

JUNIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING COUNTDOWN

	SEPTEMBER
	Check in with your high school guidance counselor. He/she will be a great resource in your college search.
	Review your schedule. Make certain your courses suit your long-term goals. Remember that colleges look for challenging coursework as well as a strong GPA.
	Prepare to take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) if you are planning a career that requires post-high school education.
	Review the TOPS Scholarship requirements and your progress toward qualification with your counselor (Louisiana residents only).
	Involve yourself in extra-curricular activities. Try to attain a leadership role such as president, vice president or secretary.
	Make a list of up to ten colleges that you would like to attend. Start to gather information about these schools.
	OCTOBER
	If you are working or volunteering your time, try to do so in a field related to a career(s) you would like to explore.
	Take the PSAT.
	Ask your counselor about Advance Placement (AP) and/or early admission college programs.
	Attend college fairs to meet recruiters from local and national universities.
	Attend presentations at your high school from visiting colleges that interest you.
	NOVEMBER
	Plan to attend a college fair.
	Add important documents and information about yourself to your Portfolio .
	December
	If you have not already done so, talk to your counselor about exploring and selecting a career major .
	Begin to prepare/study for the ACT/SAT.
	Get involved in a community service activity.
	Pick up an ACT/SAT registration packet and register for one or both of these tests.
	JANUARY
	This spring you will take the GEE 21 , which is required for graduation (Louisiana residents only). Be prepared for this important test!
	Sign up for the ACT or SAT I . Fee waivers are available for students who cannot afford the test fees.
	Begin educating yourself about college or training costs and financial aid.
	Attend financial aid workshops.
	Begin talking with your parents about the Louisiana Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) , and about completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for financial aid, which is to be completed during your senior year (Louisiana residents only).
	FEBRUARY
	Select your senior year courses carefully. Review coursework necessary to qualify for the TOPS Program.
	If your school offers a career day, take advantage of this opportunity to talk to professionals in the working world.
	Take the ACT.
	MARCH

	Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your college options and how competitive your range of choices should be.
	Consider applying for a Summer Honors Program – summer school credit and job experience. You will be matched, if possible, with a business site that relates to your career goal or interest.
	Take the SAT.
	APRIL
	Learn how to calculate your GPA and how class rank is determined.
	Take the ACT (if not already taken).
	Attend spring college fairs and presentations.
	Visit college campuses over the holiday break.
	Create a folder for each college on your list or track your colleges on-line. Make copies of everything you submit!!!
	MAY
	Take the SAT (if not already taken).
	Identify teachers, administrators, counselors, and other adults (religious leader or employer) who would be willing to write letters of recommendation.
	Find out which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award scholarships to graduating seniors. Start a file.
	Write colleges for applications and scholarship information.
	Plan college visits; call now for tours and appointments.
	Confirm your academic schedule for your senior year.
	JUNE/JULY/AUGUST
	Consider volunteer work, summer school, or employment that relates to career possibilities.
	Read as much as possible and review math over the summer to strengthen your skills.
	List your likes/dislikes and reasons for attending college.
	Continue to visit colleges and universities.
	Think about taking an SAT/ACT preparatory course.
	Begin writing colleges/universities for information and applications (if not already done so).
	Destination – Senior Year And Life After High School!
	<p style="text-align: center;">Check out these websites this summer or anytime!</p> <p>Admissions, Scholarships & Financial Aid: http://www.educaid.com</p> <p>Career Planning: www.mapping-your-future.org/planning/</p> <p>Louisiana state universities and community colleges: www.lacrao.uno.edu</p> <p>TOPS Scholarship (Louisiana Residents Only): www.osfa.state.la.us/schgrt6.htm</p> <p>ACT: www.ACT.org</p> <p>College Board (SAT): www.collegeboard.org</p> <p>College Search: www.collegeview.com</p> <p>College Search: www.petersons.com</p> <p>FastWeb Scholarship Database: www.fastweb.com</p>

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