

# PREPARING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

## JUNIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

**Junior year is an important time in preparing for college admissions.** Your classes become more challenging, standardized tests feel more significant, and more people around you may start thinking or talking about college. You can do it! Keep yourself organized and on track by using our checklist.

### AT SCHOOL

Schedule a meeting with your counselor in the beginning of the school year. Evaluate your past two years and plan for what is ahead. Discuss your progress and potential future plans.	
Take the most rigorous classes available that you can manage. Remember, these will be the most recent grades available to colleges. Visit our <a href="#">Coursework FAQs</a> if you have questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What should I do if I am struggling to balance my other responsibilities with school?</i></li> <li>- <i>What if it's not possible to take advanced/honors/AP classes because of scheduling conflicts or school policies?</i></li> </ul>	
Continue to participate in meaningful extracurricular activities. Apply or run for leadership roles. Colleges like to see that your involvement and responsibility have been steady or even increasing over the years.	
Develop strong relationships with your core subject teachers. You will need <a href="#">recommendation letters</a> for both your College Prep Scholars Program and National College Match applications.	

### STANDARDIZED TESTING

See if the colleges you are interested in have <a href="#">requirements or recommendations</a> .	
Take the SAT or ACT as early as you are prepared to take it. If you want to apply early to college in the fall of your senior year, leave time to retake the test.	
Register early for fee waivers. Some colleges determine eligibility for application fee waivers based on if you were granted waivers for your standardized tests.	
Take <a href="#">SAT Subject Tests</a> in the summer in your strongest academic subjects. Some colleges require or recommend that you submit two SAT Subject Test scores.	

### COLLEGE PREP SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Apply to the QuestBridge <a href="#">College Prep Scholars Program</a> in February. If you are selected, take full advantage of the awards and/or resources offered.	
Draft college application essays. Applying to the College Prep Scholars Program will help you get a head start on <a href="#">essay writing</a> .	

### COLLEGE RESEARCH

Discover different college campuses! Visit local colleges in person or go online to use free virtual tours. Find out what's a good fit for you.	
Sign up online for college mailing lists to receive information and alert admissions offices of your interest. Attend online information sessions and <a href="#">webinars</a> .	
Think about your academic and career interests and <a href="#">research</a> to determine which colleges offer programs in these areas.	

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Your College Prep Scholars Program application carries over to your [National College Match](#) application. You can edit your application, but it will help to have a head start!

The [majority of College Prep Scholars are selected](#) as National College Match Finalists.

#### THE STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

Visit our [website](#) for information dedicated to equipping high-achieving, low-income students, including [checklists](#) for each grade, essay writing tips, and a sample standardized testing calendar.