

High School Junior Timeline and Checklist

Prepare for college admissions with a step-by-step guide for junior year.

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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 registering for and 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.
- 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 such a disaster.
 - Take your [extracurricular activities](#) to the next level.
 - Millions of dollars in scholarships goes unclaimed every year. [Get scholarships](#) for college by starting your search.
 - [Refine your choices](#) of colleges by comparing and contrasting schools and attending college fairs.
- Add an item to your checklist:

• Spring (March-May)

- Take (and dominate) the [SAT or ACT](#).
 - Beat the [letter of recommendation](#) rush by asking your teachers before everyone else does.
 - Get educated about [admissions requirements](#).
 - Contact prospective colleges to schedule [interviews and visits](#).
 - Construct a [strong senior schedule](#) and a stellar student portfolio.
 - It'll be a big [summer for college prep](#). Get involved and prepare for your college essay.
 - Capitalize on some last minute tips to help you ace your [AP tests](#) in May.
- Add an item to your checklist:

• 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](#).