



Junior Class

College & Career Planning Information



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Junior Year Checklist

FALL

- Take the PSAT October 19th and attend pre-registration sessions during Extra Help. Listen for information in Announcements.
- Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- Learn about colleges. bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
- Visit with college representatives when they come to visit TNCS. You should attend meetings for all schools to which you are applying.
- Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data. If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- Participate in the Junior Class College Trip – November 11-13.
- Analyze PSAT Score Report.
- Visit colleges and tour campuses.
- Update psychoeducational testing, if necessary, no later than February 1 in order to apply for accommodations for the May SAT.**
- Take the November and/or December SAT.

SPRING

- Take the March and/or May SAT
- Meet with the College & Career Counselor for an initial college planning meeting with your parents.
- Learn about colleges. bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
- Visit colleges and tour campuses, interview if possible.
- Narrow your list to 6-8 schools.
- Attend the Richmond Area Independent Schools College Fair Night in April.

College Planning: How to Get Started

<p><u>Step 1: Get Started</u> Assess your strengths, goals, passions, learning style, and social skills.</p>	<p>What is most important to you in the college-search process?</p>
<p><u>Step 2: Make Decisions</u> Attend full-time or part time? Single-sex or co-ed?</p>	<p>Public or Private? Small liberal arts college or large university? Technical college?</p>
<p><u>Step 3: Enlist Help</u> Parents, teachers, counselor, advisor, siblings, relatives, friends</p>	<p>Who do you want to help you with the process?</p>
<p><u>Step 4: Resources</u> College websites</p>	<p>College searches: bigfuture.collegeboard.org</p>
<p><u>Step 5: Talk</u> Discuss your goals and plans.</p>	<p>Hold yourself accountable by talking to teachers, advisor, and counselor.</p>
<p><u>Step 6: Meet College Reps</u> Visit with the college representatives that visit your school. Attend college fairs.</p>	<p>Be prepared with a list of questions to ask.</p>
<p><u>Step 7: Visit Campuses</u> Tour campuses and meet with admission and financial ad representatives. Talk to students about the college.</p>	<p>Virtual tours may also be available</p>

Source: The College Board

Tips for Parents on Finding the Right College

<u>Characteristics to Research</u> Identify Priorities	<u>Things to Consider</u>
<u>Size of Student Body</u> Range of academic majors Extracurricular possibilities Amount of personalized attention Number of academic resources	The size of the major's department Accessibility of faculty to students
<u>Location</u> Close to home? How far away is feasible?	Rural – small town with outdoor activities Urban – with access to museums, restaurants, etc.
<u>Academic Programs</u> Decided major Undecided major	Research the reputation of the academic departments Choose an academically balanced institution
<u>Campus Life</u> Extracurricular activities, athletics, clubs, and organizations Activities offered in the surrounding community	How do fraternities and sororities influence campus life? Is housing guaranteed? How are dorms assigned?
<u>Cost</u> Look beyond the price tag and investigate financial aid opportunities Don't rule out a good fit based on the price.	Most colleges work to ensure that academically qualified students from every economic circumstance can find financial aid that allows them to attend.
<u>Diversity</u> Explore the advantages that the geographic, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of a student body can provide.	Investigate which student organizations are active and visible on campus.
<u>Retention and Graduation Rates</u> The percentage of student who return after the first year and the percentage of entering students who go on to graduate is the best way to measure a school's quality and student satisfaction.	Retention rates and graduation rates indicate that responsible academic, social, and financial support systems exist for most students.

Source: The College Board

Questions to Ask College Representatives

- What makes this college unique?
- How would you describe the students on campus?
- What are the most popular majors?
- How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
- What support services (academic, advisors, tutors) are available?
- What is the student to faculty ratio?
- What is the faculty like? Are professors accessible outside of class?
- What happens on weekends? Do most students stay on campus or go home? Are there activities available on campus or things to do around town?
- Is Greek Life a big part of campus life?
- What are the housing options for freshmen?
- Do many students live off campus?
- Is there a sports complex or fitness center?
- What are the most popular clubs or activities?
- What is security like on campus?
- What is the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
- Are there opportunities for internships?
- Is there job placement help for graduates?
- Are there any big changes that are in the works that I should know about?

Accommodations/Foreign Language Questions:

- What types of support services (academic accommodations, advisors, tutors) are available? Where is the office for support services?
- Are foreign language credits required for acceptance if you attend a school that does not offer foreign language courses? Is ASL accepted to meet the credit requirements?
- Are foreign language credits required to graduate? Is American Sign Language (ASL) an option to meet the credit requirements?

College Interview Questions

Think about how you would answer some of these questions during an interview with a college admissions representative.

Practice answering some of them with a parent, teacher, or advisor.

- What is the most important thing you've learned in high school?
- What do you expect to be doing ten years from now?
- How do you define "success"?
- What have you liked or disliked about your school? What would you change?
- How would you describe yourself to someone who did not know you?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- What has been your proudest achievement so far?
- What events have been crucial in your life?
- What mark do you feel you've left on your school?
- What do you want to get out of your college experience?
- What about you is unique?
- What could you contribute to our college community?

Other Practice Questions on BigFuture:

bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/interviews/college-interviews-practice-questions-and-strategies