



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. (<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>)

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).

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 <https://academy.act.org/>
- SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com> and practice at <http://khanacademy.org>.

November

- If you want financial aid, start researching your options for grants and scholarships. Check out the info about scholarship links in the "College Info" folder on Canvas and on Rummel's College Counseling Website (Canvas and on Rummel's website (<https://www.rummelraiders.com/scholarships-guidance.html>))

- If you will be the first person in your family to finish college a 4 year college, please visit the link in the “College Info” folder on Canvas. Many colleges have specific scholarships for “First Generation” students. Also please inform your counselor that you are “First Gen”.
- 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 SCOIR . View the videos and the info about the colleges on SCOIR. Attend the college visits at Rummel for the colleges that most interest you. The list of college visits are posted on SCOIR. Remember to ask permission of your teacher before you attend a visit.
- Complete the ”**Student Self –Evaluation**” form found on Canvas (“College Info” folder) or as a survey on your SCOIR account 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 on Canvas or as a survey on your SCOIR account 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 SCOIR 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.
- Update your **resume**.
- Visit colleges during “Spring Break.” Keep your prospective college list up-to-date on SCOIR
- E-mail or write “thank you notes” to the reps of the colleges that you have visited.
- Work on your resume. There are several resume templates on Canvas.

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.
- Register for the May/June SAT Reasoning Test and/or the May/June SAT Subject Tests or the ACT. Practice SAT Subject Tests and AP exams
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges in SCOIR 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 visit - Career Profile (YouScience) on SCOIR and assess the possibilities.**

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 SCOIR.**
- Send them a "thank you" note (text box on SCOIR) for agreeing to write the letter.

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!**