

Junior Year Checklist - Fall 2019



Sign up for Important Tests

- **ACT & SAT:** If you plan to attend a four-year college, you will need to take the SAT and/or the ACT. Sign up to take these tests in the Spring/Summer of Junior year.
- **PSAT:** Juniors who take the PSAT qualify for the National Merit Scholarship which looks great on college applications and helps with college tuition. **EDHS is offering the PSAT on October 16. Register in the College & Career Center.**
- **ASVAB:** Want to know what career is best for you? Interested in the Military? The ASVAB helps with both. **This FREE test will be offered at EDHS on Oct. 28.** Register in the College & Career Center



Start creating your college list

Junior year is the ideal time to start developing your college list, as it will leave you time to do your research, visit campuses, and eliminate schools that may not appeal to you as much as you originally thought. Things to consider when putting together your list are school location, cost of tuition, school size, extracurriculars offered, and admission requirements. **See the back of this sheet for a breakdown on creating the perfect college list.**



Research colleges

Once you've created your college list be sure to start researching the schools that interest you. Use websites like [BigFuture](#) or [CollegeNavigator](#) to help you compare schools. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads from your school for advice, and list the college features that interest you.



Keep your grades up - put in the extra effort

GPA is one of the biggest factors in college admission decisions. When colleges review your transcripts, they look closely at your sophomore and junior year grades to get a sense of your work ethic. Your grades not only reflect your smarts but show that you listened, participated and engaged in your high school classes, which can be very desirable to your future dream school.



Estimate your financial aid need

Four year colleges, Community Colleges, and Trade Schools all accept financial aid. Families should use the [FAFSA4caster](#) to get an estimate of the federal student aid they may receive when it comes time to apply for college. It may even enable you to attend a college you thought you couldn't afford



Stay connected with StudentSquare

Be sure to activate your StudentSquare account to stay up to date on events, workshops, college rep visits and more. Click on "StudentSquare" under the 'Students' Tab on the [EDHS Cougar Website](#) and follow the tutorial.



ATTEND COLLEGE FAIR!

The EDUHSD College Fair will take place on **September 24, 2019, 6:30 - 8:15 pm at UMHS!** Over 90 Colleges, universities, trade schools, and military reps are expected to participate at this year's fair. This is your chance to meet with representatives from colleges and ask your questions. To see which schools and organizations will be in attendance, visit the [EDUHSD College Fair Website](#).

CREATING YOUR COLLEGE LIST

How do you pick the school that's right for you? Use the six categories below to help you create a list of the perfect school(s).

1. Major - What Do I Want to Be?

- What do you like to do?
- What is important to you?
- Which subject(s) in school do you enjoy the most?
- Knowing who you are and what matters to you (your interests, abilities, and values) can guide every decision about your direction after high school. Once you've narrowed in on a potential major, research the colleges you are considering to make sure they offer that major.

2. Location

- Do you want to attend a school that is close to home or far away?
- Do you want to live near a big city or a small town?
- Is there a certain climate that is more appealing to you, like the beach or the mountains?

3. Size/Campus Setting

- Do you prefer a more intimate atmosphere or do you want to be a part of a larger crowd?
- Does a campus that contains large facilities and offers a wide range extracurricular activities excite you?
- Does the idea of small class sizes and a more personal relationship with your professors appeal to you?

4. Cost of Attendance

- Do I have the facts about what college will cost? Students don't usually pay the published price because of financial aid and shouldn't rule out colleges early in their search because of cost. All students should apply for financial aid in the fall of their senior year. Most students receive some form of aid from the government or the college they plan to attend.

5. Extracurricular Activities

- Is there a specific club or activity you would like to explore while in college?
- Are you interested in joining a fraternity or sorority?
- Do you hope to play a particular sport?
- If the school does not offer what you are looking for, is there an organization in the local community that does?

6. Admissions

- What is your current class rank & GPA?
- What scores did you receive on standardized tests like the PSAT, SAT & ACT?
- Visit the Admissions and Records page on the website of the school you hope to attend to see if you currently meet the entry requirements. You may need to make adjustments in your final two years of high school in order to be accepted.

Once you have considered these categories, determine which one is your highest priority. Visit <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to help narrow down your top schools based on that priority.

If you find that more than 20 schools fit that priority, narrow it down even more to find schools that fit your second highest priority. Continue narrowing down until you have a list of 8-15 schools that you are interested in. Now spend the time researching those schools and planning campus visits. This method is sure to help you find a handful of schools that you will want to apply to when the time comes.