



Junior Year College Planning Checklist

A general planning guide. Timelines and requirements vary by school

Fall | Exploration, Planning, and Academic Focus

- Review graduation requirements and confirm junior-year course rigor**
- Meet with counselor to discuss postsecondary goals and planning timeline**
- Begin exploring colleges, majors, and career interests
- Review standardized testing options (SAT/ACT) and test-optional policies
- Create or update a resume of activities, leadership, and service
- Identify potential teachers for future letters of recommendation
- Attend college fairs, information sessions, or virtual admissions events

Winter | Testing, Finding Fit, List Building

- Register for spring SAT/ACT if applicable
- Develop a balanced preliminary college list (reach, match, likely)**
- Research admission requirements, timelines, and application platforms
- Discuss academic strengths, interests, and growth areas with counselor
- Begin learning about financial aid, scholarships, and net price calculators
- Continue involvement in activities, leadership, or meaningful commitments

Spring | Application Readiness and Next Steps

- Review transcript and academic record for accuracy and rigor
- Finalize standardized testing plan (including retesting if needed)
- Brainstorm personal statement ideas and potential essay topics
- Research summer programs, internships, work, or enrichment opportunities
- Discuss early action, early decision, and regular decision options
- Narrow college list based on fit, academics, and priorities

Summer | Preparation and Finalization

- Draft personal statement and begin supplemental essay work
- Visit colleges (in person or virtually), if possible
- Confirm teachers for letters of recommendation and understand process
- Finalize college list and application strategy**
- Continue meaningful summer activities that support goals and interests
- Organize application materials, deadlines, and login information**