



# 11th Grade

## COLLEGE PLANNING

*As a college bound junior, there's a lot you need to do this year to plan and prepare for college. To achieve your college goals, do the following and stay focused. The future is yours!*

**Strengthen your academic record.** Take college prep courses and get the best grades possible. *The stronger your high school academic record, the more college options you'll have.*

What can you do this year to strengthen your academic record? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Be involved in meaningful activities.** Colleges are looking for students who are active and involved in their school and community.

What activities/interests will you pursue this year?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make a testing plan.** Many juniors take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the ACT and/or SAT in the spring. Visit [act.org](http://act.org) and [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) for information. Questions? See your counselor.

What tests will you take? When will you take them?

- PSAT/NMSQT \_\_\_\_\_
- ACT \_\_\_\_\_
- SAT \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Determine your criteria.** Knowing what's important to you in a college will help you find a college that's a good fit for you.

**What are you looking for in a college?**

Type of college:  2-year  4-year

Size:  small  medium  large

Location:  close to home  in my home state  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Additional criteria (e.g., a specific major or activity)  
\_\_\_\_\_

To search for the colleges that meet your criteria, go to [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org).

**Think about a major.** Your major is the subject you will study in-depth. Think about your abilities, talents, and interests in terms of possible majors.

What major(s) are you considering? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Schedule college visits.** Visiting a college is the best way to find out if it will be a good fit for you. Think of the colleges you would like to visit and check their websites for visitation options.

Which college(s) would you like to visit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Talk to your counselor.** Meet with your counselor to go over your academic record and discuss your college plans.

**To learn about the differences between high school and college, watch this short video.**

