

Topics for Junior Year

Junior Year Meeting Topics

Testing

Testing is the biggest focus for college planning for juniors in their first semester. Students will be focused on getting their diagnostics completed, test pre tutoring set up and completed, and sitting for at least 1 standardized test in the fall of junior year (if possible).

By getting 1 test done in the fall it allows time for additional test prep (if needed) and additional testing dates in the spring to bring up an overall score or to improve a student's Superscore. We will focus on checking in and planning for testing in the fall meeting.

Interests & Activities

First semester we will explore your interests and brainstorm ideas of ways you can get involved both in and outside of school to continue to build your resume.

Academics & Course Selection

We will review your first semester report card at our second semester meeting and reflect on positives and places to focus efforts. We will tackle course selection for senior year making sure to consider rigor of classes and tracking pre-reqs for future years.

Introduction to College Research

This year will be spent building the list of schools to which you are going to apply. We will talk about ways that you can go about researching schools to add to your list. Your College Planner Pro account will be a great resource for looking up admissions stats, degree information, school demographics and more. Once you have found schools that interest you they can be put on your My College List in College Planner Pro so that we can see the start of your list.

We also discuss your interests, plans, and desires for a school so that we can make suggestions of schools for you to add to your research list.

College Visits

Many students begin to take their on campus college visits in the fall of their junior year. We will talk through the dos and don't of these visits so that you are getting the most from your on campus visits.

Letters of Recommendation

Junior year is when you will ask for your letters of recommendation from your teachers (typically 2 teachers). We will talk through the teacher options that you have and come up with the best options for your requests. We provide email templates to help with guidance on how to make the asks.

Workshops

We begin the application process in the second semester of your junior year. Workshops will be available throughout the spring and into June after your junior year to tackle resume completion, Common App set-up, and Essay Brainstorming.

Senior Year Kick-off

In May and June we will hold a third annual meeting during your junior year to finalize your college list.

During this meeting, we will focus on the 8-12 schools to which you plan to apply. We will then come up with our application strategy for each school (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision) which will become the timeline we will use for application completion.

Summer Planning

What are you doing this summer - a summer job, volunteering, a program in the US or abroad? We talk through your plans to help you decide on a plan that excites you. If you are looking for a summer program we provide you with resources to research and pick one of the many programs available.

Topics for Junior Year

Tasks to Complete Junior Year

College Planner Pro / GEC Website

- Research schools you are interested in through your College Planner Pro Account
- Add schools you are interested in applying to to the "My List" of Colleges in the Colleges Tab
- Review the Suggested Colleges list in the Colleges tab and add any you are interested in to the "My List of Colleges"
- Make sure your activities are fully updated and explained in detail in the Resume & Activities section under the Essays Tab

Administrative

- Schedule Your Back to School, Second Semester, and Senior Year Kick-off Meetings (Parents to attend)
- Make sure all transcripts, report cards, and test score reports are uploaded to your College Planner Pro Account
- Plan to Attend 1 of each of the following workshops:
 - Resume
 - Common App Set-up
 - Essay Brainstorming

Testing

- Complete Diagnostic Tests
- Set-up Test Prep Tutoring (if desired)
- Schedule National Testing Dates and Follow Up Tests (if needed)

School

- Maintain/Adjust Study Plan
- Keep up with homework and projects
- Stay Involved
 - Sports
 - Clubs
- Request Letters of Recommendation
- Complete Course Selection

College

- Plan Campus visits
- Register on the website of all schools you are interested in
- Regularly check and OPEN emails from the schools you are interested in (they know if you are looking)
- Attend meetings with schools you are interested in when they come to visit your school (make sure to sign-in)
- If you are unable to attend an on campus meeting email the local rep to let them know why you couldn't come to show your interest

Summer

- Summer Planning
 - Work
 - Volunteer
 - Summer Program
- Input Junior Year Activities
- Complete required summer work for school
- Continue attending GEC work sessions and workshops to make progress on your applications.