



11th Grade College Checklist

Your Junior Year. College exploration begins! Meet with your counselor to make sure you're on track for college!

Fall

- Meet with your counselor to see what classes you still need to take.
- Check your class rank. Colleges like to see an upward trend. It's never too late to improve!
- If you haven't already, take the PSAT/NMSQT. This is a qualifying test for National Merit scholarships.
- Think about why you want to go to college so you can choose the best college or university for you.
- Make a list of colleges that meet your most important criteria (size, location, majors, cost). Rank according to importance.
- Continue attending college fairs. You may be able to narrow your choices or add a college to your list.
- Speak to college representatives who visit your high school.
- If you to participate in Division I or II sports in college, start the certification process. Make sure your curriculum meets NCAA requirements.
- If you are interested in one of the military academies, talk to your guidance counselor about starting the application.

Winter

- Collect information about tuition and fees, room and board costs, student activities, and other factors that are important to you and compare schools you're interested in.
- Discuss your PSAT score with your counselor.
- Begin narrowing your college choices. Find out what standardized tests (SAT I, ACT Assessment) are required for admission.
- Register for the appropriate standardized tests. You can take them again later in the year or fall of senior year.
- Begin preparing for the tests you've decided to take.
- Discuss the colleges that interest you with your parents. Evaluate financial resources and aid options.
- Begin researching colleges and consider your "must haves" and "nice to haves" using SuperMatch (Naviance).

Spring

- Meet with your counselor to review senior-year course selection and graduation requirements.
- Discuss ACT Assessment/SAT scores with your counselor. Register to take the ACT Assessment and/or SAT again if you'd like to try to improve your score.
- Discuss the college essay with your guidance counselor or English teacher.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.
- Consider who you will ask to write recommendations. Think about asking people who know you well and will write positive letters about you.
- Inquire about personal interviews at your favorite colleges. Schedule appointments and make travel arrangements.
- See your counselor to apply for on-campus summer programs for high school students.
- Be prepared to pay for college application, financial aid, and testing fees in fall.
- Review the application processes for colleges that interest you and locate applications online or request them from the admissions office.

Summer

- Visit the campuses of your top five college choices.
- After each college interview, send a thank you note or letter to the interviewer.
- Talk to people who have attended the colleges that interest you.
- Continue to read books, magazines, and newspapers.
- Complete applications for your college choices.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Compose rough drafts of your college essays. Proofread final essays at least three times.
- Develop a financial aid application plan, including a list of aid sources, requirements and a timetable of deadlines.



Carlmont High School | College & Career Center | (650) 595-0210

<https://www.carlmonthsof.org/Counseling/College--Career/index.html>