

College planning timeline: Juniors

CHOOSE CHALLENGING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES.

- The courses you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself.
- Sign up for advanced classes, honors sections, AP or IB classes.
- Choose electives that really stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities.
- Research academic coursework required by colleges and universities of interest.
- Take courses such as creative writing that can benefit you with essay writing.
- Earn the best grades you can. This is the last chance to bring your grades up for college applications.

START BUILDING A RESUME.

- Keep your academic records and lists of awards, honors, and activities from school and in the community.
- Participate in extracurricular activities, academic programs, summer camps, and workshops.
- Look into summer jobs or educational experiences that will help explore career interests and will provide leadership skills.

BEGIN TO RESEARCH FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES.



START THINKING ABOUT THE COLLEGES YOU WANT TO ATTEND.

- Create a list of colleges and universities in which you are interested.
- Gather information about the colleges from their websites and request brochures.
- Connect with the admission recruiter for your area.
- Use www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org as a resource.

MAKE CAMPUS VISITS.

- Visit colleges and talk with admissions staff, sit in on classes, meet college students, and take campus tours.

PREPARE FOR STANDARDIZED TESTING.

- Prepare for the PSAT, the SAT, and/or the ACT.
- Sign up to take the SAT at www.sat.org or the ACT at www.actstudent.org.
- ACT recommends students take the ACT at least once their junior year.

SUMMER IS THE TIME TO BEGIN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.

- Update your Facebook page and other social media to make sure it represents you in a positive manner.
- Start working on college admission and scholarship essays.
- Complete college applications for admission during the summer following your junior year or early fall.