

Junior

Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

August

- Review your high school coursework and activity plans
- Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
 - o Challenging coursework
 - o A strong GPA
 - o Involvement in extracurricular activities, such as sports, volunteer work or church
- Obtain a Social Security number. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid. If you do not have one, please refer to the section on AB540 on College Paths in the Academics section of the school website, www.hooverhs.org

September

- Identify sources of college and career information at your school. Start looking through guidance publications, college catalogs, and guidebooks.
- Put together a list of 10 colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to at least 3-5 schools
- Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to college
- Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)
- Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your local area

October

- Take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST). Remember to take your calculator
- Inquire about Advance Placement (AP) or summer college courses that may be available to you
- Attend college fairs and financial aid/parent nights

November

- Start looking into eligibility requirements for federal, state, institutional, and private financial aid

December

- Your PSAT/NMQST score report should arrive. Use the guide, enclosed with your results, to interpret and understand your score
- Start planning to take the SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the ACT. Check with the colleges you are applying to and find out specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines

January

- Go through the catalogs of the 3-5 schools that interest you the most. If appropriate, apply for an interview and/or overnight visit
- During your college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid officer to find out what types of aid are available
- Attend financial aid nights, if you have not already done so

February

- Start seriously investigating private scholarship and other student aid programs. Ask your teachers and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program
- Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams

March

- Continue investigating outside funding sources
- Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams, if you have not already done so

April

- Begin scheduling visits to each of the 3-5 schools that are on your final list
- Consider taking the Advanced Placement (AP) exams while information is fresh in your mind
- Take an SAT prep course to help prepare for the upcoming test
- Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications

May

- Take the SAT (I and II) and/or the ACT exams
- From early to mid-May, Advanced Placement (AP) exams are given in high schools nationally
- Be aware of the test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT I and SAT II exams. You may take them during your senior year in high school
- Continue compiling information to find out which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors. (You may have to begin applying for outside funding this summer.)

June

- Take the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams if you did take them last month
- Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help you to prepare for the SAT, if you plan to take it in the fall
- If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs
- If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit

Important Numbers and Websites

Federal Student Aid Information

1-800-433-3242

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.pin.ed.gov

California Student Aid Commission

1-888-242-7268

www.csac.ca.gov

CSS Profile Information

1-3-5-829-9793

www.collegeboard.org

Financial Aid Information Page

www.finaid.org