

# Preparing for College

## Junior Checklist

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- **Talk to your college adviser about the year ahead.** Confirm that your courses will put you on track for college admission. Ask about test dates for the ACT and SAT. You will need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
- **Begin to prepare for the ACT or SAT.** Whether you are taking it this fall or in the spring for the Statewide administration of the ACT at your school, free test preparation is available at your school, local community college, with your college adviser, and online. You should plan to take this test at least once this coming Winter for FREE. If you plan on taking it again, it will cost money to register, but there are fee waivers available. Ask your counselor or college adviser if you qualify.
- **Start developing a resume.** A resume is a record of your accomplishments, activities, community service, and work experiences. It will be an important part of your college and scholarship applications.
- **If you haven't participated in many activities outside of class, now is the time to start.** Consider school clubs, team sports, leadership roles, getting a job, or becoming involved in religious or community groups.

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- **Meet with your counselor and/or college adviser to develop your schedule for senior year.** Consider enrolling in online community college courses (if available) or more challenging courses (Honors or Advanced Placement) for which you are qualified.
- **Take the Spring Statewide ACT exam.** Ask your college adviser for more information. This test is offered at your high school for free so take advantage of this opportunity. Study, answer every question, and try your best. Don't forget, you can send your score to four schools for free!
- **Ask your college adviser about summer opportunities on college campuses.** This can be a great way to find out what college life is like and may make you a more attractive candidate for college admissions. Some programs have scholarships or can assist with costs.

### MARCH/APRIL

- **Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities.** Go to college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can online about the colleges.
- **Begin planning college visits.** Spring break is a good time to visit. Try to visit colleges near you and include large, medium, and small size campuses. See your college adviser for help scheduling a tour!
- **Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.** Work with your college adviser to create your college list including reach, match, and slam dunk schools. Reach out to admissions counselors for more information or to ask questions. Make a file for each college you're interested in and gather information about academics, deadlines, financial aid, and campus life.
- **Think about lining up a summer job or internship.**

# Preparing for College

## Junior Checklist

### MAY

- Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults you might ask to write letters of recommendation.
- Make a profile on the [College Foundation of North Carolina \(cfnc.org\)](http://cfnc.org) and the [Common Application \(commonapp.org\)](http://commonapp.org) so you are ready when the applications open this summer.
- Start brainstorming college essay topics. The Common Application essay topics are already available on commonapp.org.

### SUMMER

- Continue investigating colleges and finalizing your college list.
- Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August. Work on essay(s) before you return to school.

### FREE TEST PREPARATION TOOLS

- **ACCUPLACER: (FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES)** The ACCUPLACER web-based study app features practice tests in each test subject. It will help students become familiar with the content and format of the ACCUPLACER test questions. <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice>
- **ACT: (For 4-year colleges)** ACT Academy is a free, online learning tool designed to help students master the skills they need to succeed to improve their ACT scores and succeed in college and career. <https://academy.act.org/>
- **ASVAB: (For the Military)** Learn more about the ASVAB and what the testing experience will be like. <http://official-asvab.com/applicants.htm>
- **SAT: (For 4-year colleges)** Students have access to a free, personalized program for the SAT through an exclusive partnership between Khan Academy and the College Board. Teachers and advisers can view progress and practice on Official SAT Practice for both their classes and individual students, making it easier than ever to support students in preparing for the SAT <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>
- **TEAS Test:** The TEAS test, also known as the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS V), is a standardized admissions test used by many nursing schools to evaluate potential candidates for admission. [TEAS Test Exam Information](#).

### RESOURCES

- The College Board's Big Future: [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- The College Board CSS Financial Aid PROFILE: [student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile](http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile)
- Federal Student Aid: [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/)
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- FSA ID: [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov)
- The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC): [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)
- The Common Application: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Make Me A Freshman (search and organization tool for college applications): [makemeafreshman.com](http://makemeafreshman.com)