



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**