

# MY COLLEGE TIMELINE

## JUNIOR YEAR

College is all post-secondary education including certificate programs, trade schools, community colleges, and four year colleges and universities.

### SUMMER FALL

- Talk with your family about your college goals and what it will cost, including what options you may have to pay for college.
- Be active and pursue your interests- get a job or internship and be involved in your community. Volunteering can often be a great way to learn more about yourself, identify your skills and interests, and will be helpful to list on college, scholarship or job applications.
- Keep your grades up- admissions counselors look closely at your junior year grades.
- Prepare for the SAT test using the program called Khan Academy that provides free online resources.
- Get perspectives and tips from people you know about potential careers and opportunities to participate in job shadow experiences.
- Build your network – who is part of your team in achieving your goals after high school? Planning for college isn't something you do all by yourself. It's really a team effort! Coaches, teachers, parents, family members, counselors, principals, religious leaders, etc...all can be impactful in helping you get to college and into a career. You will need a team to help draft application essays, write letters of recommendation, craft your resume, introduce you to people in the pathway you are interested in, etc..
- Thinking about how to pay for college can be overwhelming! Attend financial aid events in your community or at local community colleges.
- Scholarships are free money for college! Start researching, however don't ever pay for scholarship searches. Use online search platforms such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com) or for local information [www.oceanacan.org](http://www.oceanacan.org). Compile a list of scholarships that you are eligible for, noting essay requirements, application due dates, and any additional information requested, such as transcripts, letters of recommendation, or FAFSA documents.

### WINTER SPRING

- Stay involved and take on leadership roles in your extracurricular activities.
- Identify the factors in a college that are most important to you - consider location, cost, programs available, religious affiliation, social environment, size of college, sports and clubs offered, etc.
- Take the SAT in Spring- the test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Don't miss your local community library SAT prep course in February/ March! Remember that retakes are an option if you are not pleased with your initial score.
- Explore different workplaces by job shadowing- your school offers some group experiences to tour local businesses. Get to know the workplace while you can!
- Make the most of college & career fairs- your school offers a college and career fair with local businesses and college representatives in February. Watch for others in the surrounding area!
- There are fees associated with some tests, including AP exams and the SAT, as well as for some college applications. Talk to your counselor as there are often waivers for these costs.
- Visit college campuses- watch for opportunities through your high school, visit a campus with a group of friends, or take advantage of any family vacations to visit a college in the area!



OCEANA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK