

# Junior Checklist

When you apply to college, you will need to submit test scores, your high school transcript and letters of recommendation. During your junior year, you can make sure all three are in order. Get started with the checklist below.

## Fall (September-November)

- \_\_\_ Start your junior year off by taking the PSAT/NMSQT test.
- \_\_\_ Feeling overwhelmed about applications next year? Meet with your counselor to organize your testing strategies and college plan.
- \_\_\_ Explore colleges. Take a deeper look at schools by regions, sizes and academic specialties.
- \_\_\_ Research college costs and tuition at different types of schools at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
- \_\_\_ Narrow your college list to 10 to 20 schools that interest you.
- \_\_\_ Keep your stress level low by creating an organization system for all your college documents.
- \_\_\_ It's not too late to get involved. Pick a new extracurricular activity (or two) and jump right in!

## Winter (December-February)

- \_\_\_ **Junior year grades will say a lot about your academic performance. Study hard!**
- \_\_\_ Scared you'll bomb the SAT or ACT? Make a test prep plan immediately to avoid disaster.
- \_\_\_ Millions of dollars in scholarships goes unclaimed every year. Get scholarships for college by starting your search: [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [cappex.com](http://cappex.com), [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
- \_\_\_ Refine your choices of colleges by comparing and contrasting schools.

## Spring (March-May)

- \_\_\_ **Take the SAT or ACT.** Talk to you counselor to see if you are eligible to receive fee waivers for applications and tests. Be sure to have your score reports sent to colleges.
- \_\_\_ Apply for any scholarships that your parents' employers may provide and any scholarships that are available to junior competition.
- \_\_\_ Pay attention to scholarships available in *The Counselor Connection* newsletter that is distributed online and in junior English classes each month.
- \_\_\_ Get educated about admissions requirements and deadlines.
- \_\_\_ **Contact prospective colleges to schedule interviews and visits.**
- \_\_\_ It will be a big summer for college prep. Get involved and prepare for your college essay.
- \_\_\_ **Take advantage of The College Prep Genius "Master The SAT Class" on April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.**
- \_\_\_ Carefully plan your schedule and let your counselor know if you want to take dual credit.

## Summer (June-August)

- \_\_\_ Get that pesky AP summer reading out of the way and sign up for summer classes.
- \_\_\_ Grab a summer job to expand your experiences and to earn money for college.
- \_\_\_ Practice makes perfect: Begin working on your college application essay.
- \_\_\_ Standardized testing season is coming again. Are you fully prepared?
- \_\_\_ Develop a financial aid plan before the deadline stress rears its ugly head.
- \_\_\_ Be your own campus explorer. Schedule your first round of college visits.

# Senior Checklist

Your senior year of high school is the most important time in the college planning process because you'll need to decide which colleges and universities to apply to, send in your applications and explore financial aid and scholarship options for the colleges you seek to attend.

## Fall (September-November)

- \_\_\_ Start your senior year by finalizing your college list. Create a list of 4-8 colleges.
- \_\_\_ Create a master list or calendar with application fees, deadlines and test dates.
- \_\_\_ Now that you have an idea of where you want to go, visit prospective colleges and get a feel for the campuses.
- \_\_\_ Collect recommendation letters. Give your counselor/teachers the proper forms two weeks before colleges require them.
- \_\_\_ Register for required tests, it's your last chance to take the SAT, ACT, or SAT subject tests! Talk to your counselor to see if you are eligible to receive fee waivers for applications and tests. Be sure to have your score reports sent to colleges.
- \_\_\_ Fill out and complete your college applications before the deadlines arrive. Be sure to proofread your application essays for mistakes.
- \_\_\_ Check with your counselor to ensure all your colleges get what they need.
- \_\_\_ Start working on your college application essay, it's a crucial part of your application.
- \_\_\_ Explore your prospective schools' financial aid requirements to plan your college budget.
- \_\_\_ Some colleges have October 1<sup>st</sup> deadlines for early admissions and Honors programs.

## Winter (December-February)

- \_\_\_ Schedule your college interviews to finish up the admissions process.
- \_\_\_ Complete your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) so you can get the most possible financial assistance for college. Some colleges want copies of your family's income tax returns before finalizing financial aid offers.
- \_\_\_ Continue to hunt for and apply for scholarships.

## Spring (March-May)

- \_\_\_ Stay active in school. If you are wait-listed, the college will want to know what you have accomplished since you have applied.
- \_\_\_ Expect to receive acceptance letters and financial aid by mid-April. Once you've received all of your responses from colleges, make your final decision. Bring your acceptance letter to the Counseling office so we can put your name up on the Honor Wall.
- \_\_\_ Verify your financial aid before you make any college budget decisions.
- \_\_\_ Let the Counseling office know which college to send your final transcript.
- \_\_\_ Apply for student housing and get matched with a great roommate.
- \_\_\_ Prepare for your AP exams and complete your AP tests before summer.

## Summer (June-August)

- \_\_\_ Attend your college's summer orientation to get the lay of the land before school starts.
- \_\_\_ Get ready for a new world of student organizations, on-campus living, and college life by learning more about what your school has to offer.