



Eleventh Grade

Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Registration is in the early fall of your Junior year through your Guidance Dept. Don't miss it! Go to www.collegeboard.com for tips and a free practice SAT test. Prepare for it as if it were the SAT, using books, online resources and even classes if needed. A strong PSAT can translate to automatic full rides at many good schools.

Narrow down your college choices. Research the admission stats for your favorite 5-8 schools. Choose 2 that are "safe" schools, 2 or 3 that are good fits and 2 that are "reach" schools. You can buy an annual report through US News & World Report in bookstores which provides admissions stats for almost all colleges and universities in the US. Also use www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator as you look into schools. Personally tour as many colleges as possible this year!

Attend College Fairs and Financial Aid nights. Right now, knowledge is power so use every opportunity to get all the information you can and to build relationships with your prospective colleges.

Confirm your schedule for the next 2 years. Making sure to keep a challenging but manageable schedule. What AP classes can you take? Dual credit? These really help strengthen your transcript and your GPA.

Standardized tests. Think you prefer the SAT? Consider taking it at least twice. Then, if you think you still want to pursue higher test scores, consider switching to the ACT. If you're not crazy about the SAT, consider just focusing on the ACT throughout the year, aiming to get 2-3 ACT tests completed by the end of June.

Spend your summer wisely. Choose activities that are challenging and enriching. Governor's school, educational travel, volunteering and internships are all good choices. Pre-college camps at various universities can also be a great choice.

Research scholarships you want to pursue. What opportunities are available at each of the universities in which you are interested? Do they require nomination by your school? If so, provide a list of your interests to your counselor.

Reference: Hartley, E. Scholarship Gold Consulting, June 2016 Newsletter

Athletes: Consider creating a free profile with the NCAA or registering with the NAIA. Learn about collegiate athletics from websites or attend a webinar. Let your coach know you are considering playing at the collegiate level. Ask your coach about sites like Berecruited.com, HUDL, etc to see if you should work on creating a profile to showcase your stats and skills. Learn the rules about contacting college coaches. Begin contacting coaches at the colleges/universities you are interested in playing.