

Planning for the Future: A Place for Juniors to Begin

Your junior year should be devoted to...

- assessing progress toward graduation
- gathering information about yourself, your career options, and appropriate postsecondary schools.

Junior Year Timeline

Fall:

- Take the Georgia High School Graduation Test in Writing and the PSAT
- Visit the DEN (the PRHS Career Center) to assist you in beginning your search of careers and postsecondary education. The DEN is open before/after school and by appointment on Wednesdays. There are lots of resources available here!
- Make a file for your career/college information, testing, and application data.
- Start compiling a resume including volunteer and work experience, involvement in extra-curricular activities, etc.

Winter:

- Attend Junior Night-- January 15, 2009.
- Review your PSAT results. Go over the questions you missed and analyze correct responses.
- Continue your search for careers and postsecondary education.
- STUDY—Make your best possible grades and prepare to take the SAT & ACT tests or COMPASS test.

Spring:

- Take the Georgia High School Graduation Test.
- Make an appointment with your counselor to discuss your credits
- Determine the most rigorous curriculum appropriate for you and register for these courses during PRHS registration.
- Take the SAT & ACT tests. Make sure to meet registration deadlines. Locate these deadlines at www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org.
- Students who plan to attend two-year or technical colleges may take the COMPASS test.
- Spring break is a great time to visit colleges, so try to incorporate college visits with family plans.
- Athletes—register online with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) and speak to your coach for more details.
- Develop a list of 15 to 20 colleges that attract you. Investigate college viewbooks/websites and information about financial aid and academic programs that interest you.
- If you are considering a military academy, contact your local recruiter and begin the application process.
- Discuss college finances with your parents. Start to learn about financial aid and scholarships. Even though you will not apply for scholarships until senior year, use the financial aid calculator at www.collegeboard.com to estimate how much aid you might need and receive.

Summer:

- Continue visiting colleges
- Retake the SAT & ACT

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How do I search for colleges (2-year, 4-year, technical), their majors/programs, and admissions requirements?

- Visit www.gacollege411.org. GA Colleges >Comparative View. Once a college is selected, click on Admissions for requirements. Also available, GA Colleges> Campus Tours. Be sure to create an account to save your information.
- Visit www.careercruising.com. Username: peachtree Password: ridge Click on Explore Colleges & Universities >Search for Schools. Choose a state and explore colleges from that state or type in the name of a specific school. It is very important that you set up a portfolio account in order to save your information.
- Visit www.collegeboard.com. Click on For Students> Find a College.
- Counselor-O-Matic is a Princeton Review search engine that allows you to combine your academic and extra curricular information in your preferences to search for good college matches. It is a great starting point for someone who is unsure where they want to apply because it will suggest schools for you.
<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/research/advsearch/match.asp>

How do I search for a career that is right for me?

- Go to www.careercruising.com. (see above) Click on Career Matchmaker to take an interest inventory or select Explore Careers.
- Visit www.gacollege411.org and select Career Info.

How do I register for the SAT and ACT tests? How can I take sample tests and answer questions to help me prepare?

- You can register for both the SAT and ACT tests either online or through the mail. Information regarding both options, as well as preparation packets for both tests, are available in the counseling office. The SAT website is www.collegeboard.com. Click on For Students >Register for the SAT or SAT Test Preparation. To register for the ACT test go to www.actstudent.org. Click on either Registration or Test Prep. To register for either test you will need the PRHS school code: 112866.
- Visit www.gacollege411.org and click on College Test Prep.
- Go to www.studyguidezone.com for practice tests for the ACT, SAT, and COMPASS.
- www.testpreview.com
- www.number2.com

How do I learn about financial aid?

- You can learn about the HOPE Scholarship at www.gsfc.org
- To access an explanation of different ways to get money for college, visit www.finaid.org
- Visit www.collegeboard.com. Click on For Students> Pay for College
- Go to www.gacollege411.com and click on Paying for College