



RESERVOIR HIGH SCHOOL

Month-to-Month College Planning Guide



JUNIOR YEAR

JANUARY

- If you are currently enrolled in Precalc GT or above, consider taking the March SAT
- If you are currently enrolled in Algebra 2, register to take the June SAT.
- Register to take the April ACT
- Perform multiple college searches using different search engines AND different criteria.
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - Naviance Super Match
 - <http://www.collegeexpress.com/>
 - <http://www.collegeportraits.org/>
- Schedule visits for the spring to take tours of colleges. Utilize school holidays such as MLK Day, President's Day, spring break, and conference days to take these visits.

FEBRUARY

- Start your college tours!
 - Visit <http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/the-college-solution/2010/10/19/36-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-visit> to learn what questions to ask on the tour. Set a goal to visit one college per month.
- Continue studying for the SAT and ACT's.
- Register for the AP exam if you are enrolled in an AP class.
- Register for classes for the 2018-2019 school year that are challenging and interesting. Colleges want to see strong academic schedules in your senior year.

MARCH

- Confirm visits to colleges over spring break and into the summer. Try to schedule visits to at least one big school, one medium size school, and one small school to see where you feel most comfortable.
- Start a journal that highlights pros and cons for each college you visit.
- Continue studying for SAT and ACT.
- Attend Reservoir High's college night on March 14th.
- Determine if you need SAT Subject tests for your colleges. If you do, register for the May SAT Subject tests.

APRIL

- Visit a couple colleges over spring break. Considering visiting a couple schools that are located close to each other in a neighboring state.
- Take the April ACT.
- Start thinking about what teachers can write you a positive letter of recommendation.

MAY

- Take the AP exams if you are in an AP class.
- Ask two teachers to write your letter of recommendations. If they say yes, request them on Naviance AND complete the teacher input form.
- Complete the counselor input form.
- Help you parents access Naviance and have them complete the parent input form.
- Plan college visits for any schools that you have not visited.

JUNE – JULY

- Take the June SAT
- Update your resume.
- Start thinking about your college essay. Get online and read samples of essays to get an idea of what colleges are looking for.
 - <http://www.teenink.com/College-Directory/>
 - <https://apply.ihu.edu/apply/essays/>
 - <http://www.apstudynotes.org/essays/>
- Visit the rest of the colleges on your list.
- Start narrowing your colleges list. Be sure to include a range of academic schools in your list.
- Attend college workshops presented by Reservoir Counseling staff on Essay Writing and Application help.
- Register for the August SAT and September ACT if you are applying to colleges with November 1st deadlines



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SENIOR YEAR

AUGUST

- College applications are live! Start completing the demographic information on your applications and brainstorming essay topics.
- Finalize your college list. Consider applying to about 5-7 schools that are strong academic, social, and economic matches.
- Take the August SAT if you have a November 1st deadline
- Register for the September ACT and the October SAT.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

- Complete/submit counselor and teacher recommendation input forms on Naviance (*if you have not done so already*)
- Complete Transcript Request form and turn into Student Services
- Complete Teacher Recommendation Request Form
- Complete the FAFSA starting October 1, using your 2016 tax return!
- Meet with college representatives when they visit Reservoir
- Arrange for college visits
- If you have a November 1st college application deadline, be sure to meet deadlines for teacher recommendation requests and transcript/counselor requests

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Visit colleges if necessary
- Continue to work on college applications and investigate scholarships at each college
- Continue to work hard in all of your classes to maintain your GPA

JANUARY

- Check to make sure all forms have been submitted to colleges for your application
- Continue to research college scholarships and academic programs for which you are eligible
- January SAT test is the last test date that will enable scores to reach colleges in time for consideration

SPRING

- Avoid SENIOR SLUMP!! Second semester grades will be sent to colleges and can affect final admission decisions!
- Read all college mail/email carefully to be sure applications are complete
- Once you receive college decisions, allow time to consider your options (especially financial aid offers)
- Be sure to reply to all colleges by May 1st (*send your deposit to the school you will be attending and let the other schools know you will not be attending*)
- Let your counselor know where you plan to attend
- Sign up for one of the orientation programs your college offers
- Enjoy GRADUATION!!!

ONLINE RESOURCES

SAT: www.sat.collegeboard.org

ACT: www.actstudent.org

COLLEGE BOARD: www.collegeboard.org

NACAC: www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo

FinancialAid: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

FAFSA: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

NCAA: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>