
THE ESSENTIAL

JUNIOR YEAR
CHECKLIST



| | Task | Pending | Done |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Sign-Up for AP and Upper Level Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <p>No piece of your college application carries more weight than your transcript. If you can take AP or Upper Level courses in 11th grade, do so. Course rigor is an important marker for applications.</p> | | |
| 2 | Register For and Take the PSAT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <p>Colleges won't see your PSAT scores, but a good score on the exam can translate into thousands of dollars. Also, the exam will give you a good sense of your preparedness for the SAT or ACT.</p> | | |
| 3 | Begin ACT or SAT Test Prep | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <p>Take advantage of the test prep resources available to you. Either through individual tutoring, classroom programs or studying on your own, you should begin preparing for the SAT or ACT exam early into your Junior year.</p> | | |
| 4 | Keep Your Grades Up | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <p>11th grade is probably your most important year for earning high grades in challenging courses. If you had a few marginal grades in 9th or 10th grade, improvement in 11th grade shows a college that you've learned how to be a good student. Many of your senior year grades come too late to play a big role on your application, so junior year is essential.</p> | | |

| Task | | Pending | Done |
|----------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | Assume a Leadership Role in an Extracurricular Activity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Colleges like to see that you're a band section leader, a team captain or an event organizer. Think about ways that you can contribute to your organization or community. Colleges are looking for future leaders, not passive bystanders. | | |
| 6 | Take the SAT and/or ACT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Keep track of SAT and ACT registration deadlines. While not essential, it's a good idea to take the SAT or ACT in your junior year. If you don't get good scores, you can spend some time in the summer building your skills before retaking the exam in the fall. | | |
| 7 | Visit Colleges and Browse the Web | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | In the Spring of your junior year, you want to begin hammering out the list of colleges to which you'll apply. Take advantage of every opportunity to visit a college campus. Browse the web to learn more about different types of colleges. Read through the brochures you receive in the spring after taking the PSAT. | | |
| 8 | In the Spring, Draft a College List | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | By the end of junior year, you want to have a good idea of the schools to which you will apply. Draft your list of schools, taking into account what you have read, where you have visited and the advice you have received. Finding the right fit for you is critical. Now start looking at the applications. | | |

IS YOUR JUNIOR NERVOUS ABOUT
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS?

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