

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

The College Application Process

- {1} The application process begins in NINTH grade. Your grades and coursework will directly impact your admittance to college.
- {2} Fill your schedule with a variety of subjects and difficulty. Colleges are looking for well-rounded students who are highly motivated. Do your best in each class. Do not let a class slip because it does not interest you. Colleges look for a consistent performance in all subjects.
- {3} Take the SAT or ACT in time to include your scores on college applications.
- {4} Look at as many potential colleges as possible. Do not limit your options.
- {5} Visit as many campuses as possible and talk to students, staff and the office of admissions while at the college.
- {6} Send applications to prospective colleges beginning in early fall of your senior year. You can obtain applications and information in the summer months for the current year and college year.
- {7} Fill out any potential scholarship forms and include them with appropriate applications.
- {8} Allow at least two weeks for your counselor to process your applications.
- {9} Many schools will respond to your application within four to six weeks.

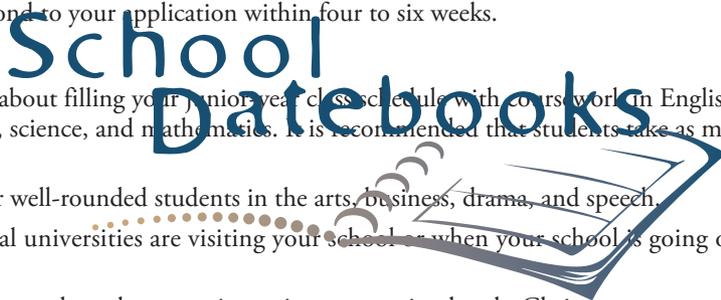
Steps for Juniors

- {1} Talk to your counselor about filling your junior year class schedule with coursework in English, foreign language, social studies, science, and mathematics. It is recommended that students take as many mathematics courses as possible.
- {2} Colleges are looking for well-rounded students in the arts, business, drama, and speech.
- {3} Find out when potential universities are visiting your school or when your school is going on visitations to potential colleges.
- {4} It is best to visit campuses when classes are in session, not spring break, Christmas, etc.
- {5} Take a course that prepares you for the SAT or ACT.
- {6} At the beginning of your junior year, take the SAT or ACT exam to practice and gauge your ability on the SAT.
- {7} Take the SAT or ACT in the spring of your junior year. If you feel the score does not reflect your ability, retake the exam during your senior year.
- {8} Start applying for any scholarships which could help you pay for college.
- {9} If you know your intended field of study in college, schedule your senior year with an emphasis in that area.
- {10} Plan to visit as many colleges during the summer as possible.

Steps for Seniors

- {1} Attend as many college fairs as possible in your local area.
- {2} Visit as many institutions and universities as possible. It is best to visit campuses when classes are in session. (Not spring break, Christmas or any major holiday.)
- {3} When visiting colleges, meet with the admissions office and financial aid office as well as speak with professors in your intended field of study.
- {4} Talk to older friends and students about that particular college or university.
- {5} Ensure that your SAT or ACT scores meet the requirements of the colleges and universities that interest you. If necessary, retake the entrance exams.
- {6} Make a list of admission deadlines at the colleges you are interested in attending.
- {7} Submit completed college applications to your guidance counselor, and be sure to include any application fees.
- {8} File a financial aid form.
- {9} Inquire about any available scholarships, and be sure to meet the appropriate requirements and deadlines.
- {10} Keep a file of any correspondence from potential colleges for future reference.

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