



JUNIOR COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

September

- Continue to take challenging courses.
- Register to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- Take the SAT and ACT at least once this year; take the SAT II tests, if required by schools of interest.
- Meet with your counselor to review courses needed for college admissions
- Hold a family post-secondary planning discussion. How Far? How much?
- Get and stay organized.
 - ✓ *Create files for copies of applications and correspondence.*
 - ✓ *Set up a calendar to track important dates and deadlines.*
 - ✓ *Keep copies of everything.*

October – November

- Take the PSAT.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Visit with college admissions representatives when they visit your school. Check Naviance.
- Plan and make college campus visits.
- Search for scholarships and financial aid (federal, state, local, and private sources include corporations, unions, professional associations, clubs, and religious organizations, etc.

December

- Review your PSAT results with your counselor.
- Seek information from high school graduates who are home on holiday break.
- Review your second semester classes.

January – February

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT, if you haven't already done so. Study and prepare for them.
- Think about possible majors and career choices.
- Plan a campus visit
- Compare college admission requirements to your course load.
 - ✓ *Select senior year courses accordingly.*
- Schedule your Junior meeting with your counselor

January – February (cont.)

- Begin building a list of colleges.
 - ✓ *Consider academic programs, location, size, cost, activities, athletics, housing, etc.*
 - ✓ *Get on their mailing lists.*
- Take on leadership roles in community service activities.

March

- Continue post-secondary planning discussions with your family.
 - ✓ *Estimate costs for each school.*
 - ✓ *Discuss ways to pay for each school.*
- Narrow your list of colleges and post-secondary schools to five to seven schools.
- Plan campus visits.
 - ✓ *Visit different types of schools, e.g., large public universities, small private colleges, junior & community colleges, specialty and vocational/technical schools, etc.*

April – May

- Take the SAT and/or ACT.
 - ✓ *Prep for them.*
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) tests.
- Apply for summer jobs or internships in your proposed career field.
- Considering a military academy or a ROTC scholarship?
 - ✓ *Meet with your counselor.*
 - ✓ *Attend Academy Information Day in April.*

Summer

- Improve your reading and vocabulary skills.
- Participate in community service.
- Work in a career-related internship.
- Search for scholarships and ways to pay for college.
- Combine vacation plans with campus visits.
- Start working on your college essays.
- Talk to people in careers you find interesting.
- Decide whom to ask for recommendation letters.
- Talk to graduates who are home for summer.

ALL College Bound Juniors (2-year, 4-year, Career Tech Ed)

SEARCHING

Log on to Naviance>Click on Colleges> Super Match College search Create your list of “Colleges I’m thinking about” This list will help us contact you specifically if this college visits the FRHS College center

PAYING

Merit- or need-based aid that might be available through specific schools, federal financial aid and third-party scholarships can help cover the cost of college. Scholarship Search Resources are on FRHS website and Naviance. Come to the Career Center for more information. Helpful financial resources are:

www.Fafsa4Caster.ed.gov www.collegedata.com

www.collegedata.com

<http://netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org/>

- All Colorado residents are eligible to receive an additional stipend off tuition in through the College Opportunity Fund. Register at www.collegeincolorado.org.

Juniors headed to 4-Year Colleges

- **Admissions requirements.** Do you have the classes they will require, and how does your GPA and ACT score match up to their averages? This can help to determine reach and safety schools.
- **Application due dates.** If the school is one you are especially interested in, you might consider applying early. Make a note of all regular and early deadlines for any college you are interested in. Know the difference between **Early Action and Early Decision**
- **Cost of attendance and available aid.** Talk with your family about what you can afford for college. Too many families choose colleges they might want to attend but realize they are colleges they can’t afford. However, some expensive schools might offer more aid, making them more affordable than they first seem.
- **Common Application** Be sure to know if the college you are applying to uses the Common Application. Some colleges use the Common app and their own application. If you are not applying to more than 1 Common App School there is no need to use the Common app. Know all the required forms
- In the fall be sure to check the “**Visit Schedule**” on Naviance to see when college reps are coming to Fossil. This is another opportunity to make that personal contact with the colleges you are considering.

College Fairs- Make plans now to attend fairs throughout the year. Check the College and Career center for upcoming fairs. Fairs are a great venue to talk directly to admissions reps about majors, scholarships, admission criteria, etc.

STUDENT ATHLETES NCAA/NAIA

Student athletes planning to play Div I or II sports in college need to register with NCAA at

NCAA www.eligibilitycenter.org

NAIA <http://www.naia.org/>

See your counselor to make sure you have qualifying coursework.

Juniors headed to Career Tech or 2 Year Colleges

- Many two-year career/technical institutions have fewer materials needed for admission. If you are planning to attend one of these schools, <http://www.technical-schools-guide.com/>
- **Check websites** for admissions processes and deadlines in regard to applying, submitting financial aid applications, registering for classes, and payment.

Military Academies

- Meet with your counselor right away to learn about and meet early deadlines. See form and information of how to apply on the *FRHS College & Career Center* website.

Juniors headed to Military or Workforce

Military: Come to the Career Center in the fall to speak to a recruiter or visit recruiter office in Ft. Collins.

Workforce: Speak with your counselor about plans to find jobs.

- **Update and revise your resume.** Your counselor can help refine your resume and help edit cover letters for job applications.

Meet with your counselor and start planning!