

College Planning Guide



JUNIOR YEAR (Continued)

July

- Start visiting colleges or universities that interest you. (Touring Campuses, p.15).
- Consider a summer job or volunteer experience in your area of interest.
- Study for the SAT or ACT. Consider taking a test preparation course, online tutorial, or self-help books.
- Review common or universal application; complete short answers (www.commonapp.org).
- Draft application essays. Ask your parents, English teacher, or counselor to review your essays and make comments for revision (Writing a Personal Statement or Essay, p.49).
- Finalize your list of 6-10 favorite colleges or universities (How to Make the Final Selection of Where to Apply, p.16).
- Send for applications from target schools (College Information Request Letter, p.14).
- Record test registration deadlines and dates.

August

- Determine how you will meet costs at selected schools, i.e. through parent, on your own, school, or other resources (How Much Does It Cost?, pp.18-21).
- Note all admission deadlines.
- Continue to visit schools that interest you. Arrange for interviews while on campus or with assigned alumnus at home (Interviews, p.51).
- Start filling out admission applications (Filling Out and Submitting the Application, pp.53-54).
- Develop a resume (Sample Student Resume, p.48).

Set up a binder and make a detailed profile of your 6-10 schools (Get Organized Before You Apply, p.42; Decision Matrix, p.16).

SENIOR YEAR

September

- Register to take or retake SAT and/or ACT.
- Request that official test scores be sent to schools where you are applying.
- Meet with college representatives (Interviews, p.51).
- Check dates and locations of college fairs and parents nights in your area.
- Send thank you notes to each college representative who spends time with you.
- Decide which teachers and other people you would like to write letters of recommendation (Recommendations, p.45).
- Fill out Senior Information Profile for those writing recommendations (See p.46).
- Ask your parents to fill out the Parent Questionnaire (See p.47).
- Pass out formal recommendation forms along with the Senior Information Profile and Parent Questionnaire (Essential Elements, pp.44-48).

October and November

- Take or retake SAT and/or ACT.
- Make a final list of your six top college choices (Decision Matrix on p.16).