

Junior Year

- **Fall**

- Check your class rank. Even if your grades haven't been that good so far, it's never too late to improve. Colleges like to see an upward trend.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT again this Fall to potentially qualify for National Merit Scholarships, National Scholarship Service and National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program.
- Make a list of colleges that meet your most important criteria (size, location, distance from home, majors, academic rigor, housing, and cost). Weigh each of the factors according to their importance to you. Consider the length of the program you intend to pursue. Continue visiting college fairs. You may be able to narrow your choices or add a college to your list.
- If you want to participate in Division I or Division II sports in college, start the certification process. Check with your counselor to make sure you are taking a core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements.
- If you are interested in one of the military academies, talk to your Guidance Counselor about starting the application process now.
- Continue utilizing Khan Academy for SAT preparation.

- **Winter**

- Collect information about college application procedures, entrance requirements, tuition and fees, room and board costs, student activities, course offerings, faculty composition, accreditation, and financial aid. The Internet is a good way to visit colleges and obtain this information. Begin comparing the schools by the factors that you consider to be most important.
- Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT, ACT, or SAT II Subject Tests for admission.
- Register for the [SAT](#) and/or the [ACT](#). You can take it again late in your junior year or in the fall of your senior year, if necessary. If you have free/reduced lunch see your counselor in Guidance for a fee waiver for the ACT/SAT.

- **Spring**
 - Speak with your counselor to review senior-year course selection and graduation requirements.
 - Discuss SAT and/or ACT Assessment scores with your counselor. Register to take the [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#) Assessment again if you would like to try to improve your score. - Discuss the college essay with your School Counselor or English teacher.
 - Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.
 - Consider whom you will ask to write your recommendations. Think about asking teachers who know you well and who will write positive letters about you. Letters from a coach, activity leader, or an adult who knows you well outside of school (e.g., volunteer work contact) are also valuable. Provide the person that you are requesting a recommendation from with a brief resume including some of your best attributes and biggest accomplishments.
 - Be prepared to pay for college application, and testing fees in fall.
- **Summer**
 - Attend college visits.
 - Talk to people you know who have attended the colleges in which you are interested.
 - Practice filling out college applications, and then complete the final application forms or apply online through the Web sites of the colleges in which you're interested. Make sure to get applications in by their priority deadline for priority decisions.
 - You need 100 hours of community service for Bright Futures Academic Scholar and 75 hours for Bright Futures Medallion Scholar.
 - Compose rough drafts of your resume and college essays. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you. Proofread them, and prepare final drafts. Proofread your final resume and essays at least three times.

