

SOPHOMORES

Learn what resources are available to help you plan for college by meeting with your school's college or school counselor. Ask about catalogs, guidebooks, college search programs, and college websites.

Begin your college search and visits.

Create a list of colleges and universities in which you are interested and discuss it with your parents and school counselor.

Find out about the different types of schools. Decide which characteristics are most important to you, such as the size of the school, distance from home, cost, and extracurricular activities.

Continue extracurricular activities, as admission officers look at students' extracurricular activities when considering them for admission.

Continue participation in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with specialty focuses, such as music, arts and science.

Update your file of important documents and notes.

Prepare for standardized testing

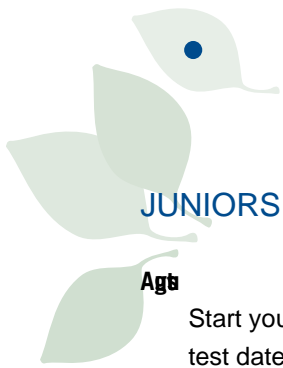
Ask your counselor about taking the PLAN or PSAT test in the fall. These are valuable tests to help you prepare for the actual ACT and SAT, two college entrance exams, which you can take during your junior year.

Review PLAN or PSAT test results with your parents and school counselor.

Many students take SAT Subject Tests for college admission as early as sophomore year. These tests help you show colleges your proficiency in different subject areas.

Sign up for junior year courses keeping in mind that you will want to challenge yourself with tougher courses. It will pay off in the long run not only by making you smarter, but by impressing colleges and helping you win scholarships.

Talk to your counselor about registering for AP courses next year. AP, or Advanced Placement, courses grant college credit for achievement in exams during high school covering different college-level subjects.



JUNIORS

Agst

Start your year off right by talking with your school counselor about the year ahead. Be sure to ask about test dates for the PLAN, PSAT, ACT, and SAT. You'll need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.

Start investigating sources for financial aid. Take note of scholarship deadlines and plan accordingly.

Develop a résumé—a record of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences. This will be an important part of your college application.

If you don't participate in many activities outside of class, now is the time to sign up. Consider clubs at schools, team sports, or even an after school job.

September/October

Take the PSAT. Even if you took the test during your sophomore year, taking the test this year will count towards National Merit Scholar consideration and will give you a better predictor for the SAT you take later this year or next.

Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses or use free test preparation resources on the Internet. If you can't find the best websites, ask your counselor. You will want to take the test at least once in the spring and again next fall during your senior year.

November

Sign up for the ACT and SAT, if you haven't already.

December

PSAT test results should be coming in. Review the results to learn more about your strengths and weaknesses and discuss them with your parents and counselor.

Use My College Quick Start to access free personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT results.

January/February

Meet with your school counselor again to develop your senior schedule. Ask how you can improve your college preparation.

Talk to a counselor or teacher about registering for AP courses during your senior year.

Register for a spring offering of the SAT and/or ACT

Think about registering for SAT Subject Tests this spring. The national registration deadline for taking the test this academic year will be in April.