



# Junior Checklist

## Fall Checklist

- Keep talking.** Continue your conversations with your guidance counselor, teachers, family members and other trusted adults about your plans after high school. Ask family and friends about their educational choices.

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- Take it to the next level.** Enroll in AP and other honors-level classes, if possible.

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- Enroll now.** Discuss concurrent enrollment (college credit courses offered in high school) with your counselor.

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- See for yourself.** Attend a college fair event in your area. These events offer families a chance to talk with representatives from different colleges. Visit [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) to find the **College Fair Worksheet** to help you make the most of the fair.

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- Add it to your calendar.** Visit [ACT.org](http://ACT.org) or [SAT.org](http://SAT.org) to find upcoming test dates for the ACT and SAT exams. These exams are important college preparation steps.

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- Do a thorough review.** Ask for a preview of your academic record and profile and evaluate yourself. Look for gaps or low points, and seek advice from your counselor about ways to improve your profile.

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- Choose an exam.** ACT or SAT? Contact the school you plan to attend and ask which test they prefer. Once you decide which exam to take, sign up and prepare for it by using the free Test Prep section found at [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org). Ask your counselor about fee waivers to help you cover the cost of the exam.

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- Get in.** Investigate admission requirements for your chosen school(s).

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- Pssst...remember the PSAT or PreACT.** Register and take the PSAT or PreACT. This score is required for several national scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship.

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- Pick your top five.** Narrow your list of schools based on research you've already completed. Your list will probably include three to five schools.

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- Get aid.** Financial aid, that is. Research your grant, scholarship and student loan options at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov).

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- Talk taxes.** Learn about the American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

**Visit [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) for tools to help you plan, prepare and pay for college!**



# Junior Checklist

## Spring Checklist

- Start the process.** You and your parent(s) or guardian(s) may want to schedule campus visits during summer vacation so you don't miss school. However, some high schools consider a campus visit an excused absence. Check with your counselor. When scheduling your visit, keep in mind that many campuses close for spring break.
- Test.** Register for the spring ACT and/or SAT tests. You may also want to take the exam again over the summer and/or in the fall of your senior year to boost your score. Visit [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) to find free ACT and SAT practice questions.
- Select special classes.** If you're interested in taking AP or honors-level exam(s), sign up now. If your school doesn't offer these classes, check with your guidance counselor to see if and when other schools in your area offer them. These classes are worth checking out because some offer college credit, which could save you time and money in the long run.
- Find some money for college.** Continue researching financial aid options and review the **Are You Looking for Money?** booklet to find helpful websites and learn tips for earning scholarship awards. We encourage juniors to apply for 1-2 scholarships a week!
- Let it add up.** Continue to contribute to your 529 College Savings Plan ([OK4Saving.org](http://OK4Saving.org)) or another savings plan. It's generally best to keep most savings in the parent(s)' or guardian(s)' name(s).
- Keep tabs.** Keep updating your "My Future" file, which should contain the following items:
  - Copies of report cards
  - Your **Tracking My Classes and Achievements** worksheet
  - Skill assessment quizzes and results
  - Your list of paid, volunteer, school and community activities

## Summer Checklist

- Recruit some ambassadors.** Ask teachers or other community members to write letters of recommendation for your college admission and scholarship applications. Think about what you'd like to include in these letters and politely ask those you respect if they'll help.
- Extend your stay.** You may have already toured some campuses, but use the summer months to visit friends and family currently attending the school(s) you're interested in. Consider sitting in on classes or staying in the dorms with your pals. Also, call ahead to set appointments with financial aid, admission and academic advisors. All these experiences will help you get a feel for the school to see if it's a good fit for you.
- Be courteous.** If you go on interviews or visits, don't forget to send thank-you notes to those who helped you.
- Test again.** You may want to take the ACT and/or SAT test more than one time to boost your score.
- Practice and evaluate.** Practice completing college admission applications and preparing essay answers. Visit [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) and click on the College Planning tab to fill out a sample application and practice your writing skills.
- Apply early.** If you have a clear "first choice" school, decide if you're going to apply for early decision or action. Be aware! If you're accepted for early decision, you may be committing yourself to attend that school.
- Decide what you like.** Explore careers by taking a summer job or internship in your field of interest. Remember to set some money aside from your paycheck to pay future expenses.
- Check your email and snail mail.** Read your college mail carefully and send reply cards to the schools that interest you.