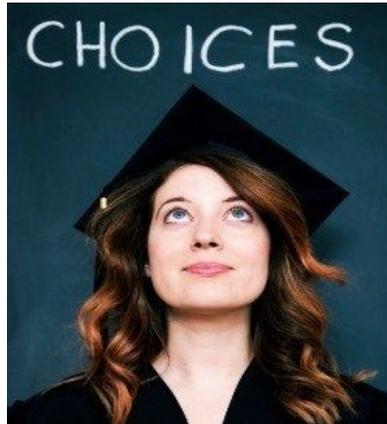


# Get Set for Action

## Important Resources

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### **Junior Year**

During your junior year, most of the college admission process centers around researching colleges. Make sure to check graduation requirements to be certain you're in the right courses. Academic grades are very important in the junior year. In general, colleges prefer a steady rate of performance over inconsistent spurts of good and bad; but if the entire record cannot consistently be at the best possible level of performance, the next best record shows steady improvement from year to year.

# Get Set for Action

## Important Resources

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### Fall (Sep – Nov)

**Take the PSAT**-Take the PSAT as a junior to practice for the SAT and qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program.

**Prepare for the SAT and/or ACT**-Begin preparing for the SAT and/or ACT at the start of junior year, with plans to take each test at least twice. Continue preparing throughout your junior year.

**Learn more about colleges**-Use online search tools, attend college fairs, speak with college reps and ask friends already in college for their thoughts on different colleges to begin formulating an opinion of where you want to go. Continue this process throughout junior and senior year.

**Attend college rep visits at your high school** – A great way to start making connections and learning about colleges comes directly from the college admissions rep. Please sign up for visits using your Naviance accounts.

**Make local visits to college campuses** – Take time in the fall of your junior year to visit local colleges. Even if these aren't schools you want to attend, this will provide you with an initial sense of what college is like.

**Begin to develop a comprehensive resume** –Colleges are looking for an in depth commitment to the activities/organizations you have been involved with not just a 'list' of activities. This will assist with letters of recommendation, college applications and potential college interviews.

# Get Set for Action

## Important Resources

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### Winter (Dec-Feb)

**Take the SAT and/or ACT** – Take the SAT/ACT for the first time in winter of junior year. As most students do better their second time, plan to test again the spring of junior year or fall of senior year. Fee waivers are available for students who meet income guidelines.

**Take the SAT Subject Tests for courses ending in the fall**-SAT Subject tests, which are required for some colleges, are best taken immediately after you've taken the relevant class and while the material is still fresh.

**Make a list of target colleges** – Identify 10-15 colleges of interest, with the goal of having several schools at varying levels of selectivity (some “safety”, some “match”, and some “reach” options). Continue updating this list throughout junior and the start of senior year with a goal of 5 to 7.

**If possible, set up appointments at your top target colleges** – Call ahead to admissions offices of colleges you want to visit. Continue setting up appointments throughout junior and senior year. Obtain a prearranged absence form from the attendance office.

**Update your resume**

### Spring (Mar- May)

**Take the SAT and/or ACT** – If you feel like you can improve on your initial winter SAT/ACT results, take the SAT/ACT for the second time in the spring of junior year.

**Take SAT Subject Tests for courses ending in the spring**-SAT Subject Tests, which are required for some colleges, are best taken immediately after you've taken the relevant class and while the material is still fresh.

**Take AP Exams** – AP Exams, which provide an opportunity to earn college credit, are offered each year in May.

**Begin to think about potential teachers who can provide recommendation letters** – These teachers should be core classes (math, science, history, English, world languages) who know you best.

**Update your resume.**

# Get Set for Action

## Important Resources

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### Summer (Jun – Aug)

**If possible, visit target colleges** – If possible, travel to top target colleges the summer after your junior year to visit dorms, classes, recreation centers, etc. Check individual college websites for details on info session tour times and interview opportunities.

**Determine the application deadlines for each of your target schools** – Early decision and early action applications are typically due in November and December of your Senior year, while most regular admissions applications are due between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Begin preparing for your interview** – Research the colleges where you plan to apply, identify those that may offer optional interviews, and begin practicing for the interviews with an available teacher or friend.

**Update your resume.**

Sources:

NACAC: [www.nacacnet.org/](http://www.nacacnet.org/), KHAN Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org>