



# UCanGo2.org Junior Checklist

## Fall Checklist

- **Keep talking.** Continue conversations with guidance counselors, teachers, family members and other trusted adults about your plans after high school. Ask family and friends about their educational choices.
- **Take it to the next level.** Enroll in AP and other honors-level classes, if possible.
- **Enroll now.** Discuss concurrent enrollment (college credit courses offered in high school) with your counselor.
- **See for yourself.** Attend a college fair in your area. These events offer families a chance to talk with representatives from different colleges. Visit [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) to find the **College Fair Worksheet** to help you make the most of this event.
- **Do a thorough review.** Visit with your guidance counselor to make sure you're on track to graduate in another year. You can begin to plan your class schedule through your junior and senior years and include electives that might be applicable to careers that interest you.
- **Choose an exam.** ACT or SAT? Contact the school you plan to attend and ask which test they prefer. Once you decide which exam to take, sign up and prepare for it by using the free Test Prep section found at [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org). Ask your counselor about fee waivers to help you cover the cost of the exam. Once you choose an exam, visit [ACT.org](https://act.org) or [SAT.org](https://sat.org) to find upcoming test dates. These exams are important college preparation steps.
- **Get in.** Investigate admission requirements and costs for your chosen school(s) at [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org).
- **Pssst...remember the PSAT.** Register and take the PSAT. This score is required for several national scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship.
- **Pick your top five.** Narrow your list of schools based on research you've already completed. Your list will probably include three to five schools.
- **Look for aid.** Financial aid, that is. Research your grant, scholarship and student loan options at [StudentAid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov). To apply for federal and state aid, you'll complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA will become available on Oct. 1 of your senior year.
- **Talk taxes.** Learn about the Lifetime Learning Credit at [IRS.gov](https://irs.gov).

**Visit [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) for tools to help you plan, prepare and pay for college!**



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## Spring Checklist

- **Start the process.** You and your parent(s) or guardian(s) may want to schedule campus visits in the spring or summer. Check with your counselor to see if your high school offers free days to take campus visits. You can also check out the Making the Most of Campus Visits Guide at [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org).
- **Test.** Register for the spring ACT and/or SAT tests. You may also want to take the exam again over the summer and/or in the fall of your senior year to boost your score. Visit [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) to find free ACT and SAT practice tests.
- **Select special classes.** If you're interested in taking AP or honors-level exam(s), sign up now. If your school doesn't offer these classes, check with your guidance counselor to see if and when other schools in the area offer them. These classes are worth checking out because some offer college credit, which could save you time and money in the long run.
- **Find some money for college.** Continue researching financial aid options and review the **Are You Looking for Money?** booklet at [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) to find helpful websites and learn tips for earning scholarship awards. We encourage juniors to apply for 1-2 scholarships a week!
- **Let it add up.** Continue to contribute to your 529 College Savings Plan ([OK4Saving.org](http://OK4Saving.org)) or another savings account. It's generally best to keep most savings in the parent(s)' or guardian(s)' name(s).
- **Keep tabs.** Keep updating your "My Future" file, which should contain the following items:
  - Copies of report cards
  - Your **Tracking My Classes and Achievements** worksheet
  - Skill assessment quizzes and results
  - Your list of paid, volunteer, school and community activities

## Summer Checklist

- **Recruit some ambassadors.** Ask teachers or other community members to write letters of recommendation for your college admission and scholarship applications. Think about what you'd like to include in these letters and politely ask those you respect if they'll help.
- **Extend your stay.** You may have already toured some campuses, but use the summer months to visit friends and family currently attending the school(s) you're interested in. Consider sitting in on classes or staying in the dorms with your pals. Also, call ahead to set appointments with financial aid, admission and academic advisors. All these experiences will help you get a feel for the campus to see if it's a good fit for you.
- **Be courteous.** If you go on interviews or visits, don't forget to send thank-you notes to those who helped you.
- **Test again.** You may want to take the ACT and/or SAT test more than one time to boost your score.
- **Practice and evaluate.** Practice completing college admission applications and preparing essay answers. Visit [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) and click on the College Planning tab to fill out a sample college application and practice your writing skills.
- **Apply early.** If you have a clear "first choice" campus, decide if you're going to apply for early decision or action. Be aware! If you're accepted for early decision, you may be committing yourself to attend there.
- **Decide what you like.** Explore careers by taking a summer job or internship in your field of interest. Remember to set some money aside from your paycheck to pay future expenses.
- **Check your email and snail-mail.** Read your college mail carefully and send reply cards to the campuses that interest you.