



The Complete Student Checklist for 2025: Junior Edition

Rising Junior Summer [10th-11th Grade]:

Junior year is critical for college preparation.

Like last summer, you'll want to use this break before eleventh grade to deepen your knowledge in subjects you're passionate about via advanced classes or academic programs. In your own time, however, you'll now need to start preparing for standardized tests, and research colleges to begin creating your long list.

It's also a great time to participate in research or competitions while you don't have the pressure of schoolwork. During this critical time, look for ways to earn awards or accolades that demonstrate the depth of your talents.

Finally, before you run out of time, take a few hours to prepare a brag sheet and reach out to your chosen teachers and mentors for recommendation letters.

Junior Year [11th Grade]:

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
<div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Take the PSAT exam, if needed.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Begin to prepare for the SAT/ACT exams.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Gain the Co-President/President position in at least one club (or even consider starting your own club to increase leadership opportunities).</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Continue researching the colleges on your list.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Develop a time management strategy to help during the impending time crunch.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Take advantage of online college tours and application resources.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Focus on maintaining and building your GPA with AP and higher-level courses.</div></div>	<div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Take the SAT/ACT exams.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Start narrowing down your list of target colleges.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>If possible, set up appointments to meet with representatives at your target colleges.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Search for traditional scholarships.</div></div>	<div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Take the SAT/ACT exams, if needed.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Plan your courses for your senior year.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Plan for your college applications! Talk to your counselor about your college list and all of the other necessary materials you need for your applications.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Take AP exams.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Develop a time management strategy to help during the impending time crunch.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Take advantage of online college tours and application resources.</div></div> <div><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div>Focus on maintaining and building your GPA with AP and higher-level courses.</div></div>



College Apps Advice for Juniors

It's time to start gathering your materials and information. Here is a worksheet to help you stay organized.

Collect your application materials.

- ☐ Personal Information:
 - ☐ Ensure accurate details for your name, contact information, date of birth, and family background.
 - ☐ Collect the most recent parental tax information in preparation for your financial aid applications.
- ☐ Educational Background:
 - ☐ Request official high school transcripts early to avoid delays.
 - ☐ Highlight any honors, AP courses, or special academic achievements.
- ☐ Extracurricular Activities:
 - ☐ Compile a list of school clubs, sports, volunteer work, and hobbies.
 - ☐ Rank your activities list from most important to least important, according to your level of involvement and impact.
 - ☐ Detail your roles, responsibilities, and any leadership positions held.
 - ☐ Take time to revise and consolidate your activity descriptions. Use action verbs and short, fragmented language, similar to resume bullets, for brevity.
- ☐ Standardized Test Scores:
 - ☐ Decide whether to take the SAT, ACT, or both.
 - ☐ Schedule and prepare for your chosen tests.
 - ☐ Ensure your scores are sent to your selected colleges.
- ☐ Personal Essays:
 - ☐ Start brainstorming topics and drafting essays early.
 - ☐ Be authentic and specific, and avoid generalities.
 - ☐ Proofread and revise multiple times to ensure clarity and impact.
- ☐ References/Recommendations:
 - ☐ Confirm that your recommenders have submitted their letters by the required deadlines.
 - ☐ Send thoughtful thank-you notes to recognize their effort and time on your behalf.