

# College Planning Guide



## JUNIOR YEAR

### September

- Register to take the PSAT/NMSQT and/or PLAN.
- Check dates and locations of local college fairs.

### October

- Attend college fairs.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship.

### November

- Refine your list of schools; eliminate the ones that do not meet your criteria (Planning Guide for Selecting Colleges to Look at More Closely, p.13).
- Request catalogs for schools remaining on your list (College Information Request Letter, p.14).
- Compare and contrast admission policies, academic programs and placement opportunities for each school.

### December

- Examine PSAT/NMSQT results to determine areas that need improvement.
- Discuss PSAT/NMSQT scores with your guidance counselor and your parents.
- Consider taking SAT prep courses to improve your scores.
- Explore career fields of interest and research what type of training is required. Try to talk to people in your fields of interest (Career Planning, p.72).
- Ask your counselor what schools offer the best programs for your areas of interest.

### January and February

- Continue narrowing the number of schools in your file.
- Talk to your counselor and gather information on the application process (How Do I Apply to College?, pp.41-42 and Application Process, p.43).

### March

- Start preparing for Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
- Register to take the SAT or ACT. (Taking them early will allow you time to retake them if you are not satisfied with your scores.)
- Explore early decision options with your counselor.

### April

- Take the SAT and/or ACT or register for May tests.

### May

- Final opportunity to take required tests for those applying for early decision.

### June

- Make arrangements for campus tours.
- Review test results and determine if you should take them again in the fall.

Strengths and weaknesses in terms of what you may want to do in life. (How Do I Pick a Major?, p.62)

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## JUNIOR YEAR (Continued)

### July

- Start visiting colleges or universities that interest you (Touring Campuses, p.15).
- Consider a summer job or volunteer experience in your area of interest.
- Study for the SAT or ACT. Consider taking a test preparation course, online tutorial, or self-help books.
- Review common or universal application; complete short answers (www.commonapp.org).
- Draft application essays. Ask your parents, English teacher, or counselor to review your essays and make comments for revision (Writing a Personal Statement or Essay, p.49).
- Finalize your list of 6-10 favorite colleges or universities (How to Make the Final Selection of Where to Apply, p.16).
- Send for applications from target schools (College Information Request Letter, p.14).
- Record test registration deadlines and dates.

### August

- Determine how you will meet costs at selected schools, i.e. through parent, on your own, school, or other resources (How Much Does It Cost?, pp.18-21).
- Note all admission deadlines.
- Continue to visit schools that interest you. Arrange for interviews while on campus or with assigned alumnus at home (Interviews, p.51).
- Start filling out admission applications (Filling Out and Submitting the Application, pp.53-54).
- Develop a resume (Sample Student Resume, p.48).
- Obtain a Social Security Number if you don't have one.

