



Time Line for the College Bound Junior

Fall of Junior Year

- * Make a list of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- * Get involved in leadership opportunities in sports, clubs, or community service if interested. Colleges and scholarships often look for these attributes in applicants.
- * Learn about colleges. Look at their web sites, talk to friends, family, teachers, and recent grads now in college. List college features that may interest you.
- * Attend the Great Hearts College Symposium– over 60 college reps come to visit with Great Hearts students– this is a valuable opportunity to learn about colleges in a small, intimate setting. This is hosted the night prior to the National College Fair held in Phoenix each year.
- * Attend the National College Fair in Phoenix– hundreds of college reps are available for you to meet and learn about their schools.
- * Prepare for and take the PSAT/NMSQT in October
- * Meet with your College Counselor to begin discussing your specific college plans and goals.
- * If you haven't already, create an email address (make it very generic) just for college admissions and scholarship information.
- * Create a file folder or box to manage your college search, testing, and application data. You have probably already started receiving information from colleges- have an organized system for all the mail/email you receive.
- * If appropriate (for example, if you are interested in art, drama, music, sports, etc.) start to gather material for a portfolio.
- * With your family, start to research and learn about financial aid options—finaid.org is one place to start.

Winter of Junior Year

- * Make an appointment to visit your College Counselor with your family to discuss ways to improve your college preparation and selection processes.
- * Be aware of registration deadlines for SAT (sat.collegeboard.org/register) and ACT (actstudent.org) tests
- * Meet with your College Counselor and consider taking SAT Subject Tests in the spring. You should take them while the material is still fresh in your mind. Download study guides from collegeboard.com.

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Spring of Junior Year

- * Visit some colleges over Spring Break or any opportunity you get—visit small, large, public and private universities to get a feel for each. Attend college fairs and visits throughout the Phoenix metro area.
- * Be aware of Registration deadlines for SAT (sat.collegeboard.org/register) and ACT (actstudent.org) tests
- * Scan local newspapers and local web sites of banks, stores, hospital and community organizations to prepare for scholarship opportunities for seniors. Start a file.
- * Develop a list of 15-20 colleges that attract you and continue to research them.
- * If you are considering ROTC or military academies, contact your College Counselor before leaving school for summer vacation. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer prior to your senior year.
- * Identify at least two teachers you would like to ask to write letters of recommendation on your behalf. Fill out a Recommendation Request through Naviance. Students should give sufficient notice to teachers.

Summer prior to Senior Year

- * If you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse www.eligibilitycenter.org. (Division I and II only.)
- * Pursue summer enrichment opportunities including summer camps, internships, or full/part-time jobs.
- * Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, meet with admissions counselors and schedule interviews if possible.
- * Finalize a resume—a record of accomplishments, activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- * Get an idea of what the applications look like, and create an account with schools you are serious about applying to, including the Common Application.