



College Planning Guide - Junior Year

Begin college selection process in earnest. Attend college gatherings, financial aid seminars, general information sessions, college representatives' visits to Rummel, etc. to learn as much as you can about the college application process. Make sure you are meeting NCAA requirements if you want to play Division I or II sports in college. (<http://eligibilitycenter.org/>)

September

- **Take challenging courses.** Junior year includes advanced courses in almost every discipline. Expect to spend more time preparing for classes. Colleges look closely at your grades in the junior year.
- **Furthermore, your GPA from 9th – 11th grades is the GPA that colleges use to decide your admission.**
- If you are interested in art or theater, begin your portfolio. If you are pursuing a degree in music, research your colleges' websites for audition dates and requirements.
- Maintain your co-curricular record. Try to assume a leadership role in an organization. Include outside activities in your resume.
- Check updated college resources in Canvas ("College Info" folder).
- Attend the college visits that most interest you. The list of college visits are posted on Naviance. <http://student.naviance.com/archrummel>

October

- **Junior year PSAT scores may qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement Programs.** Even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still an important test.
- You should now know which standardized test (SAT or ACT) is your forte. Plan to take one or both of them several times this year.
- ACT: <http://act.org> and practice at <http://academy.act.org>
- SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com> and practice at <http://khanacademy.org>.
- Prepare diligently for your exams this month.

November

- If you want financial aid, start researching your options for grants and scholarships. There is a scholarship database on Naviance. There are also scholarship links in the “College Info” folder on Canvas.
- If you will be the first person in your family to finish college, please visit the link in the “College Info” folder on Canvas. Many colleges have specific scholarships for “First Generation” students.
- Many scholarships require specific essays: be sure that your essay(s) are grammatically correct and that they answer the essay prompt.

December

- **During December you should receive the results of your PSAT. Read your score report. Take note of any area that needs improvement.**
- Prepare diligently for your exams this month.

January

- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Post the list on Naviance under “Colleges that I’m Thinking About.” Research the colleges on Naviance.
- Be sure to complete the “**Game Plan**” survey on Naviance
- Complete the “**Student Self –Evaluation**” form found on Canvas (“College Info” folder) and send it to your counselor so that she can write a comprehensive letter of recommendation. Encourage your parents to complete the “**Parent Feedback**” form and submit it to your counselor.

February

- **Maintain your grades.** Finish strong!
- Volunteer, be a leader, organize an activity.
- GPA is used to determine scholarships and grants for which you may be eligible. Put in the extra effort and keep those grades up! If you are interested in Scholar Programs (McDermott – University of Texas at Dallas, QuestBridge, or Scholar Programs at Emory, Washington University in St. Louis or the Scholars College of Louisiana), please e-mail or visit your counselor.

March

- Write, telephone, or use Naviance to request admission literature and financial aid information from the colleges on your prospective list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid.
- Attend college meetings at Rummel and those offered at night at various locations.
- Visit colleges during “Spring Break.” Write your impressions in “My Journal” in Naviance.
- E-mail or write “thank you notes” to the colleges that you have visited.
- Work on your resume. There are several resume templates on Canvas.
- Prepare diligently for your exams this month.

April

- **When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.** Colleges request mid-year reports and end of the year reports.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges in Naviance from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.
- **Think about possible majors. Be sure to re-visit YouScience and assess the possibilities. Search on Naviance for colleges that excel in your intended major.**

May

- Begin setting up college visits. Phone or visit the college’s website to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea, if available. Do a practice interview with your peers, an employer, or a senior who has had college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly! There are typical college interview questions on Canvas.
 - Take the SAT Reasoning Test or the SAT Subject Tests or the ACT.
 - **Politely ask teachers if they will write letters of recommendation for you next year. Give them a copy of your resume and the teacher recommendation information sheet on Canvas. After asking them, please choose them on Naviance.**
 - Send them a “thank you” note (text box on Naviance) for agreeing to write the letter.
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June - August

- After school ends, get on the road to visit more colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Take the last standardized test for junior year, if needed. (ACT or SAT)
- Work on your college essay. Essay topics are posted on the commonapp site usually in July. Try to find a topic or an incident that highlights your character, your individuality, and your personality.
- **Read, write, and enjoy the summer!**