

Junior Year Checklist

College Search

- Create a College Board account if you don't already have one at www.collegeboard.org
- Start looking into college opportunities using College Board's Big Future program at www.collegeboard.org/bigfuture
- Generally recommend you have your list narrowed down to 3 to 5 schools by the time you return senior year; however, start off with at least 10 schools for now. (Could earn \$500 by selecting 10 schools in Big Future.)
- Most schools are continuing to offer virtual college tours
- If you are uncertain of majors, look at liberal arts school (declaring major typically takes place at the end of college sophomore year).
- Need ideas about possible majors? Visit www.cfnc.org and complete a career interest inventory
- Work on expanding your college list which has your far-reach dream school, a school for which you surpass the requirements, and a mixture in between (think about location, major, available opportunities, job placement, travel expenses, etc.) (Could earn \$500 in Big Future for expanding this list.)

Standardized Tests

- PSAT – October 12, 2022
- The test optional list is constantly being updated for those requiring SAT/ACT for admission; check with each college for their requirements. While some may not be required for admission, a SAT/ACT may still be required for scholarships.
- SAT registration dates at www.collegeboard.org – recommend at least two sets of scores by the time you apply to college
- SAT practice available at www.collegeboard.org
- Practice using the SAT Prep on Khan Academy based on your PSAT results (must use at least 6 hours a month for a special opportunity to win \$1,000 scholarship through Big Future)
- SAT Prep on Khan Academy is also useful to improve your score
- Use Pre-ACT results from this year to practice for ACT
- ACT – March 7, 2023 – free for 11th graders during the school day
- ACT registration dates other than school test date at www.actstudent.org
- Fee waiver opportunities for both SAT/ACT depending on financial circumstances – see your counselor for more information
- SAT vs. ACT comparison – What is the best fit for me? Go to <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/act-vs-sat-how-to-decide-which-test-to-take>
- Look at test optional schools at <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional> (list has increased due to COVID)

Community Service/Extracurricular

- Service-Learning – not required, but strongly recommended
- Colleges understand service looks different now than Pre-COVID
- Service-Learning ideas – Weaver's website
- Document service hours using X2VOL
- Class of 2024 requirements: 250 hours – eligible for Service-Learning Diploma
100 hours – eligible for Service-Learning Award

Recommendations

- Although you do NOT need these now, you will later
- Make sure you are building bridges with teachers/counselor/community coordinators/mentors
- Need at least two faculty members and one community person available for recommendations in the Fall of the senior year

Scholarship/Financial Aid Information

- Create a free www.fastweb.com account for scholarship opportunities
- Check out potential college/university websites to find school-specific scholarships
- Visit <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships> for information on how to qualify for \$40,000 scholarship opportunity