

Junior Summer College Checklist

From "Summer Tasks for Rising High School Seniors" by *Meredith Barnhart* mefa.org

- Look through college websites and start to narrow down likes and dislikes based on location, size, competitiveness, etc. You should also have a better idea of your chance of admission now that your GPA includes your junior year classes and you have some SAT and ACT scores
- Visit colleges** as much as you can, especially near the end of the summer when students are back on campus
- Develop your final list of colleges and decide when you'll be applying for each – will you participate in **Early Action/Decision**?
- Do an activity that you aren't able to fit in during the school year, such as dance classes, summer sports leagues, or fun reading
- Make sure your **social media/online profile** is appropriate and professional
- Decide how you'll be keeping track of all college admissions and financial aid requirements and deadlines, such as with an Excel spreadsheet, **MEFA's College Application Manager**, or a notebook
- Check out the **Common App's essay prompts** and have at least one draft written by the end of August
- If you haven't already, pinpoint three individuals for **letters of recommendation**, including at least one junior year teacher
- Sign up to take the **SAT** or **ACT** once more, and take advantage of the free test prep offered through each exam's website
- Determine if **SAT Subject Tests** are required, depending on the schools being considered, and sign up to take them in the fall
- Get your resume/list of activities pulled together. Do this with a parent or friend to get help capturing everything you've done since freshman year
- Some of the Honors and AP classes have summer reading packets – make sure to get them done before the busyness of the fall begins

- Have an honest family discussion about how you'll **pay for college**. Is there a 529 U.Fund account or U.Plan established? What's the current financial plan?
- Take advantage of summer months to work in a job, and save at least 50% of your earnings (but more if possible!) to help pay for school expenses
- Many schools like to see your interest in them – use social media to connect with schools, sign up for admissions information, tour campuses, and connect with the admissions office over phone or email. Make sure the *student* is completing these tasks – not the parent
- See if a school you're considering requires an interview, and get that scheduled

Are you an athlete?

- Register with the NAIA/NCAA at <https://play.mynaia.org/>

And finally, take some time to relax.

“10 Summer Activities That Will Turn Admissions’ Heads”

Posted June 15, 2019, 1 p.m. by [Suzanne Shaffer](#)

1. Community service.
2. Start a business
3. Take classes
4. Attend college programs for high school students
5. Spend the summer abroad
6. Intern
6. Get a local job
7. Help out a nonprofit.
8. Work at a summer camp
9. Make college connections
10. Create an online presence (positive and appropriate- delete everything else & change your profiles to private. Colleges will look!)