

Suggested Junior College Planning Timeline

Your junior year is the most important year of high school in terms of college admissions. Your college selection process should begin this year. Attend college fairs, schedule meetings with your counselor and learn as much as you can about this complex process - waiting until your senior year is too late.

August

- Take challenging courses that reflect your ability level.
- Set academic goals for your junior year and work hard to achieve them.
- Save samples of your best academic work in case a college requests examples.
- Maintain your extracurricular involvement (or start getting involved).
- Familiarize yourself with Naviance/Family Connection's Colleges and Careers tabs.
- Make sure you are meeting NCAA requirements if you want to participate in Division 1 or 2 athletics in college.

September

- Sign up for college representative meetings in the Guidance Office.
- Register for the PSAT. Although PSAT scores are not used in college admission, junior PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. The PSAT is great practice for the SAT and is a recommended task for all students planning to attend a four-year college.
- Attend the Suburban College Fair on Sun., September 25 from 1-3:30 p.m. at Otterbein Univ.
- If you couldn't make the Suburban College Fair, attend the Kiwanis College Fair on Mon., September 26 from 6-8 p.m. at COSI.
- If you are interested in majoring in visual or performing arts in college, attend the National Visual and Performing Arts College Fair on Mon., September 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Xavier University's Cintas Center (Cincinnati).

October

- Sign up for college representative meetings in the Guidance Office.
- Take the PSAT.

November

- Junior year is the most important year in terms of college admission. It is the last full year of grades admission officers will see when they make a decision on your application during your senior year. Stay on top of your grades and ask for help/tutoring if you need it. Grades you receive this year will be a big factor on whether you are accepted to a college or not.
- Begin having family conversations on parameters around the college search (e.g. how far away from home is the student allowed to go, how much are we willing to pay as a family, etc.?)
- Register and prepare for the December ACT/SAT if you've taken Algebra 2. Algebra 2 is the highest math tested on the ACT/SAT. Fee waivers are available for students who have demonstrated financial need. See your counselor for more information.
- Make a college testing schedule for the rest of the year and pay close attention to testing deadlines (<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/taking-the-test.html#In the US 2016-2017>; <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>)

December

- Review your PSAT score report. Identify your strengths and weaknesses then develop a study plan for the ACT/SAT.

January

- Keep working hard in your classes.

- Start thinking about what your senior year schedule should look like. Remember, colleges look at the courses you are taking during your senior year, so challenge yourself! Colleges also love to see student going above and beyond school requirements in math, science and foreign language courses.
- Begin making a list of colleges that interest you and meet parameters established by your family.

February

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your course requests for senior year and college recommendations from your counselor.

March

- Review your progress on achieving your goals.
- Write, telephone or use the Internet to request information from colleges on your list.
- VISIT COLLEGES! A college can appear to be the perfect match for you; however, until you visit, you will not know for sure. You are looking for colleges that are academic, social and financial fits.

April

- Prepare for AP exams.
- Research if any college you are interested in requires/recommends taking the SAT Subject tests, then register for the test. More information can be found at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>.
- Register for summer ACT/SAT tests.
- Continue to evaluate your college list. Add or delete colleges as they gain or lose your interest.
- Look into summer academic or enrichment programs, especially ones on college campuses.

May

- Take AP exams.
- VISIT COLLEGES and work on your college list.
- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to play Division 1 or 2 athletics in college. We will send out the final junior year transcripts in the summer.

Summer

- Take SAT Subject tests (if needed), ACT and/or SAT.
- VISIT COLLEGES and continue to refine your college list based on academic, social and financial fit.
- Begin preparing for the college application process. Draft essay responses, collect writing samples, determine who you would like to write letters of recommendation and assemble portfolios/audition tapes.
- Begin exploring scholarships through Naviance/Family Connection or fastweb.com.
- Relax and get ready for a busy senior year!

***** Note ACT/SAT scores need to be sent directly to the NCAA as well as colleges from the testing agencies.**