

# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

**Junior year is the busiest year for college planning. You can take control of the process by staying on schedule. Use this timeline to meet your deadlines. Remember to check this document at least once a month.**

## September

- Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are enrolled in the most challenging academic courses available to you (p. 9).
- If you have not taken the PSAT, ask your school counselor for information about PSAT scheduling at your school; visit [www.psat.org](http://www.psat.org).
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities and take on leadership roles, if possible (p. 9).

## October/November

- Attend virtual or in-person information sessions with college representatives who visit your high school (p. 22).
- Attend free virtual or in-person college fairs, throughout the year (p. 21).
- Continue talking with your parents or guardians and your College Prep Team about your college plans (p. 6).
- Attend a workshop or take a virtual class with your parents or guardians to learn about the financial aid process (p. 40).
- If necessary, confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778 [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)). Your citizenship status will determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid.

## December/January/February

- Meet with your school counselor to identify colleges that may be a good fit for you (pp. 14-25).
- Begin your fit research (pp. 24-25).
- Choose your 12th grade classes with your school counselor, carefully making sure you will have enough credits to graduate and that they meet college admissions requirements (p. 9).
- Start preparing for the SAT or ACT (p. 30).

## March/April

- Register for the May or June SAT, or June ACT (pp. 27-29).
- Register and prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, if applicable (p. 9).

## May/June

- Take the SAT or ACT (pp. 27-30).
- Take applicable Advanced Placement (AP) Exams (p. 9).
- Ask the 11th grade teachers with whom you have good relationships to write college recommendation letters on your behalf (p. 34).
- Before the school year ends, obtain a copy of the *Step Up to College Summer Supplement*. Visit [www.stepuptocollege.org](http://www.stepuptocollege.org).

## July/August

- Prepare to take the SAT or ACT (p. 30).
- Understand your admissions options for college (p. 31).
- Do college fit research (pp. 24-25).
- Visit colleges (pp. 22-23).
- Begin the application process (pp. 33-34).
- Start to draft your college application essay (pp. 35-37).
- Research options for paying for college (pp. 39-50).
- Stay connected to the Step Up to College digital media resources (p. 2).