

# Roadmap



## College and Career Counseling | 11th Grade

Junior year marks a turning point as college planning kicks into high gear for students and families. Here are some important things you can do to stay on track and be competitive in the application process.

## What to do throughout All Four Years

### **Keep your grades up and aim at your personal best.**

At this point, you are halfway through your high school journey. If you had a strong start to high school, keep up the good work! If not, there is still time to demonstrate an upward trend. Aim at your personal best every semester.

### **Stay connected with your counselor.**

This year, your counselor will initiate your individual college planning process. You will be in the driver's seat and we will be right there next to you so take advantage of our expertise while making your own decisions!

### **Build your resume on Cialfo.**

It is important that you update your resume at least once a year to keep record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, work history, and awards/honors. Remember to note your responsibilities for each experience, especially any leadership roles you served.

### **Explore academically and personally.**

Continue taking classes that pique your interest, take risks, and challenge yourself. Consider after school opportunities, doing research, and taking advantage of La Salle's study abroad programs.

### **Establish contact with college athletic programs.**

A lot of recruitment happens during the junior year so if you plan on playing sports in college, stay in touch with your current coach and colleges you are considering.

### **Attend on-campus visits with college representatives.**

Learn more about what that campus has to offer its students. Gain insight into each college's admission process while exploring if the school could be a potential match for you. Often the Admission Counselor you meet at the college visit will be the same person who will be reading your application. Help set yourself apart from other applicants by getting to know the college representative.

### **Get involved.**

Participate in extracurricular activities. There is no formula for how you choose to invest your time, as long as you do so in a way that either helps you grow or that demonstrates concern for others. Consider holding leadership positions.

### **Explore summer opportunities.**

Continue your academic, career, and personal growth by engaging in meaningful activities over the summer. Consider looking for an internship, job, or volunteer position. Use this time to further explore your interests and strengthen your college resume for admission.

### **Tour college campuses.**

If you can, take advantage of your vacation or travel plans by visiting colleges in the area. Visiting college campuses is the best way to determine if the school is the right fit for you. Even if you have no interest in attending a particular college, it is still worth visiting as this will help you learn more about what you want and don't want in a school.

## What to do during 11th Grade

# Fall

### **Create a folder to organize and manage your college search, test data, and application materials.**

Keep a list of the factors that interest you about each college to compare and contrast any materials you have collected.

### **Register for the February ACT and/or the March SAT.**

Students are recommended to take the official ACT and/or SAT in the spring of junior year. Colleges accept the ACT/SAT equally for admission purposes. Students should take the exam they are most comfortable with and scored higher on in practice exams. With more and more colleges going test-optional or test-blind, we encourage students to sit for the official exam and send scores if they mirror or exceed the college's admission averages.

## What to do during 11th Grade Fall (cont.)

### Estimate your financial aid needs.

Use the financial aid calculator at [Big Future \(bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators\)](http://BigFuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators) to estimate how much aid you might receive.

### Attend the San Diego College Tour

Join with your peers as a fun and interactive way to see what each campus has to offer.

### Begin a search for financial aid resources.

Also, sign up to receive scholarship notifications. National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and other electronic search engines.

### Take the PSAT.

All juniors will be taking the PSAT in the fall. Students taking the PSAT will be considered for the National Merit competition, receive college brochures through College Board's free Student Search Service, and gain access to scholarships.

## What to do during 11th Grade

# Spring

### Fill out the College Planning Survey for Juniors in January.

Do these before meeting individually with your counselor.

### Prepare for and take the March SAT.

To prepare for the SAT, you may access free, personalized SAT practice tools at the [Khan Academy \(khanacademy.org/sat\)](http://KhanAcademy.khanacademy.org/sat), which includes interactive questions, video lessons, practice tests, and more.

### Sign-up for ACT test prep or work on your own.

Acquire and practice the skills in preparation for the February ACT. Search Service, and gain access to scholarships.

### Attend the Bay Area College Tour in March.

Get to know the colleges in the Bay Area with your friends and counselors.

### Take the ACT exam at La Salle in February.

La Salle is a testing site for the February ACT, all juniors have the option to test on campus.

### Develop a list of 15 to 20 colleges that are of interest to you.

With over 3,000 colleges in the nation, you will find many colleges that provide the quality education you seek. Decide what factors are most important to you. The better the fit, the more successful and happier you will be.

## What to do during 11th Grade

# Summer

### Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Do this at [Eligibility Center \(web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/\)](http://EligibilityCenter.web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/) if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college.

### Write a first draft of your college essay.

Most students will be completing the UC Personal Insight questions and the Common App essays. Make sure to review the writing requirements and common mistakes to avoid for each. Start brainstorming and writing your response. Your writing response should add depth, context, and expand on your interests and passions.

### Visit colleges on your list.

While you are on campus, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Try to see if you can envision yourself attending the school for the next four years.

### Start your college application.

The Common App and UC applications are available starting August 1st. Create your account and start working on your applications early.

### Stay involved.

The summer before senior year may be the last chance to add to your application as many college deadlines are in early to mid-fall of senior year. Use the summer to continue building your admission profile by participating in summer camps or summer college programs.