

# Junior Checklist



## Fall Checklist

- Keep talking.** Continue your conversations with your guidance counselor, teachers, family members or other trusted adults about your plans after high school. Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- Get smart.** Enroll in AP and other honors-level classes, if possible.
- Enroll now.** Sign up for college credit courses while in high school. Discuss concurrent enrollment with your counselor.
- See for yourself.** Attend a college fair event in your area. These events offer families a chance to talk with schools and financial aid providers. Visit [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) to find the College Fair Worksheet with great questions to help you at the fair.
- Add it to your calendar.** Visit [UCanGo2.org/Students](http://UCanGo2.org/Students) to find dates for the ACT, SAT, PSAT and AP (Advanced Placement) or other honors-level exams being offered. These exams are important college preparation steps.
- Do a thorough review.** Ask for a preview of your academic record and profile and evaluate yourself. Look for gaps or weaknesses, and seek advice from your counselor about ways to improve your profile.
- Decide on 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 Test Prep section found at [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org).
- Get in.** Investigate admission requirements for your chosen school(s).
- Pssst...remember the PSAT.** Register and take the PSAT exam offered in October. This score is required for several national scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship.
- Pare it down.** Narrow your list of schools based on research you've already completed. Your list will probably include three to five schools.
- Get aid.** Financial aid, that is. Start researching your grant, scholarship and student loan options by checking out the Are You Looking for Money booklet in the Resources section at [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org).
- Talk taxes.** Find tax tips for you and your parent(s) on the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

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

## Spring Checklist

- Start the process.** You and your parent(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 are closed for spring break.
- Repeat testing.** Register for the spring ACT and/or SAT tests. You may want to take the exam again over the summer and/or in the fall of your senior year to boost your score.
- 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 doing well could earn you college credit, saving you time and money in the long run.
- Find some money.** Continue researching financial aid options that are the best fit for you and your family.
- Let it add up.** Continue to contribute to your 529 savings plan ([OK4Saving.org](http://OK4Saving.org)) or another savings plan. It's generally best to keep most savings in the parents' name.
- File it away.** Keep updating your "My future" file, which should contain the following items:

Copies of report cards	Lists of awards and honors
Lists of paid or volunteer school and community activities	Skill assessment quizzes and results

## Summer Checklist

- Recruit some ambassadors.** Ask teachers or other community members to write you letters of recommendation for college admission. 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 for appointments with the financial aid, admission and academic advisors. All these things 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.
- Do it again.** You may want to take the ACT and/or SAT test another time to boost your score.
- Practice and evaluate.** Complete online admission applications by filling out rough drafts without submitting them. Focus on the essay portions of these applications and decide how you would like to present yourself. Don't forget to mention your activities outside of school. Ask family or friends to review your applications, especially the essays, and provide feedback.
- Apply early.** If you have a clear "first choice" school, decide if you're going to apply for early decision or early 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 the mail.** Read your college mail and send reply cards to your schools of interest.