



junior

Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

August

- ❑ Review your high school coursework and activity plans.
- ❑ Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
 - challenging coursework
 - a strong GPA
 - involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, or church.
- ❑ Obtain a Social Security Number if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid.

September

- ❑ Identify sources of college and career information at your school. Start looking through guidance publications, college catalogs, and guidebooks.
- ❑ Put together a list of ten colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to at least three to five schools.
- ❑ Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school.
- ❑ Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- ❑ Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your local area.

October

- ❑ Take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST). Remember to take your calculator.
- ❑ Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP) or summer college courses that may be available to you.
- ❑ Attend college fairs and financial aid/parent nights.
- ❑ Continue learning about the colleges you're considering. The Internet is a good resource.

November

- ❑ Call (800) 4-FED-AID and ask for free copies of financial aid materials, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

December

- ❑ Look for your PSAT/NMQST score report.
- ❑ Start planning to take the SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the ACT. Check with the colleges you are applying to and find out specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines.

January

- ❑ Go through the catalogs of the three to five schools that interest you the most.
- ❑ During your college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a Financial Aid Officer to find out what types of aid are available.
- ❑ Attend financial aid nights if you have not already done so.

February

- ❑ Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. Ask your teachers and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program. The internet is a good reference. www.finaid.org has useful information on financial aid and on finding private scholarships.
- ❑ Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams.

March

- ❑ Continue investigating outside funding sources.
- ❑ Register and study for the SAT and/or the ACT exams, if you have not already done so.

April

- ❑ Begin scheduling visits to each of the three to five schools that are on your final list. If appropriate, apply for an interview and/or an overnight stay.
- ❑ Consider taking AP exams while information is fresh in your mind.
- ❑ Take an SAT prep course to help prepare for the upcoming test.
- ❑ Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.

May

- ❑ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or the ACT exams.
- ❑ In early to mid-May, take AP exams, which are given in high schools nationally.
- ❑ Mark a calendar with test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT (I and II) exams. You may take them during your senior year in high school.
- ❑ Continue compiling information to find out which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors (you may have to begin applying the summer after your junior year).

June

- ❑ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams if you did not take them last month.
- ❑ Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help you to prepare for the SAT if you plan to take it in the fall.
- ❑ Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.
- ❑ If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs.
- ❑ If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit.

Important numbers and web sites:

Federal Student Aid Information
Call for free copies of financial aid materials, including the FAFSA
1-800-4-FED-AID

1-800-433-3243
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.pin.ed.gov

California Student Aid Commission
1-888-224-7268
1-888-CAGrant
www.csac.ca.gov
www.calgrants.org

CSS Profile Information
1-305-829-9793
www.collegeboard.org

Financial Aid Information Page
www.finaid.org



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