

JUNIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

Why is your junior year possibly the most important?

- Students will receive their updated class rank at the end of their junior year. That ranking will be used to apply for colleges in the fall of their senior year. If you are in the top 10% of the class at that time and will be applying to Texas public colleges/universities (except UT) in the fall, you will be eligible for “Automatic Admissions”.

FALL CHECKLIST

- Start exploring your post high school possibilities. Write down your abilities, preferences, and personal qualities.
- Begin your college search through recommended internet sites, reference guides available in the Counseling Office, the High School Library or local town library.
- Explore careers and majors available.
- Talk with friends, family, and teachers about their career experiences.
- Discuss your possibilities with your high school counselor.
- Use your Fall Break to visit some colleges.
- If you have not already passed the STAAR for English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History (most students will take at the end of their junior year), be sure you are scheduled to retake them in December.
- Attend local and regional college fairs, presentations of visiting college representatives both within the high school and in the metropolitan area.
- Take the PSAT given at GWHS in October during school. Prepare for this by visiting www.CollegeBoard.com and check out their College Board Test page for links to tips and sample questions.

WINTER CHECKLIST

- Attend any College Information Nights available
- Review your PSAT report with answer key provided to determine your weaknesses. College Board will help you develop a study plan - available through their website.
- Find lists of colleges, majors, and careers right for you through “MY Road” on the College Board Website.
- During winter break find out the real scoop on college from your friends who have come home from campus.
- Plan on taking the SAT and/or ACT sometime during the spring. Test dates and registration deadlines are available on the GWHS Counseling Website.
- Begin planning visits to colleges of interest to you. Juniors have two days they may use as a planned college visit day. Another good time is Spring Break, or the summer months to explore campuses. Appointments can be made by contacting the admission’s offices at universities.

SPRING CHECKLIST

- Take the SAT and/or ACT test.
- Meet with Counselor to prepare for senior year and college.
- Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor.
- Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes and continue ongoing studies such as world languages.
- Arrange enriching summer activities, including volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, and enrolling in summer classes at colleges.
- Create and maintain a personal resume to use in the upcoming year for applications and scholarship applications.
- If you are hoping to play a sport in college, talk to your coach and ask for help in meeting college coaches. Register for Initial-Eligibility with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Listen for announcements from Guidance about scholarships open to juniors.

SUMMER (JUNIOR-TO-SENIOR) CHECKLIST

- Take campus tours.
 - Schedule interviews with admission counselors at colleges you're serious about.
 - Request applications and financial aid information from these colleges.
 - Check important dates; some universities have early deadlines or rolling admissions.
 - Ask your summer employer for a recommendation letter on letterhead that you can use during your senior year for applications. (Don't forget to say thank you!)
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TESTING INFORMATION:

- ACT: www.actstudent.org
- SAT: www.sat.collegeboard.org
- TSI: at your high school, with UB, or at CBC

COLLEGE ADMISSION INFORMATION:

- ACT: www.actstudent.org
- College Board: www.sat.collegeboard.org
- College View: www.collegeview.com
- Petersons: www.petersons.com
- TX College/Universities: The Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar: <http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars/>
- College for All Texans: <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/>
- TX Common Application – Apply Texas: www.applytexas.org
- The Common Application: www.commonapp.org

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION: **You should not pay to apply for scholarships or to complete the FAFSA!*

- Fast Web Scholarship Search: www.fastweb.com
- ACT: www.actstudent.org
- College Board Scholarship Search: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- Every Chance Every Texan: <http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/funding/>
- Financial Aid Application (FAFSA): <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
 - Complete your senior year
 - Opens October 1 of each year
 - Submit early – money is first come first serve!