

Junior year checklist

Fall–Winter

College planning

- ☐ Meet with your counselor about your coursework and college plans
- ☐ Become or stay involved in extracurricular activities
- ☐ Check college websites for admission requirements
- ☐ Create a professional email address to use when applying for scholarships, registering for college entrance exams and completing college applications
- ☐ Attend college fairs and/or college information events
- ☐ Meet with college admissions recruiters when they visit your high school

College search

- ☐ Tour local campuses and visit non-local colleges during winter and spring breaks; consider campus size, location and academic programs
- ☐ Try online college fairs and virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>, www.youvisit.com, www.ecampustours.com/)
- ☐ Use college search sites to explore your college options (www.cappex.com)
- ☐ Prepare your college list (refer to worksheet on page 5)

Career exploration

- ☐ Attend a local career fair
- ☐ Take an online career inventory to help connect your interests and skills with a career (<https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder>)
- ☐ Make a list of careers that may interest you and research the education level required for each profession
- ☐ Talk with professionals in careers you are curious about and ask about their work
- ☐ Enhance skills that would be useful in a career of interest through your extracurricular activities

Spring

College entrance exams

- ☐ Register and take your first college entrance exam during spring semester so you can take it again fall of senior year, if you want
 - ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check www.fairtest.org/university/optional for the most comprehensive list
 - ☐ SAT, with essay option SAT (www.collegeboard.org); free SAT test prep help (<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>)
 - ☐ ACT, with essay option ACT (www.act.org); free ACT test prep help (<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>)

Academics

- ☐ Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
- ☐ Plan your senior year schedule with your counselor
- ☐ Review your college preparation coursework and GPA with a college advisor
- ☐ Create a list of teachers, coaches and other mentors who will be able to write personalized letters of recommendation

Prepare for summer

- ☐ Apply for summer jobs or internships
- ☐ Seek volunteer opportunities in your field of interest
- ☐ Register for community college courses and earn college credit while in high school, also referred to as concurrent/dual enrollment
- ☐ If you took the SAT or ACT, review your test scores to determine if retesting is needed
- ☐ Plan a test preparation schedule if you plan to retake the exams

Summer

College application season begins

- ☐ Check websites of colleges on your list; review admissions application process and timeline
- ☐ Draft your application essays and/or personal statement; work with a college advisor for feedback
- ☐ Prepare a scholarship resume and/or a “brag sheet” that includes all your non-academic activities and honors
- ☐ Communicate with college admission representatives for questions you may have

College finances

- ☐ Learn about the types of financial aid (<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>)
- ☐ Visit College Board's BigFuture EFC Calculator to see how financial aid can help pay for your education (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator>)
- ☐ Search and apply for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>)
- ☐ Learn how money works; take a financial literacy course (www.fdic.gov/moneysmart)
- ☐ Use the College Scorecard to compare costs, degree programs and outcomes for the colleges you are interested in (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>)
- ☐ Save money for college