



Junior Year Pre-College Calendar & Checklist

AUGUST

- Review your high school coursework and activity plans.
- Keep in mind that colleges look for the following: challenging coursework, a strong GPA, involvement in extracurricular activities, such as: sports, volunteer work, and church or community involvement.
- Obtain a social security number if you don't have one. You will need it to apply to college and for financial aid.

SEPTEMBER

- Take advantage of the career and college information in the Guidance Office. We are offering Career Cruising (www2.careercruising.com) and Naviance (<https://succeed.naviance.com/shawsheen>) which links us to information on hundreds of colleges across the country. Career Cruising and Naviance will enable you to learn about many careers as well as take interest inventories, which will give you an assessment of your strengths and weaknesses.
- The guidance office has catalogs, brochures, resource manuals, and college dvd's.
- Sign-up to take the PSAT exam.
- Obtain dates, locations, and times of college fairs and college Open Houses.

OCTOBER

- Take the PSAT exam.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Attend the College & Career Night.

NOVEMBER

- Continue to search for colleges on the Career Cruising and Naviance websites.

- Try to schedule college tours during your February/April vacations or during the summer break.
- If possible try to meet with alumni during the holiday break and learn as much about the college experience as possible.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- Review your PSAT scores.
- Create a file to manage your college search, testing, and application information.
- Use the Career Cruising or Naviance websites and research 3-5 schools that interest you the most.
- During your college visits make sure to meet with an admissions representative as well as a financial aid officer.
- If you took Spanish I in the fall then consider registering for Spanish II.

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- Start investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs.
- Go to www.fastweb.com or www.studentaid.ed.gov to find out about scholarships that may be available to you.
- Register online for the May or June SAT Test at: sat.org/register
- Consider taking an SAT Prep course.
- Make a list of colleges that are of interest to you and contact them for additional information.

APRIL

- Attend spring college fairs.
- Visit colleges and try to attend some college classes.
- Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.

MAY

- Take the SAT exam.
- Create a resume that includes all your accomplishments, extracurricular activities, community service, and work experience over the past 3 years.
- Continue researching scholarship possibilities.

JUNE

- Take the SAT exam.

- Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help to prepare you for the fall SAT exam.
- Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interest.
- Save some money from your summer job to help pay for college costs.
- Register for the Spanish I course offered through Shawsheen Tech's night school.