

Junior Year Summer Checklist

If you are about to finish your junior year of high school, congratulations! While college applications don't demand your attention in eleventh grade, there is always the impending stress to come senior year. One way to make sure the panic doesn't get out of control is to make the most out of the summer after junior year. The checklist below can help you organize how to take advantage of this time before you tackle one of the most important semesters of high school in the fall.

- Study for the SAT/ACT if you plan to take it in the fall
- Register for the SAT/ACT
- Plan ahead for any SAT subject tests you need to take
- Narrow down your college list with reach, target, and safety schools
- Compare your GPA and standardized test scores with the colleges' average numbers as you do school research
- Get a head start and prepare for your senior year courses
- Take a summer class that could even count for college credit
- Arrange for campus visits
- Talk to current students or alumni at colleges that interest you
- Open a Common Application account and type in your personal information
- Start working on your Activities List
- Plan for how you can step up as a leader in your community and school clubs
- Think about how you might tackle the Future Plans section
- Brainstorm your personal statement

- Take the plunge and write a first personal statement draft!

- Talk to your recommenders, if you have not already.
They should have more time over the summer to work on your letters!

- Start looking at scholarships and financial aid

- Get involved with research in your field

- Apply for an internship or a summer job

- Volunteer in your community

- Shadow a professional working in the field of your interest

- Pursue a personal project that you've never had the time for, such as making a film, writing a novel, putting on a play

- Take advantage of social media: see if there is a way to showcase your talent or skills

- Make a summer reading list of books related to your prospective major

- Keep a calendar or planner to stay on top of senior fall

- Don't forget to take breaks and find some downtime. Hydrate, go swimming, have a picnic with friends. Senior year is important, but so is your wellbeing!
