

# YOUR JUNIOR YEAR CHECKLIST



YOU ARE SO CLOSE TO WALKING ACROSS THAT STAGE.  
LET'S EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.



## CONTINUE TO BUILD ON SUCCESSES AT SCHOOL

**Junior year is especially important** because these are the most recent grades colleges and universities will see when you apply as a senior. Keep challenging yourself and take advantage of Honors, AP, IB, and concurrent enrollment classes, if available.



## USE COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS

Use [MaiaLearning](#) to **research colleges and universities, majors, and careers**. The Careers tab allows you to investigate high-demand career opportunities and the Universities tab lets you search college and university options nationwide. Add colleges and universities to the *Considering or Applying* tab to create your application list for senior year.



## CREATE A LIST OF COLLEGES THAT MATCH YOUR INTERESTS AND GOALS

Keep the following types of fit in mind when searching and narrowing down your college and university list.

- SOCIAL:** What is the school culture like?
- ACADEMIC:** What is the class rigor and do they have your major/program?
- FINANCIAL:** What is the cost of attendance, and how well do they meet financial need?



## PREPARE FOR SAT

Some colleges and scholarships may use your SAT scores (earning high scores can lead to scholarships!). The SAT is typically taken in April with opportunities for free retakes. **Take the SAT seriously!** Talk to your high school counselor for additional information and tutoring options.



## CREATE/UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL RESUME

**Many college and scholarship applications require a personal resume** or list of involvement, accomplishments, employment or activities. Use the following resources to view examples of high school resumes and tips on what to include.

- [College Essay Guy](#)
- [The Career Counter](#)
- [Princeton Review](#)



## WRITE A DRAFT OF YOUR PERSONAL ESSAY

Draft your personal essay using the [Common Application's essay prompts](#). **Most scholarship and college applications require this essay**, which strengthens your overall application. Your essay should reveal unique aspects of yourself not covered elsewhere, giving colleges a deeper understanding of who you are. Start drafting by considering the Common Application essay prompts.

### Questions?

Reach out to your  
school Counselor  
or stop by your  
school's DSF  
Future Center!

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## CONSIDER WHO TO ASK FOR A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Ask your counselor or college advisor for a copy of your school's letter of recommendation request form. Complete the request and add it to [MaiaLearning](#), under *Universities > Recommendations*. This is where recommenders will both access your recommendation request and submit their completed recommendations.

## BEGIN YOUR SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID SEARCH

Use tools like the Federal Student Aid Estimator to calculate your financial aid and estimate your Student Aid Index (SAI). After submitting the FAFSA or CASFA in your senior year, you'll receive an official SAI used by colleges and scholarships to assess your financial need. **An estimated SAI can guide your scholarship search.** Explore these websites to begin your scholarship search today!

- [Fastweb](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Appily \(formerly Cappex\)](#)
- [Denver Scholarship Foundation](#)
- [Scholly](#)

## CONSIDER COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS/PREP PROGRAMS

**Consider exploring competitive scholarships and prep programs alongside your general scholarship search.** These opportunities can assist in college preparation and cover a significant portion of your costs, often providing additional support during your college years. They typically involve thorough applications requiring essays, letters of recommendation, resumes, and more. If you qualify for any, consult your counselor or college advisor promptly to start planning and preparing.

- [Questbridge College Prep Scholars Program](#)  
Due April of Junior Year
- [Questbridge National College Match](#)  
Due September of Senior Year
- [The Gates Scholarship](#)  
Due September of Senior Year
- [Daniels Scholarship Program](#)  
Due October of Senior Year
- [Greenhouse Scholars](#)  
Due November of Senior Year
- [Boettcher Scholarship](#)  
Due November of Senior Year

## FINALIZE SUMMER PLANS

**Stay involved in activities, a job or volunteer opportunities throughout the summer.** Contact your school's athletics department, family engagement liaison, counselor, or college advisor to discover job opportunities, extracurricular or volunteer opportunities in your community or city. Colleges value your commitment beyond academics, which can also boost your career readiness.

## CONSIDERING TAKING A GAP YEAR BEFORE GOING TO COLLEGE?

Explore programs that help make the most of your time during a gap year to **help build your resume and transition you successfully into college.** Check out the [Gap Year Association](#) for some more information.

### Questions?

**Reach out to your school Counselor or stop by your school's DSF Future Center!**