

# PREPARING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS THE SUMMER BEFORE YOUR SENIOR YEAR

**How are you spending the summer before your senior year?** In addition to [activities](#) like working, volunteering, or taking classes, summer is the perfect opportunity to research colleges and prepare for the admissions process. Set a goal number of hours per week dedicated to set yourself up for success. Use the checklist below to help organize your efforts.

## GENERAL PREPARATION

Determine your favorite places to study and concentrate, like your home, local library, or a cafe.	
Seek a community that can support you, such as family members, teachers, friends and peers, older students who have applied to college, mentors from jobs or extracurriculars, or online communities.	
Self-reflect and create a list of three academic and/or career areas you are interested in. Participate in Q&A!	
Have an open mind toward <a href="#">colleges</a> you are unfamiliar with, and consider opportunities that seem beyond reach. Top colleges can be <a href="#">more affordable</a> for low-income students than public or community colleges.	

## COLLEGE RESEARCH

Sign up online for college mailing lists to receive information and alert admissions offices of your interest.	
Get to know college campuses! Visit local campuses, attend fly-in programs, or use free online virtual tours.	
Attend online information sessions and webinars hosted by colleges you are interested in.	
Review standardized testing <a href="#">requirements or recommendations</a> and determine if you need to take the SAT, ACT, and/or SAT Subject Tests. If SAT Subject Tests are required, we suggest taking them in June.	

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

Register early for test dates and fee waivers, and note the different locations and times.	
Map out your test preparation and testing dates on a calendar to pace yourself and be best prepared. Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____    Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____ Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____    Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____	
Prepare for exams using study books and online resources, such as lessons and practice tests/questions.	

## COLLEGE APPLICATION

Begin brainstorming your outline for <a href="#">application essays</a> . Some prompts are available on college websites!	
Think about which teachers to ask for recommendation letters. Visit our website for <a href="#">helpful criteria</a> .	
Get ready for the National College Match application to open in late summer and research colleges to rank.	