

# Junior Checklist

Junior year usually marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to prepare for college.

## Fall

- Set goals for the school year; working toward specific goals helps you stay motivated and focused.
- Stay organized.
- Get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT and assesses their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the **PSAT/NMSQT**.

## Winter

- Review PSAT/NMSQT results. Your score report comes with a free SAT study plan. This online, customized plan is based on your test scores and can help you work on areas that need improvement. Learn more about this **individualized SAT study plan**.
- Prepare for college admission tests. Many juniors take college admission tests, such as the SAT and the ACT, in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See **which tests** you may need to take.
- Discuss with your parent and teachers what challenging courses you should take next year. Taking college-level or honors courses as a senior can help you prepare for college work — and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see.
- Consider taking AP courses your senior year. Read more about the **AP Program**.

## Spring

- Search for colleges that meet your needs and likes. Once you have an idea of the qualities you are looking for in a college, enter these criteria into **College Search** to create a list of colleges to consider applying to.
- Research scholarships. This form of financial aid provides money for college that doesn't need to be repaid. Learn more through College Board's **Scholarship Search**.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid events with your family. These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions.
- Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities.
- Visit colleges with your family. Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges you are interested in. Use the **Campus Visit Checklist** to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.

