

# ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

## Take the PSAT/NMSQT®

- At school, sign up early to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Get [PSAT/NMSQT tips and a free practice test](#). When taking the PSAT/NMSQT, sign up for [Student Search Service®](#) to hear from colleges and scholarship programs.

## Start Your College Search

- Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, preferences and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Jump-start your college planning by [reading about majors and careers](#).
- Use [College Search](#) to find colleges with the right characteristics.

## Begin Thinking about Financial Aid

- Talk to your counselor about your college plans. Attend college night and financial aid night at your school. [Use financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs](#).

## Get Ready for the SAT

- Use the access code on your PSAT/NMSQT score report to sign in to [My College QuickStart™](#). With this personalized planning kit, you can prepare for the SAT using a study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT results and explore lists of suggested colleges, majors and careers.
- [Prepare for the SAT](#) by taking a free full-length official practice test. Then get a score and skills report. Learn which [skills you need to improve](#). Be sure to sign up for [The Official SAT Question of the Day™](#) for daily practice.

## Schedule Your Spring Testing

- You can take either the SAT® or up to three SAT Subject Tests™ on one test day. Plan your testing schedule carefully if you want to take both, and register for two separate test dates. See the [SAT schedule of test dates](#) and [register online for the SAT](#).

## Explore Colleges

- Start visiting local colleges: large, small, public and private. Get a feel for what works for you. Develop an initial list of 15-20 colleges that interest you. You can narrow it down later. Search for colleges and use My College List.

## Prepare for AP® Exams

- Do well on AP Exams and receive credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges for qualifying scores. Prepare for AP Exams.

## Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year

- Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes. Read about how to select your courses.
- Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.

## Keep Up Your Momentum

- Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admission officers. Be sure to bring your campus visit checklist.
- Request applications from the colleges you're planning to apply to. Check important dates; some colleges have early dates or rolling admission. Consult the College Application Calendar and the Financial Aid Calendar for a basic idea of the applications timeline.