

# Countdown to College

## Spring/Summer of Junior Year

**Grades** – Finish the year strong. Most college applications are due in November or December of senior year, so junior year grades are important.

**College Admission Tests** – Schedule the ACT/SAT tests as needed. Send scores to Louisiana TOPS Scholarship (#1595) and schools that interest you. Student-athletes planning to play a sport at a Division I/II school need to send scores to NCAA Clearinghouse (#9999).

**Explore Career Interests.** Two excellent resources for high school students:

*Occupational Outlook Handbook* [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

*Career Planning* [myroad.collegeboard.com](http://myroad.collegeboard.com)

**Begin looking online at schools.** Check admissions requirements, cost of tuition/fees, housing, meals, books. View the virtual campus tours, read students' blogs, get on the schools' email lists. Good resources:

*College Navigator* [nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)

*U.S. News University Directory* [www.usnewsuniversitydirectory.com](http://www.usnewsuniversitydirectory.com)

**Compare schools you are considering.** Many factors are to be considered when choosing a school; cost, location, size, majors. Creating a comparison worksheet will be helpful.

**College visits** – Spring break and summer are a good time to visit a university to see if the school is the right fit. Most schools have designated Saturday visits and online registration is required. RHS seniors are allowed two excused days to visit in the fall, which is a good time for a return visit.

**Narrow your search** – After researching and visiting, have top picks narrowed to three by senior year.

**Create a Resume** – Make a list of accomplishments and work experiences in high school.