

# Grade 11 College Planning Checklist

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**DISCUSS** your career and college ideas with your parents, teachers, and counselor and update your Career Action Plan.

**CHECK** your credits carefully with your counselor. It is your responsibility to keep up with required credits and your progress toward graduation. Update your Four Year High School Plan

**REGISTER** for the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT and ACT **before** the deadline. It costs more to register late. Students on an advanced math track should consider registering for the January or February SAT or ACT. All students should test spring of their junior year.

**PREPARE** for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. Take online [practice tests](#). You can pick up hard copy practice tests from your counseling office.

**TAKE** the PSAT/NMSQT® in October. Your PSAT® scores from your junior year count toward the National Achievement Program.

**IDENTIFY** and prioritize your college selection criteria.

**USE** your selection criteria to narrow down your list of potential colleges.

**FIND OUT** the dates of College Preview Days. These are days set aside for prospective students to visit the college campus. Pre-register for Previews so you are able to attend.

**REQUEST** applications and brochures from the short list of colleges to which you plan to apply. Make a note of important dates, such as early admissions deadlines.

**REGISTER** for and attend college information sessions which are conducted by college representatives. They are held in the community or on campus. Talk to your counselor about how to register.

**CHECK** spring tests dates before winter break. You can take up to three SAT Subject Tests®, or the SAT Reasoning Test®, on the same day. [Register online](#) for the SAT®.

**START** preparing for the SAT®. There are lots of free online practice tests, such as one offered through the [College Board itself](#), which administers the test.

**PARTICIPATE** in summer activities that will enhance your college application. Volunteer, find an interesting job, take college

credit courses, or enroll in a college-based seminar or workshop.

**USE** the [FAFSA4caster](#) with your parents at to estimate your eligibility for federal student aid.

**TAKE** the SAT® in March, and/or ACT® in April. If you plan to take AP exams, register in early spring.

**ASK** teachers to write letters of recommendation for you.

**IF YOU** plan to participate in Division I or II Athletics, complete the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) electronic registration.

**OVER** the summer, begin writing practice essays and rough drafts of college applications. Ask friends and family to critique your essays.

**NARROW** down your college selections to three or four in which you intend to apply. These colleges should be 1) Dream School - To be accepted might be a reach. 2) Safety School - 100% confident you'll be accepted. 3) Something In-Between - Realistic school to be accepted with good programs in your interests.