

Junior Year College-Bound Calendar & Checklist

AUGUST

- Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your local area. Check out our web site www.collegeplanning.org for our calendar of events.
- Keep your grades up, review your college savings plan to see if you are meeting your targets or start saving money if you have not already.

DECEMBER

- Start planning to take the SAT and/or ACT exams, if necessary. Become familiar with registration and test dates. Check the entrance requirements of the colleges to see which test(s) you need to take.
- Attend a financial aid night to become familiar with the financial aid process and the different types of assistance available.
- Begin to research scholarships. Keep an ongoing file of scholarship and financial aid information (i.e., criteria, amounts, contact persons and deadlines). Check out our web site www.collegeplanning.org for free scholarship searches.
- Use the College Planning Center College Comparison Chart to assist in narrowing your college choices to 3 to 5.
- Register if planning to take the January SAT test(s). Your local bookstore has excellent study guides. Visit our web site www.collegeplanning.org for helpful links.

APRIL

- Consider taking the Advanced Placement (AP) exams while information is fresh in your mind.
- Compare your impressions of each college after your visits. Rank according to preference.
- Continue investigating scholarship opportunities. Find out about scholarships offered by your church, fraternal organizations to which your parents belong and civic and business groups in career fields that interest you.
- Register if planning to take the June SAT test(s).

SEPTEMBER

- Study for and register with your high school to take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test. The PSAT is a two-part exam similar to the SAT. Scores are used to determine National Merit Scholars.
- Determine what factors/criteria are important to you in a college (i.e., size, type, location, programs, facilities, costs, academic quality, etc.). Visit www.collegeplanning.org for more information on choosing a college.
- Identify sources of college and career information at your high school (i.e., college catalogs, viewbooks and computerized college-search programs). Write for brochures and catalogs.
- Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to college.

JANUARY

- Begin scheduling visits to the 3 to 5 colleges on your list.
- Attend a financial aid night if you have not already done so.
- Organize scholarship information according to deadline. Keep a calendar with application deadlines so you will not miss any.
- Register if planning to take the February ACT test. Your local bookstore has excellent study guides. Visit our web site www.collegeplanning.org for helpful links.

MAY

- Finalize your college choices and highlight the important features offered at each.
- Take AP exams.
- Consider taking a summer course at a local college.
- Obtain a summer job related to your career interest or do community service.
- Register if planning to take the June ACT test.

OCTOBER

- Take the PSAT.
- Attend a college fair and talk with college representatives visiting your school to start researching potential colleges.
- Visit www.collegeplanning.org to do an online college search.
- If you would like, apply for early admission. Most colleges reserve this option for truly exceptional academic students with achievement levels sufficient for early entrance to college.
- Visit with your guidance counselor to discuss ways of enhancing your chances for college entrance.

FEBRUARY

- Investigate careers. Link to information about various careers at www.collegeplanning.org.
- Become familiar with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid.)
- Make sure your senior year includes required credits to meet the college entrance requirements.
- Put together a resume listing your activities, volunteer experiences, academic achievements and employment.
- Register if planning to take the April ACT test.

JUNE

- If you have not visited all of the colleges on your list, schedule a college visit.
- Be prepared to begin applying for outside funding during the summer or soon after. Write for private scholarship applications.
- Be wary of scholarship search and financial aid service organizations that charge a fee for service. You can search for free at our web site www.collegeplanning.org, and we can help you fill out your FAFSA after January 1.
- Save your summer earnings to help pay for college.

NOVEMBER

- Review brochures and catalogs from the colleges that interest you.
- Make a list of 10 to 15 colleges that fit your requirements.
- Use the College Planning Center College Checklist to track important deadlines for each college.

MARCH

- Attend college and financial aid fairs and schedule college visits if you have not already done so. Call ahead to arrange campus tours.
- During college visits, make sure to meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid officer to find out what type of aid is available.
- Talk to your counselor about AP courses and CLEP tests. Consider taking honors or college level classes while still in high school.
- Consider which teachers, employers or other adults you will ask to write your letters of recommendation.
- Register if planning to take the April or May SAT test(s).

JULY

- Obtain and begin working on college applications and essays.
- Polish your resume, and if required, assemble writing samples, portfolios or audition tapes.
- Get ready for your senior year!

THE COLLEGE PLANNING CENTER
WISHES YOU GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR
EDUCATIONAL GOALS!
GIVE US A CALL!!