



Junior Year Timeline

August and September

- It is time to be serious about your school work; junior year grades are very important in the college admissions process, as is the rigor of your coursework.
- Attend college fairs
- Talk with your parents about limitations they plan to set on where you will attend college. Knowing now how much your parents will contribute or whether they object to a campus far from home may affect your decision about where to apply.
- Research scholarships, loans and grants in *Paying for College*

- If you hope to play for a college team, and qualify for an athletic scholarship, introduce yourself to coaches at the college you are considering.
- Talk to your counselor about college admissions tests. Obtain schedules for the exams you need to take.
- Review graduation requirements and your transcript with your counselor

October

- Take the PSAT to practice for the SAT and to qualify for scholarships offered by the National Merit scholarship Corporation.

December January and February

- Check with the schools you are interested in to see if they prefer, or require the ACT, the SAT or some other test. The ACT examines knowledge learned in school; the SAT is an aptitude test. Register for one in the spring.

March

- Take campus tours online or in person. Learn about preview programs and visitations procedures in your school counseling office. Each junior will have 2 college visits a year.
- Identify the characteristics of a college that matters to you-size, location, cost, academic rigor, social environment and diversity. View college brochures in your counselor's office or search online.

- Compile a list of schools to visit during spring break with your parents or on a fieldtrip with the counseling department. It is best to visit a campus while schools are in session if you can, so that you can visit classes and talk to students and professors.

April and May

- Register for the June SAT or ACT tests if you haven't taken one yet.
- Take Advance Placement tests if you are eligible, and prepare to take June SAT or ACT tests if you plan to apply early.

SUMMER

- Look at college applications and think about essay topics. Consider whom to ask for recommendations.
- Counselors advise entering senior year with three or four schools in mind that are apt to accept you and one or two "dream schools." If you haven't already been to campus, visiting schools now or in the early fall will help you create a list.
- Compile a resume of activities, honors, leadership positions, and job experience.
- Try to find a job that will give you experience in a field that interests you and that will sharpen your leadership skills as well as add to your savings account.

- Talk honestly with your parents about how you will finance your college costs and how much they expect you to contribute.