

# College Planning Checklist for 11th Graders ✓

For students intent on applying to college, junior year is full of hard work, reflection, discovery, and much more. Here's a checklist to keep you on track for applying next year.

## September-December To-Do's

- Self-discovery**
  - Make lists about your likes, dislikes, etc.  
*What are your skills? What are your favorite classes? What are you possibly interested in studying in college?*
- College discovery**
  - Start a college list  
*Rely on those people closest to you to help you get a start. Don't overthink it right now. Just get a start!*
  - Explore college matches  
*Take the College Match Quiz in My Matches to get paired with colleges based on what you like to study, what clubs you'd like to explore, and more.*
- Break out your calendar**  
*Get a hold of your high school's upcoming college visits and/or college fairs in the area.*
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT®**  
*This test is given in October. If you'll need accommodations, make sure to [plan and ask early](#).*
- Consider your financial aid need**
  - Talk with your parent/guardian  
*It's never too early to start talking openly as a family about the cost of your education.*
  - Explore online calculators  
*Check out online tools and calculators to get an idea of what college might cost use. Students linked with parents in Scoir can work together to use our cost calculator.*

## January-May To-Do's

- Sign up for a spring test**  
*Whether it's your first test or you want to test again, look into available spring dates for the SAT and/or ACT and register online. If you require a fee waiver, make sure you ask ahead of time!*
  - Study for and take AP exams**  
*If you're taking Advanced Placement courses, make sure you are prepared for and signed up for exams in May.*
  - Let your list bloom**  
*Continue researching colleges based on type, major, cost, and more.*
- Students on Scoir can [compare colleges side-by-side](#) to get a better idea of best-fit.
- Time to break out your calendar again**  
*Pencil in some chances to further explore colleges on your list—whether that's an in-person or online visit, college fair, or a few hours of online research.*
  - Understand sources of financial aid**  
*Winter is a great time to wrap your mind around the [available sources of financial aid for college](#). Conduct your research and make time to talk as a family.*

## June-August To-Do's

**Register with NCAA**

*If you're a student-athlete planning to play in college, make sure you register with the NCAA.*

**Are you considering ROTC?**

*If so, you should begin the application process before the summer.*

**Prepare for the FAFSA**

*There are [new changes to the FAFSA](#) this year. You'll want to apply as soon as possible after it's available. Over the summer months, make sure you create a username and password (FSA ID) and collect financial documents like tax returns.*

**Visit colleges near and far**

*As time and budget allow, take the spring and summer to visit campuses.*

**Add your GPA and Test Scores**

*If your school's settings allow, upload your [GPA](#) and any [test scores](#) to your Scoir profile. This will help give you better-informed [scattergrams](#), which show historical admissions decisions using GPAs and SAT/ACT scores of students who graduated from your high school before you.*

*If your school's settings allow you to enter test scores, you should see this +Add Test button in your Academic Overview!*

**Create a portfolio or resume**

*Record and collect the accomplishments, extracurriculars, and work experience that you have accumulated over your high school career.*

**Consider drafting your college essay**

*Summer is a great time to—at the very least—brainstorm topics for your college essay and pick a date for when you are going to start writing.*

**Learn more about applying with Scoir**

*You can now apply to Coalition colleges through Scoir! [Learn more](#) before application season.*

**Keep busy**

*Stay active over the summer! Whether that's by bagging groceries, signing up to be a camp counselor, or participating in a summer program...just stay active!*

**The journey to college starts with self-exploration. Our Network can help you take those first steps.**

[Learn more](#)