

ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Fall

Take the PSAT/NMSQT®

- At school, sign up early to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October if you didn't previously take it Sophomore year. Get PSAT/NMSQT tips and a free practice test. When taking the PSAT/NMSQT, sign up for Student Search Service® to hear from colleges and scholarship programs.

Grades are important

- Junior year grades will say a lot about your academic performance. Study hard!

Start Your College Search

- Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, preferences and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Jump-start your college planning by reading about majors and careers.
- Use College Search to find colleges with the right characteristics.

Begin Thinking about Financial Aid

- Talk to your counselor about your college plans.
- Use financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs.

Winter

Get Ready for the SAT

- Use the access code on your PSAT/NMSQT score report to sign in to My College QuickStart™. With this personalized planning kit, you can prepare for the SAT using a study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT results and explore lists of suggested colleges, majors and careers.
- Prepare for the SAT by taking a free full length official practice test. Then get a score and skills report. Learn which skills you need to improve. Be sure to sign up for The Official SAT Question of the Day™ for daily practice.

Schedule Your Spring Testing

- You can take either the SAT® or up to three SAT Subject Tests™ on one test day. Plan your testing schedule carefully if you want to take both, and register for two separate test dates. (Very few schools now require the subject tests. Check the website of the college you are interested in to see if they are required.). If you qualify for free and reduced lunch you will also qualify for a fee waiver to register. See Ms. Santoyo at least 2 weeks before registration deadline for the exam you wish to take.

Spring

Explore Colleges

- Start visiting local colleges: large, small, public and private. Get a feel for what works for you.
- Research college costs and tuition at different types of schools.
- Get educated about admissions requirements.

- Develop an initial list of 15-20 colleges that interest you. You can narrow it down later. Search for colleges and use My College List.
- Contact prospective colleges to schedule interviews and visits.

Prepare for AP® Exams

- Do well on AP Exams and receive credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges for qualifying scores. Prepare for AP Exams.

Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year.

- Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with AP classes.
- Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs. See Ms. Santoyo if you are interested in attending the weeklong backpacking trip in Yosemite through Wildlink.

Summer

Keep Up Your Momentum

- Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admission officers. Be sure to bring your campus visit checklist.
- Complete your AP summer reading early!
- Check important dates; some colleges have early dates or rolling admission. Consult the College Application Calendar and the Financial Aid Calendar for a basic idea of the applications timeline.
- Practice makes perfect: Begin working on your college application essay.
- Standardized testing season is coming again. Are you fully prepared?
- Develop a financial aid plan before the deadline stress rears its ugly head.