

# College Planning Timeline: JUNIORS

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## Fall

- Check your class schedule. Are you on track to graduate?
- If you haven't already, get serious about school! Colleges will consider your cumulative GPA, but they will also look for improvement.
- Make community service or other outside-of-school activities part of your education.
- Join a school-sponsored club.
- Now is a great time to challenge yourself. Try for a leadership position or a part in the fall play. Try out for a sport team, seek out volunteer positions that relate to your career plans.
- Prepare for the PSAT – This is a practice test for SAT and a high score can qualify students for National Merit Scholarship consideration. You will be automatically registered for the test, and it is paid for by the school.
- Visit colleges over school breaks.
- Attend College Fairs. There is the Out-of-State Fair and the Christian College Fair every October in Colorado Springs.
- Visit with college representatives that come to Vanguard. Check Naviance and the bulletin board in the main hall for scheduled visits.

## Winter

- Meet with college friends returning for winter break, and ask for their suggestions on preparing for the first semester of college.
- Talk as a family about paying for college. Ask parents about geographic or financial concerns that may affect your college search. Attend our Financial Aid evening session in January.**
- Complete all assigned eleventh grade ICAP tasks.
- Start a list of colleges you may be interested in based on majors, location, size, and tuition.
- Register for the [College Opportunity Fund](#) (COF).
- Look for PSAT results to arrive in December.
- Take at least one practice exam before taking the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT.

## Spring

- Schedule your junior conference with the college counselor. Parents are invited. Prior to your conference you must complete the Junior Conference Worksheet (under “About Me” tab on Naviance).
- Complete all assigned eleventh grade ICAP tasks.
- Visit colleges. Spring break is a great opportunity to visit colleges on your list.
- Research schools and take note of application/financial aid requirements and deadlines.
- Learn the entrance requirements for the schools on your list.
- Start researching scholarships. Some deadlines are in early fall of your senior year.
- Register for the [ACT](#) and/or [SAT](#) tests. Note: All juniors will be given the State ACT during school hours in April. Determine if any of the colleges you are interested in requires the SAT subject tests or the writing portion of the ACT (not included in the State ACT).
- Playing sports in college? Check [NCAA](#) eligibility requirements. Order transcripts to be sent to NCAA at the end of your junior year for initial eligibility clearance.
- Register for appropriate senior classes. Colleges want to see the most demanding schedule that you can manage successfully.
- Review your senior year schedule with your counselor.
- Apply on time for summer jobs and academic enrichment opportunities, including volunteer work.
- Prepare early for the May AP exams.

## Summer

- Create a summer reading list with recommendations from teachers, counselors, and the local library.
- Research essays required by the colleges on your list and start to draft essays.
- Begin brainstorming ideas for your college and scholarship essays.
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, begin now. Go the service academy admission’s web site and register your interest.