

11th Grade Planning Timeline

Fall Semester

- Maintaining your grades during your junior year is important! Colleges put a lot of weight on your grades for this year.
- Review your transcript with your counselor.
- Make sure you're challenging yourself academically. Colleges will consider how difficult of your courses.
- Now is the time to really focus your career and college research. Visit websites such as www.sccango.org, www.collegeboard.org and www.cappex.com to start your college search process.
- Stay involved in school and community activities. These are just as critical as maintaining good grades.
- Research the admissions requirements for the colleges you're interested in. Do your research, and be sure to find out about any additional requirements on top of GPA and test scores
- 11th grade, the college preparation process accelerates and you need to **start paying careful attention to looming deadlines and application requirements**. Realize that in 11th grade you don't need to choose exactly where to apply yet, but you do need to have a plan mapped out for achieving your broad educational goals.

August

- Obtain schedules and registration information for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT

September

- Register for the PSAT exam offered in October.
- Remember that when you take the PSAT in your junior year, the scores will count towards the National Achievement Program (and it is good practice for the SAT I).
- Start a file for college catalogs and other admissions information.
- Keep an eye out for college nights at any schools in your area you may want to attend.

October

- Take the PSAT if you registered for it this month.
- Narrow your list of colleges to include a few colleges with requirements at your current GPA, a few with requirements above your current GPA, and at least one with requirements below your GPA.
- You and your parent(s) may want to visit the colleges and universities during spring break and summer vacation so you don't have to miss school.

December

- You will receive your scores from the October PSAT if you took it that month.
- Depending on the results, you may want to consider signing up for SAT prep.

Spring Semester

- If you're choosing your senior year classes, look for classes that will give you a strong transcript.
- You'll also want to look for classes that will fit your college study plans.
- Consider looking for a summer job or internship. Not only can you earn money for college, you can also learn valuable skills.

January

- Continue with your campus tours online or in person.
- You want to be narrowing down your list of potential colleges.

February

- Register for the March SAT or the April ACT, or both.
- Research the requirements of the colleges you're interested in to learn about admission deadlines and which tests to take.

March

- Take the March SAT I exam if you registered to take it this month.
- Attend the **College Fair** sponsored by **West Ashley High School**
- You will take the ACT at West Ashley High School for free.

April

- Take the time to review and plan your calendar with your parents.

May

- Take any SAT or ACT that you registered for this month.
- Talk to teachers about writing letters of recommendation for you.
- Think about what you would like to include in these and politely ask your teachers if they can help. Complete a Senior Profile Sheet (found in school counseling office) to give to those teachers

June

- Add any new report cards, test scores, honors or awards from the year to your file.
- Continue with your college visits. Call ahead for appointments with the financial aid, admissions and academic advisors at the colleges in which you are most interested.
- If you go on interviews or visits, don't forget to send thank-you notes.
- Take the SAT I, SAT Subject Tests and the ACT tests if you're registered.

Summer between Junior and Senior Years

- Continue to work on your application essays and review the application procedures for the colleges you plan to apply to.
- Decide if you are going to apply under any early decision or early action programs. This requires you to submit your applications early, typically between October and December of your senior year.
- Read your college mail and send reply cards to your schools of interest.

Make the Most of Your Summer. You'll want to visit colleges in the summer, but don't make that your entire summer plan (for one, it's not something that you can put on your college applications). Whatever your interests and passions are, try to do something rewarding that taps into them. A well-spent junior summer can take many forms—employment, volunteer work, and travel, summer programs at colleges, sports or music camp. If your summer plans introduce you to new experiences and make you challenge yourself, you've planned well.