



PHS 11TH GRADE COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

FALL

- ☐ In SCOIR, in the “Me”, “View Profile” section, fill out/update the *Personal Bio* **AND** *Activities & Achievement* sections
- ☐ Prepare to take the PSAT/NMSQT (October)
- ☐ Attend the Financial Aid Presentation (October)
 - ☐ Take the PrinciplesYou and Career Interest Inventory on SCOIR (September-June)

WINTER

- ☐ Attend Mrs. Shah's Junior College Workshops (different topic each month starting in January-April)
- ☐ Start researching best fit colleges in SCOIR by using the **Discover** tool (January)
 - ☐ Develop an initial list of 15-20 colleges that are of interest to you
- ☐ Create a testing timeline for the SAT/ACT (including when you'll take the SAT/ACT and your study schedule. Typically, preparation for standardized testing begins approximately 3 months prior to the testing date)
- ☐ Check out fairtest.org for test optional colleges
- ☐ Register for all sittings of the SAT/ACT based on your timeline above
 - [SAT Registration](#) link
 - [ACT registration](#) link
- ☐ Meet with your counselor for senior course selection (Remember the 5x4 plan: all 5 core classes for all 4 years of HS)

- ☐ Review the Common Application Essay prompts, then start brainstorming ideas for your essays (new prompts are released by the Common App in early March)

- ☐ If you are considering applying to a specialized program (drama, music, art, architecture), start gathering materials for your portfolio

- ☐ Plan for in person or virtual college visits at your schools of interest and register in advance for their campus tours. Remember school holidays are a popular time for on campus visits, so advance planning is key!

- ☐ Start researching/estimating financial aid needs by using:

- [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)
- **Net Price Calculator** on respective websites of colleges

SPRING

- ☐ Take the SAT/ACT
- ☐ Attend the college fair at PHS (be prepared with questions to ask the admissions rep) (April)
- ☐ Prepare for the AP exams
- ☐ Ask 2 core subject teachers for letters of recommendation. **Most importantly, ask what your teacher needs from you to write your letter of recommendation. Follow up with a thank you note!**
- ☐ Begin working on your student & parent brag sheets. **Both sets of brag sheets are due to your counselor in June before you leave for summer break**
- ☐ Begin/continue work on the “Common App” section of the Common Application



- ☐ Continue to participate in college related workshops offered by Mrs. Shah



SUMMER

- ☐ Register with the [National Collegiate Athletic Association \(NCAA\)](#) Eligibility center (if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college)
- ☐ [Create your FSA ID](#) (Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password, known as the FSA ID).
Please note that BOTH the student and one parent each need to create an individual FSA ID.
- ☐ Be active and engaged in a summer activity (job, research, pre-college program, independent project, etc.)
- ☐ Narrow down the list of colleges to apply to
- ☐ Complete working your Common Application Essay
- ☐ Begin work on the college specific sections of the Common Application which opens on August 1
- ☐ Create a resume (use the “*Download Resume*” button on SCOIR after entering your Personal Bio and Activities & Achievements)
 - ☐ If you are in an ESL program or from an international school where classes were not taught in English, consider taking the Duolingo or TOEFL test to demonstrate English proficiency (please check the colleges requirement on what tests are specifically accepted)
 - ☐ Attend Mrs. Shah’s College Application Nuts & Bolts Workshop (late August)