



Junior Year Packet

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Junior Action Plan

Junior year is when you begin to take action toward your college applications based on the research you have done and the preparations you have made. It is important that you do well academically this year and make the most of every opportunity you have to succeed.

Please note: The transcript you use to apply to college next fall will be your final Junior transcript.

Let's get started:

- ☐ Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and discuss your results with your parents.
- ☐ Talk to college representatives that visit Bishop Snyder High School. See the School Counseling Office or Naviance for dates and times.
- ☐ Continue to consider careers, college majors, and potential post-secondary options. Use Naviance to help!
- ☐ Visit college campuses and take college tours! Make a point to visit schools in which you are interested in attending and speak with students that attend those schools.
- ☐ Attend local college fairs. (Snyder's College Fair, NACAC Fair, etc.)
- ☐ Begin to research financial aid sources. Be aware of the deadlines for scholarships and early admissions to schools (typically October/November of your senior year).
- ☐ Know what tests are required by the post-secondary institutions that you are considering (SAT, ACT, or CLT).
- ☐ Take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring of your junior year! You may take this test more than once to improve your score. Go to www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org for more information.
- ☐ Try to narrow your college choices to five or fewer institutions and request online application materials from those schools.
- ☐ Consider your courses for Senior year. Plan to take academically rigorous courses that are right for you.

Resources to help:

SAT: www.collegeboard.org

ACT: www.act.org

Naviance: student.naviance.com/bjs

Or- Stop by the Office of School Counseling

Get in 2 College

Junior Checklist

- ☐ Have college discussion(s) with your parent(s).
- ☐ Meet with your School Counselor to discuss your goals and plans for college.
- ☐ Are you taking AP classes? Consider a prep book on the subject to assist you.
- ☐ Read, work on vocabulary and keep up your grades.
- ☐ Prepare a list of questions to ask college representatives. What is important to you?
- ☐ Register on college websites to receive their information and attend virtual visits.
- ☐ Sign up for then take any practice tests offered.
- ☐ Make your plan for prepping and actually taking the SAT, ACT, and/or CLT, and set up your account on their sites.
- ☐ Get organized. Set up a file with folders for each college and other materials.
- ☐ Attend college fairs and other meetings offered by your school.
- ☐ Continue searching for scholarships and aid. Research these using the internet.
- ☐ Learn financial aid basics. Know the types of aid and where they come from.
- ☐ Visit colleges. There is no substitute for experiencing the college in session.
- ☐ Review any test results with your counselor.
- ☐ Consider taking the SAT, ACT, and/or CLT in March and June.
- ☐ Start to narrow down your college list and fine-tune your “must haves” in a school.
- ☐ Evaluate your colleges as “Likely/Safety, Target, or Reach”. You need some of each.
- ☐ Plan a productive summer that will enhance your resume.
- ☐ Discuss finances with your family, but don’t eliminate schools based on finances just yet. There is a great deal of aid available.
- ☐ Think about teachers or other people that you might ask for recommendations.
- ☐ Over the summer, research each of your target schools.
- ☐ Download your target schools’ applications and practice filling them out.
- ☐ Brainstorm essay ideas.
- ☐ Talk to people who know about your target schools or went/go there.
- ☐ If you are an athlete, have you registered with the NCAA clearinghouse?
- ☐ Allow time to relax and enjoy your friends and family. It’s all about balance!

Looking Ahead...

Senior Checklist in Approximate Order

Fall or Before

- Continue college discussion(s) with your parent(s).
- Do you have a file bin organized with folders for each?
- Have a final list of colleges where you will apply. 4-8 of them are plenty.
- Review your college plans with your counselor. Solidify your relationship.
- Will you take the SAT or ACT again? If so, register – watch deadlines.
- Be sure you have all your applications downloaded and essays in progress.
- Ask for your letters of recommendation and send thank you's a bit later.
- Can you obtain any private interviews at your target colleges?
- Calendar deadlines for applications and financial aid. What forms are required when?
- Will you consider early action?
- File all applications and keep copies of each and certificates of mailing as needed.
- Be sure all transcripts, test scores and required forms are proofed and sent.

Winter

- Obtain PIN and file FAFSA form (application expected to open by December 1st). You will need family tax information.
- Do any colleges require a mid-year report? (first-semester senior grades)
- Keep up your grades. No Senioritis!

Spring

- As you obtain acceptances, watch for financial aid letters and housing information.
- Register and take any AP tests needed.
- Carefully analyze financial aid offers. Compare and even consider appealing.
- Notify all colleges of your decision and accept one by May 1. Send an applicable deposit.
- Complete your Snyder Senior Plan Form

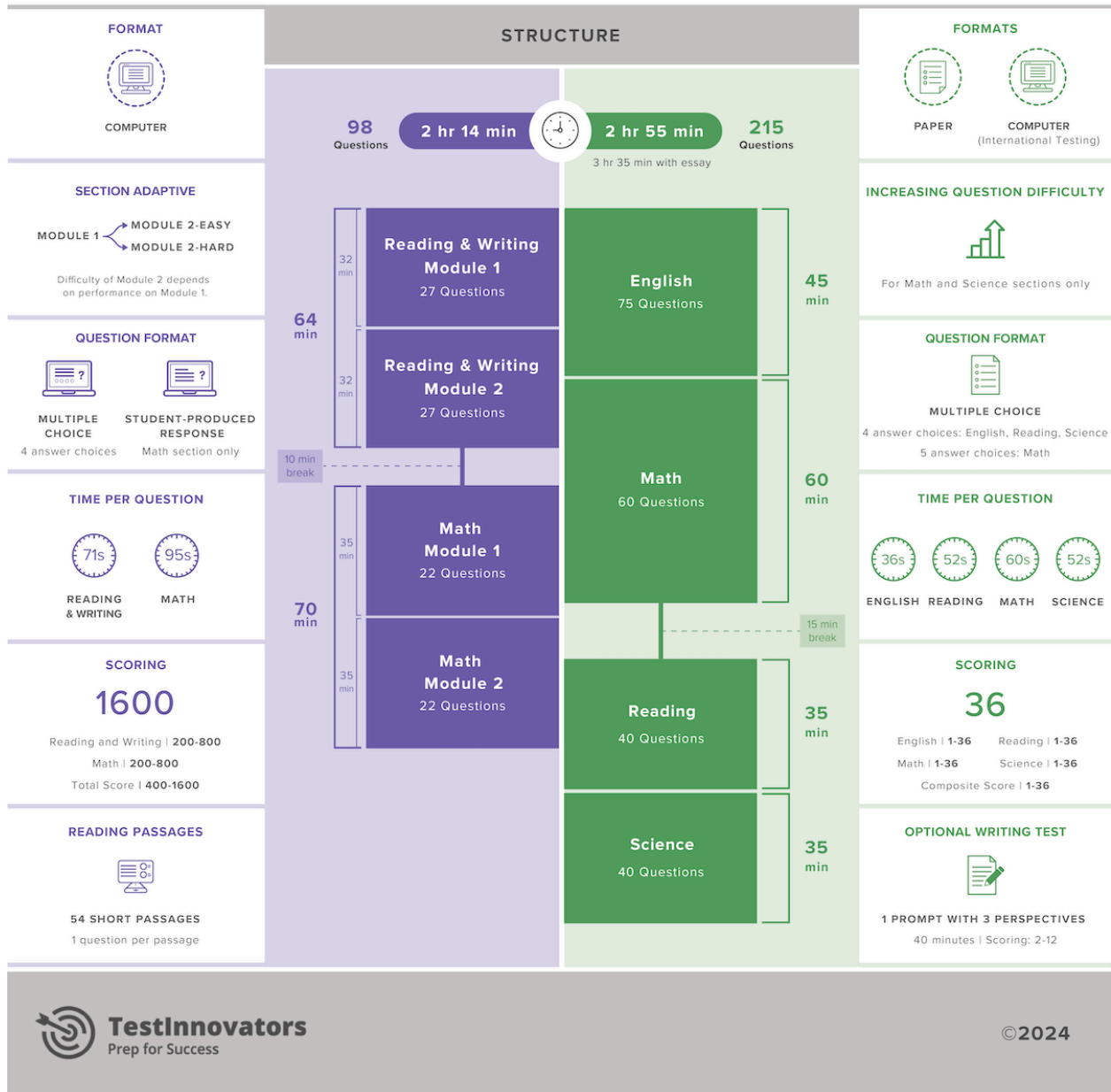
Summer

- Fill out and send housing forms, roommate info, and any other required paperwork from your college.
- Study hard for senior finals. This is not a time to slip.
- Send final thank you's and notify anyone who helped you of your decision.
- Register for and attend any orientation programs at your college.
- Think about what you'll need at college: computer, phone, bike, etc.
- Consider a summer job to give you some college dollars.
- Relax and enjoy your summer. Congrats on a job well done!

Digital SAT vs ACT

Compare the new digital SAT to the ACT to learn the differences between the two tests.
No matter which test you choose, prep for success with Test Innovators.

www.testinnovators.com/sat
www.testinnovators.com/act



Fee Waiver for the Digital SAT

SAT fee waivers are available to low-income 11th- and 12th-grade students in the U.S. or U.S. territories. U.S. citizens living outside the country might also be eligible for fee waivers.

You're eligible if one or more of these descriptions apply to you:

- You're enrolled in or eligible to participate in the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Your family's annual income falls within the [Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service.
- You're enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families, for example, TRIO programs like Upward Bound.
- Your family receives public assistance.
- You're homeless or live in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home.
- You're a ward of the state or an orphan.

Website: [SAT Fee Waiver Eligibility – SAT Suite | College Board](#)

Fee Waiver Benefits

If you qualify for a fee waiver, you'll get free tests and several other benefits to help you apply for college:

Free Tests and Feedback

- 2 free SAT tests
- 2 chances to access answer services

Free College Benefits

- Unlimited score reports to send to colleges
- Waived application fees at [participating colleges](#)
- Free CSS Profile™ applications to apply for financial aid from participating schools

Other Benefits

- Fee reductions for score verification reports
- No non-U.S. regional fees for free tests (if you're a U.S. student testing abroad)
- No late registration fees for free tests (if you're in the U.S. or U.S. territories)
- No cancellation fees (upon cancellation, your unused fee waiver benefits will be returned to you)

Accepting Fee Waivers

If you've been marked as eligible or have a fee waiver code, you can accept fee waiver benefits on your My SAT homepage.

Instructions

1. Sign into your College Board account.
If you don't have an account, you can create one.
2. From your profile, click My SAT.
If you've used your College Board account only for the SAT, you might go straight to the My SAT page.
3. On the My SAT page, accept your fee waiver.
 - If you've been marked as eligible, review the terms of the eligibility prompt, then click Continue.
 - If you have a 12-digit fee waiver code, enter it and then click Submit.

Making the Most of the Campus Visit

From www.ecampustours.com

When visiting a college campus, you probably already know that you should take a campus tour, meet with campus faculty, ask questions, etc. These tasks are pretty common when it comes to the campus visit. However, if you really want to get the most out of your campus visit, you should also perform the following:

Spend the night on campus. During the campus tour, your tour guide will more than likely show you the dorm facilities. But if you really want to get a feel for the dorms, you should stay there overnight. By spending the night in a dorm, you would get to experience the communal showers, observe how floormates/suitemates/roommates interact with each other, get advice from the residential advisor, etc.

Read the campus newspaper. Get a copy of the student newspaper so you can know the current events of campus life. Reading the various articles and editorials will give you an idea of the campus atmosphere. Is the campus safe? Is the student body more liberal or conservative? Does the atmosphere seem positive? Sit in on a class. To get a feel for college academia, arrange to sit in on a class or two. This will give you an idea of how college professors differ from high school teachers. It will also give you an idea of what kind of work is assigned at the school.

Eat in the dining hall. Since nourishment is essential for survival, you need to eat in the campus dining hall so you will know if you like the food or not. If you don't like the food served on campus, then it can get really expensive (not to mention unhealthy) eating at fast food restaurants every day. Campus cafeterias usually serve a variety of foods, so sample a few items to ensure that you will have a good array from which to choose.

Explore the surrounding area. It's crucial to explore the area surrounding the college when you make a campus visit. Can you quickly walk to restaurants, drug stores, grocery stores, etc.? Or is the surrounding area pretty rural, offering more places to go hiking, boating, skiing, etc.? Is it a community where you could easily find part-time work? Does the surrounding area feel safe? Can you see yourself living in this area for the next four or more years?

Check out campus bulletin boards. Be sure to check the campus bulletin boards to find out what events are going on in the surrounding area and on campus. These boards usually have postings about area concerts, sporting events, lectures, plays, club meetings, religious services, job openings, etc. Does the campus have a lot going on? Does it have too much going on for your taste? Do you see any advertised activities that interest you? What kinds of job openings are publicized?

Investigate the athletic facilities. Find out if the athletic facilities are just reserved for teams and physical education classes or if any student is welcome to use the facilities. If you love to swim, make sure there is a pool available for you to use. If you're a tennis junkie, try out the tennis courts. Does the school have workout equipment? What about an ice skating rink? If

you're an athletic person, these amenities are probably very important to you (even if you don't want to participate in a team setting).

Take part in leisure activities. What kinds of relaxation activities does the college offer? Some schools have game rooms, bowling alleys, movie theaters, golf courses, etc. right there on campus! Find out what the school offers and join in!

There's more to the campus visit than just a tour and interviews. In order to make the most of your visit, you need to find out as much as you can about the school and experience campus activities. If you can't visit a campus in person, be sure to take a virtual tour of the school.

Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college and life at that college is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

Gather Information: Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- ☐ Take part in group information session at the admission office
- ☐ Interview with an admission officer
- ☐ Pick up financial aid forms
- ☐ Sit in a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classroom is like.
- ☐ Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- ☐ Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- ☐ Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

Explore the Campus: Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- ☐ Take a campus tour.
- ☐ Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- ☐ Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight on campus if possible.
- ☐ Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and the other campus facilities.
- ☐ Talk to the coaches of the sports that you may want to play.
- ☐ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

Check Out Campus Media: Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- ☐ Listen to the college radio station.
- ☐ Read the student newspaper.
- ☐ Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- ☐ Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- ☐ Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- ☐ Read other students' publications, such as department newsletters, and literary reviews.

Get the Most Out of A Campus Visit in 6 Steps

1. **Decide Where and How:** See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the Process.
2. **Prepare For Your Visit:** Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.
3. **Take Your Own Tour:** Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.
4. **Explore The Facilities:** Finding the spots on campus where students gather or asking a student where the best place to eat is can give you a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.
5. **Make Connections:** Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.
6. **Take Notes:** During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit

- Ask Tour Guide/Students:
 - What are the best reasons to go to this college?
 - What's it like to go from high school to college?
 - What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
 - What do you love about this college?
 - What do you wish you could change about this college?
 - Why did you choose this college?
 - What is it like to live here?
 - What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?
- Ask Professors:
 - What are the best reasons to go to this college?
 - Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
 - How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
 - How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
 - How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

- Ask Financial Aid Office:
 - How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
 - How much do your students usually owe in loans when they graduate?
 - What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
 - Will my cost go up when your tuition goes up, or can I use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years? What should I expect in terms of increase in living expenses?

NCAA Eligibility Center

The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for certifying the academic and amateur status of all Division I and II incoming student-athletes. College-bound student-athletes can create an account with the Eligibility Center by visiting www.eligibilitycenter.org. We recommend that students register during their sophomore year of high school to ensure they have adequate time to confirm they are on track for meeting initial eligibility requirements.

Academic requirements for each college-bound student-athlete are based on the student's core-course grade point average and their ACT or SAT score.

What is Core Course: Core courses are those that are academic in nature, taught at or above your high school's regular academic level, receive credit, toward high school graduation, and are four-year college preparatory courses. To be used in an academic certification, the courses need to be listed on the student's transcript with their grades and credits. Core courses must be in one of the following academic areas:

English

- Math (Algebra I or higher)
- Natural/physical Science
- Social Science
- Foreign language
- Comparative religion or philosophy

Division I Eligibility Requirements:

- Graduate from high school
- Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:
 - English - four years
 - Math (Algebra 1 or higher) – three years
 - Natural/physical science (one year of lab if offered) – two years
 - Additional English, math, or natural/physical science – two years
 - Social Science – two years
 - Additional Courses (in any of the above subjects areas or comparative religion or philosophy) – four years
- Complete 10 of the 16 courses prior to the start of the seventh semester, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science.
- Complete the 16 NCAA – approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the beginning ninth grade. If students graduate from high school early, they must still meet core-course requirements.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Division I scale.

Division II Eligibility Requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:
 - English - three years
 - Math (Algebra 1 or higher) – two years
 - Natural/physical science (one year of lab if offered) – two years
 - Additional English, math, or natural/physical science – two years
 - Social Science – two years
 - Additional Courses (in any of the above subjects areas or comparative religion or philosophy) – four years
- Graduate from high school

- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale.

College-Bound Student-Athletes Timeline

- Grade 9: plan
 - Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades you can.
 - Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes. Or, find your high school's list of NCAA core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.
- Grade 10: Register
 - Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
 - If you fall behind on course, don't take shortcuts to catch up. Ask a counselor for help with finding approved courses or programs you can take.
- Grade 11: Study
 - Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time.
 - Take the ACT or SAT, and make sure the NCAA gets your scores by using code 9999.
 - At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript.
- Grade 12: Graduate
 - Take the SAT and ACT again, if necessary, and make sure the NCAA gets your scores by using code 9999.
 - Request your final amateurism certification after April 11.
 - After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation.

Financial Aid Preparation

From <https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists/11th-grade>

- Explore careers and their earning potential with the Occupational Outlook Handbook search tool. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
- Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations hosted by college representatives.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT. You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program
- Register for and take exams for college admission. The standardized tests that many colleges require are the SAT, the SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- Use a free scholarship search to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.

Summer before 12th Grade

- Create a username and password called an FSA ID that you'll use to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Learn about the FSA ID, and create yours.
Note: You must create your own FSA ID; if your parent creates it for you, that'll cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process.
- Use the FAFSA4caster financial aid estimator, and compare the results to the actual costs at the colleges to which you will apply. To supplement any aid FAFSA4caster estimates you might receive, be sure to apply for scholarships. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow so you have less to pay back later.
- Find out what government financial aid you can apply for, and how, in Federal Student Aid at a Glance. <https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/aid-glance-2020-21.pdf>

Scholarship websites:

- Fastweb www.fastweb.com
- Unigo www.unigo.com
- FinAid www.finaid.org
- Scholarships.com www.scholarships.com
- School Soup www.schoolsoup.com
- I'm First (for first generation college bound students) www.imfirst.org
- College Board - BigFuture
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>

11th Grade College Prep Checklists:

Information is from Federal Student Aid: [11th Grade College Prep Checklist | Federal Student Aid](#)

Student Checklist

TO DO: ALL YEAR

- Explore careers and their earning potential with the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) search tool. Or, for a fun interactive tool, [try this career search](#).
- [Learn about choosing a college](#) and find a link to our free college search tool.
- Attend college fairs and college-preparation presentations hosted by college representatives.

TO DO: FALL

- Take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#). You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.

TO DO: SPRING

- Register for and take exams for college admission. The standardized tests that many colleges require are the SAT and the ACT. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- [Use a free scholarship search](#) to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.
- Find out what government financial aid you can apply for, and how, in [Do You Need Money for College or Career School? Apply for Federal Student Aid](#).
- Learn how to [avoid scholarship scams and identity theft](#) as you look for financial aid and then attend college.

REMEMBER: Register for all tests in advance and be sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately! If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, see your school counselor about getting the fee waived.

TO DO: SUMMER BEFORE 12TH GRADE

- Create a StudentAid.gov account. You'll need a StudentAid.gov account to access your federal student aid information and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. [Learn about the StudentAid.gov account, and create yours](#). Note: You must create your own StudentAid.gov account; if your parent creates it for you, that'll cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process. Watch this video about creating your StudentAid.gov account. https://youtu.be/Pitb_aIOBVc
- Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- Contact colleges or browse their websites to get information and applications for admission. Research financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- Decide whether you are going to apply for admission under a particular college's early decision, early action, or regular decision program.
- [Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator](#) to get an estimate of what federal student aid you may be eligible to receive.
- To supplement any federal student aid you may receive, be sure to [apply for scholarships](#). Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow so you have less to pay back later.