

- Attend college and career information events.
- Research [funding for college](#), including scholarships, grants, loans, etc.
- Reach out to mentors in the fields of interest.
- Continue exploring college and career options.
- Consider taking a [practice test](#) to prepare for the PSAT.

High School Junior Checklist

In fall semester, juniors need to:

- Take the PSAT. Students must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for National Merit scholarships and programs.
- Attend in-person or [online college fairs](#) and college-prep presentations.
- Explore careers and their earning potentials in the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).

In spring semester, juniors should:

- Register for college admission exams such as the [SAT](#) and [ACT](#); take practice tests to prepare before the big day.
- Research ways to [pay for college](#).
- Identify [scholarship opportunities](#) to pursue; note deadlines on calendar.
- Contact colleges to request information and applications.

High School Senior Checklist

During the summer, soon-to-be seniors should:

- Start college visits.
- Narrow down the colleges being considered.
- Make decisions regarding early decision or early action programs.
- Enter and/or update information in the [FAFSA4caster](#).

In fall semester, seniors will need to:

- Register for and take (or retake) the [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#), if not already done.
- Complete and submit college applications *prior to deadlines*.
- Complete and submit scholarship applications *prior to deadlines*.
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Register for a [Federal Student Aid PIN](#).
- Meet with a counselor to verify that graduation requirements will be met on schedule.

During the winter months, seniors should:

- Work with parents to complete and submit the [FAFSA](#).

- Review and make any necessary changes/corrections to the [Student Aid Report](#).
- Finish submitting scholarship applications.

In spring semester, seniors will need to:

- [Visit colleges](#) on their “short list.”
- Consider college acceptances; compare financial aid packages offered.
- Call college financial aid representatives with questions.
- Decide on the college to attend and contact its offices.
- Make informed decisions about [student loans](#).

Although the temptation to goof off during the last year of high school may be strong, students should be made aware that college admissions officers will expect to see that they’ve worked hard to keep grades up and continued their involvement in school and community activities. Reassure your aspiring college student that he or she can still enjoy life and time with friends while remaining focused on larger goals.

Source:

<http://www.connectionsacademy.com/blog/posts/2012-09-28/Getting-Ready-for-College-A-Four-Year-Checklist-for-High-School-Teens.aspx>