, ROTC, NROTC, or AFROTC.

OCTOBER

- The official PSAT is given during the school day to all 10th and 11th graders on the national testing date.
- Look for college and career related events in the area, such as the Chester County College Fair. In preparation for the fair, continue to research schools and create a list so that you can speak to the college admissions officers.
- Begin to show interest. Access the necessary college information such as catalogs and all application materials (via website, mail, and phone). Speak with your family about arranging visits to various campuses during the fall and spring of your junior year.
- Take advantage of scheduled school breaks to visit colleges.

NOVEMBER

- If interested in a summer enrichment opportunity, begin searching. Information received by the UHS Counseling Center is listed in Naviance. Many applications are due in the spring.

DECEMBER

- Look for email from College Board with PSAT results. Review your PSAT results and determine what prep work you need to do for the SAT. Link your College Board account with Khan Academy for free, personalized SAT prep. www.khanacademy.org .
- Look at the registration dates and test dates if you plan on taking the SAT or ACT Tests in the spring. Aim to take the SAT and/or the ACT at least once by the end of your junior year. Remember that senior year offers you opportunities to test again, but be aware of deadline dates for college applications.
- Reference www.fairtest.org for the list of colleges with TEST OPTIONAL practices

JANUARY

- Course selection time begins. Plan on attending the “Course Selection Night.” Speak with your current teachers about appropriate course selections, and see your school counselor with any questions. Be certain to check academic required/recommended courses for college acceptance.

FEBRUARY

- Invitations are sent regarding the Junior Planning Conference. Please read the letter carefully for important scheduling details and deadlines.
- Complete the Junior Planning Conference Pre-Meeting Questionnaire in Naviance prior to your conference.
- Attend the UHS “College Planning Night.”

MARCH

- Begin to consider teachers who you might ask to write your letters of recommendations for college.
- Continue to refine your list of schools and use any scheduled breaks to visit colleges.

APRIL

- Look ahead at your standardized testing schedule and final exam schedule. Students are very busy in the spring and proper planning can alleviate a lot of stress.

MAY

- AP Exams
- If you are considering playing a sport at the collegiate level, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org for your **initial** eligibility. Your **final** NCAA Eligibility form will be sent after graduation.
- Attend the Mainline College Fair. In preparation for the fair, continue to research schools and create a list so that you can speak to the college admissions officers.
- Approach a teacher and personally request a letter of recommendation. If the teacher agrees to write a letter of recommendation, you **MUST** complete a Teacher Recommendation form. If

this is not completed by the end of your junior year, it is important to communicate with the teacher when you return in the fall of your senior year. You are required to give the teacher your request at least 4 weeks prior to the deadline issued to you, the student, by the Counseling Center.

JUNE

- Do well on finals. This is the last chance you have to impact your final grade and cumulative GPA.

SUMMER- Although it is a break from the daily routine of school, it is necessary that you continue to work on different aspects of the application.

- College applications for the upcoming school year will become available. Identify the specific requirements for individual college applications (see appendix A). This is an excellent time to review the essay requirements and reflect on the prompt.
- Continue to identify characteristics you want in a college and update your college list. Make an honest assessment of your academic and personal profile. Select a reasonable range of realistic and appropriate colleges to research based on academic requirements, majors offered, geographic area, athletics/extracurricular offerings, size, financial considerations, college philosophy/ mission and your personal philosophy.
- Research majors and career choices. Ask yourself, "What should a good program in this major look like?" Research resources offered by professional associations and accrediting organizations related to the major. (For accreditation information, go to <http://www.chea.org/search/default.asp>)
- Continue to access and organize college applications requirements_Colleges have specific requirements regarding application procedures and deadlines. It is your responsibility to be aware of the specific details or procedures, and be prepared to follow the directions. In addition, the UHS Counseling Department has specific requirements which must be followed in order to process your request in a timely and orderly fashion (see page 15).
- Develop your college essay-NOW is the time to look at the various essay requirements for each school. A strong essay can be the turning point for an application. Something that can carry so much weight in an application should not be postponed until the last minute. Use the summer to reflect on the topic colleges have given you to write.
- Complete the Counselor Recommendation Form for your School Counselor. Again, this is a task that requires an investment of your time, reflection and thoughtfulness. This is a vital tool that the school counselor will use to compose your letter of recommendation. The quality of your responses may affect the quality of the letter that can be written. If you want a sincere investment in your letter of recommendation, please begin with a sincere investment on your part as well. Please note that your Counselor Recommendation Form and Parent Information Sheet are due to the Counseling Center no later than September 1st of your senior year.