

## College planning calendar for juniors

### Fall

Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.

Learn about colleges. Look at their Web sites ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) has links). Talk to friends, family, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List college features that interest you.

Resource check: Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there. Is there a college night for students and families? When will college representatives visit your school? (Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine catalogs and guides.

At school, sign up early to take the PSAT/NMSQT\*, which is given in October. If you plan to ask for testing accommodations (because of a disability), be sure your eligibility is approved by the College Board. Check with your school counselor.

Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.

If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.

With your family, start to learn about financial aid. Read the Department of Education's *Funding Your Education* (about federal aid programs). Use *Getting Financial Aid* published by the College Board and the financial aid calculator at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to estimate how much aid you might receive.

### Winter

Make a family appointment with your counselor to discuss ways to improve your college-preparation and selection processes.

Sign up to take the SAT\* and/or ACT at least once in the spring and again next fall. Register online or through your school. Fee waivers are available for students with financial need. To prepare, download practice booklets from [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (for the SAT) or from [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (for ACT).

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Begin a search for financial aid sources. National sources include the *College Board Scholarship Handbook* and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources (ask a counselor or check your public library).

Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT Subject Tests™ in the spring. You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download "Taking the SAT Subject Tests," which offers test-prep advice, from [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

If you're in Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) classes, register for AP Exams, given in May. You can earn college credit for courses not given in the AP Program by taking CLEP® tests at a college test center. See [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to learn more.

### Spring

Visit some local colleges—large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you. Attend college fairs, too.

Scan local newspapers to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.

Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that attract you. Request viewbooks and information about financial aid and academic programs that interest you. Visit some colleges over your spring break.

If you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships, contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.

### Summer

If you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse ([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)).

Find a full-time or part-time job, or participate in a camp or summer college program.

Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admissions counselors.

Create a résumé—a record of accomplishments, activities, and work experiences since you started high school.

Download applications (or request paper copies) from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admissions.

**Source:** *The College Board*

## College planning calendar for seniors

### September

- Narrow your list of colleges to 5 to 10. Meet with a counselor about them and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
  - tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines.
  - college application due dates.
  - financial aid application forms required and their deadlines. (Note: Aid applications may be due before college applications.)
  - other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.).
  - your high school's own application processing deadlines.
- If you can't afford application or test fees, a counselor can help you request a fee waiver.
- If you have not had your test scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the College Board or ACT to have your scores sent.

### October

- Try to finalize your college choices.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action, or rolling admissions applications as soon as possible.
- Ask for counselor or teacher recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope, and any college forms required.
- If you're submitting essays, write first drafts and ask teachers and others to read them. If you're applying for Early Decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- If you have not had your test scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the College Board or ACT to have them sent.

### November

- November 1–15: For Early Decision admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates.
- Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving.
- Counselors send transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before colleges require them.

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## December

- As you finish and send your applications and essays, be sure to keep copies.
- If your college wants to see seventh-semester grades, be sure you give the form to your counselor.

## January

- If you apply to colleges online, be sure to have your high school send a transcript—it goes to colleges separately, and by mail.

## February

- No senioritis, please! Accepting colleges do look at second-semester senior grades.

## March

- Keep active in school. If you are wait-listed, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and learned of its decision.

## April

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. If you've not done so yet, visit your final college before accepting. As soon as you decide, notify your counselor of your choice.
- If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.

## May

- May 1: Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before May 1. By that postmarked date, you must inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid. (Questions? Talk to your counselor.)
- Send your deposit to one college only.
- Wait-listed by a college? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- Work with a counselor to resolve any admissions or financial aid problems.

## June

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.

**Source:** *The College Board*

## College resources for students and families

### General Web sites

**ACT, Inc.** The Web site for information on the ACT, including registration, test dates, etc. [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

**Campus Tours: Virtual College Tours.** Virtual tours with still pictures and descriptions, webcams, campus maps, and videos of hundreds of colleges throughout the United States. Provides a first look at colleges. [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com).

**The College Board.** A complete site, with college and scholarship searches, information about the SAT® and SAT Subject Tests™, and other material pertaining to the college search and application process. Easy-to-use college search feature. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**Collegiate Choice Walking Tours Videos.** A site run by a group of independent counselors in New Jersey who offer videos of walking tours of more than 350 colleges, providing “an unedited recording of an actual student-guided campus tour offered at that college.” [www.collegiatechoice.com](http://www.collegiatechoice.com).

**eCampusTours.com.** Virtual tours of colleges. Useful for its 360-degree views of dorm rooms and other buildings. [www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com).

**NCAA Clearinghouse Online.** Official NCAA Web site that gives details of student-eligibility requirements to play NCAA sports. Watch this site for changes in eligibility; students can print the “Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.” [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

**Peterson's Education Portal.** An all-purpose site including a college search, as well as information about summer programs, summer camps, and jobs. The site asks you to register before using some of the search engines and other resources, but there is no registration fee. There is a charge for some of the services provided. [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com).

**U.S. Department of Education.** The federal government's Web site is easy to use and an excellent source of information on financial aid, much of it in Spanish as well as English. [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

### Financial aid Web sites

**The College Board.** Has a scholarship search, a loan calculator, and an online application form for the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® form, which is required by some colleges. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**FAFSA on the Web.** The Web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year (after January 1 and by June 30) for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically at this site. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**FastWeb.** Extensive information on merit- and need-based scholarships and aid. [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

**FinAid!** Good site for information about types of financial aid and applying for financial aid. [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

# College resources for students and families (page 2)

## Books

### Comprehensive objective directories

*Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*. New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Updated every two years.

*The College Board College Handbook*. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

*Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

*Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

### Subjective guides

Fiske, Edward, and Robert Logue (contributor). *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*. Illinois: Sourcebooks Trade. Updated annually.

Greene, Howard, and Matthew W. Greene. *Greene's Guide to Educational Planning: The Public Ivies*. HarperCollins, 2001.

Greene, Howard R., and Matthew W. Greene. *The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.

Pope, Loren. *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Staff of *Yale Daily News*. *The Insider's Guide to the Colleges*. New York: St. Martin's Press. Updated annually.

### Specialized topics

Aaron, Scott. *Jewish U: A Contemporary Guide for the Jewish College Student*. Urj Press, 2002

*College Board Book of Majors*. New York: The College Board, 2006.

Detailed descriptions, written by professors, of more than 180 popular majors, plus lists of 900 majors and the colleges that offer them.

*Getting Financial Aid*. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Mathews, Jay. *Harvard Schmarvard: Getting Beyond the Ivy League to the College That Is Best For You*. New York: Prima Publishing, 2003. Good insights on the college choice process from the education columnist for the *Washington Post*.

Nelson Reference. *Nelson's Complete Guide to Colleges & Universities for Christians*. 2002.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *The Hillel Guide to Jewish Life on Campus*. 14th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 1999.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. 8th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 2005.

Schoem, David. *College Knowledge: 101 Tips for the College-Bound Student*. University of Michigan Press, 2005. Practical advice on how to become engaged in college intellectual and cultural life.

Windmeyer, Shane L. *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students*. Boston: Alyson Publications, 2006.

Strichart, Stephen S., and Charles T. Mangrum, II (eds.). *Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. 7th ed. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides, 2003.

# COLLEGE RESEARCH RESOURCES

## *COLLEGE RESOURCE CENTER*

### **Room 001**

- \* career information
- \* college viewbooks
- \* scholarship information
- \* college application
- \* computers for internet/databases
- \* test registration & preparation materials

## *INTERNET RESOURCES*

These websites can be accessed from your home computers or computers at CHHS. Most of these sites include information about colleges, scholarships, and online applications. Some contain career search questionnaires and other career information.

[www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com) – college search, online apps, test help, scholarships

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) – register for the ACT, test help, practice tests

[www.c3apply.org](http://www.c3apply.org) – college information

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) – register for the SAT, test help, practice tests

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com) – college search

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) – online Common Application

[www.universalcollegeapp.com](http://www.universalcollegeapp.com) – online universal college app

[www.eduinonline.com](http://www.eduinonline.com) – online common app for HBCUs

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) – scholarship search

[www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com) – financial aid info, family contribution estimator

[www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com) – Kaplan testing services

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) – college search and info

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) – Princeton Review test prep company

[www.sallimae.com](http://www.sallimae.com) – scholarship search, college loan info

## *OHIO CAREER INFORMATION SERVICES (OCIS)*

This is an online database that provides career, college, and scholarship searches. OCIS can be accessed on the computers in the College Resource Center.

To access OCIS from off-campus:

Type the internet address: [www.chuh.org](http://www.chuh.org)

Click on Family Information.

Click on Student Online Resources.

Click on Ohio Career Information Services.

Enter username: Cleve Hts HS

Enter password: ohioicis03