

Junior Year College Check List

Fall

- ___ Meet with your school registrar (Verne Sherman) to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. **DONE AT REGISTRATION**, but stay on top of it!
- ___ Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives. **Highland College Fair – October 13**
- ___ Take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (**PSAT/NMSQT**) **November 2**. You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- ___ Take the **ACT** **December 11**– You should plan to sit for the ACT at least twice. Research shows that your best scores are more often on your second test. You should plan to have this test taken by no later than the first semester of your Senior year.
- ___ Take the **ASVAB** (required for all Juniors) on **Oct 4**. This test helps pinpoint educational strengths for career placement.

Spring

- ___ Use the U.S. Department of Labor’s scholarship search careerinfonet.org to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.
- ___ **OPTIONAL:** Sign up for an appointment to meet with Peggy Hallman, HA Guidance Counselor to take an assessment that will help point towards possible careers based on personality strengths and work environment preferences etc. This can also be done in your senior year.

Summer between 11th and 12 grades

- ___ Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- ___ Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- ___ Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college’s *early decision* or *early action* program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.
 - Early Action*
A college admission policy that allows applicants to apply and receive notice of their admission early. Applicants accepted under early action are not under a binding agreement to attend that school and may submit applications to other schools.
 - Early Decision*
A college admission policy that allows applicants, who commit to attend that school, to apply and receive notice of their admission early. If the applicant is accepted, he or she agrees to attend that school and must withdraw all other applications.
- ___ Use the *FAFSA4caster* (fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm) financial aid estimator, and compare the results to the actual costs at the colleges to which you will apply. To supplement any aid *FAFSA4caster* estimates you might receive, be sure to apply for scholarships. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (known as the **FAFSA**) is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

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Adapted from:studentaid.gov