

Junior year is the busiest year for college planning. You can take control of the process by staying on schedule. Use this timeline to meet your deadlines. Remember to check this document at least once a month.

September

- Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you are enrolled in the most challenging academic courses available to you.
- If you have not taken the PSAT, ask your guidance counselor for information about PSAT scheduling at your school.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities and take on leadership roles, if possible.

October/November

- Attend information sessions with college representatives who visit your high school.
- Attend free college fairs, including the Philadelphia National College Fair on October 30, and Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling's Regional College Fairs throughout the year (p. 19).
- Continue talking with your parents or guardians and your College Prep Team about your college plans.
- Attend a workshop with your parents or guardians to learn about the financial aid process.
- If necessary, confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov). Your citizenship status will determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid.

December/January/February

- Meet with your guidance counselor to identify colleges that may be a good fit for you.
- Begin your fit research (pp. 22-23).
- Choose your 12th grade classes with your guidance counselor, carefully making sure you will have enough credits to graduate and that they meet college admissions requirements.
- Start preparing for the SAT or ACT (p. 28).
- Enroll in an SAT or ACT prep course or utilize online test prep materials (p. 28).

March/April

- Register for the May or June SAT, or June ACT and SAT Subject Tests (pp. 25-27).
- Register and prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, if applicable.

May/June

- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Take SAT Subject Tests for the courses you have recently completed, if required by the colleges in which you are interested (p. 26).
- Take applicable Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.
- Ask the 11th grade teachers with whom you have good relationships to write college recommendation letters on your behalf (p. 32).
- Before the school year ends, obtain a copy of the *Step Up to College Guide Summer Supplement*. Visit: www.StepUpToCollege.org.

July/August

Follow the steps outlined in the *Step Up to College Guide Summer Supplement*:

- Prepare to take the SAT or ACT (p. 28).
- Understand your admissions options for college (p. 29).
- Do college fit research (pp. 22-23).
- Visit colleges (pp. 20-21).
- Begin the application process (pp. 31-32).
- Start to draft your college application essay (pp. 33-35).
- Research options for paying for college (pp. 37-49).
- Stay connected to Step Up to College digital media resources (p. 2).