

Junior Year Checklist

College search + planning tips

Fall

- Attend fall open house events.** Campuses come to life during the fall with classes in full swing, athletic games, performances, activities, and more. See it for yourself during a tour or open house. Sign up at naz.edu/visit.
- College fairs + high school visits.** Find out if the colleges you are interested in will be visiting your high school this fall or will be at college fairs near you. If so, connect with them to get answers to your questions about majors, how to apply, financial aid, and more.
- Connect with admissions counselors** from your top pick colleges to be sure you are kept up to date with admissions deadlines and procedures.

Winter

- Research program-specific admission requirements** to be sure you have time to pursue and complete requirements before submitting your application. For example, visual and performing arts programs often require auditions or portfolio reviews for which you will need to prepare in advance. Admission to some health care programs requires documented volunteer service hours. Knowing these extra requirements ahead of time will ensure that you have time to complete them.
- Organize your info.** Use a file box or accordion folder to store and organize college brochures, financial aid info, and other helpful documents for quick reference.
- Learn about financial aid** – scholarships, grants, and other types of aid that can make your college dream a reality. Go to naz.edu/types-of-aid to learn more. Understand how affordable the investment in your education can be at naz.edu/affordability.

Spring

- Make note of admission deadlines** for the top colleges you plan to apply to.
- Start looking into scholarships** (merit based, need based) and how to apply.
- Begin thinking about who you'll ask to write a **letter of recommendation** for you – teachers, counselors, coach, etc.
- Apply for a **summer job or internship**.
- Next year's class schedule.** As you select classes and plan your schedule for next school year, consider your goals for career and college and plan your class selections to align with your end goals.
- Grab a calendar/planner/notebook** just for researching schools. Keep track of important deadlines, set goal dates for accomplishing tasks, and always be honest about what you take note of.

Summer

- Hit the road!** Schedule visits and tours to your top pick colleges. Take some time to visit the environment around the school to see what else the city or region has to offer for additional opportunities and recreation.
- Write a first draft of your **application essays**. Designate a proofer who will give you constructive feedback. Give yourself the time for honest revisions before you submit.
- Applying early decision?** Find out the deadlines for your top colleges' early decision applications, mark your calendar, and begin working on your application. Often, these deadlines fall earlier in the fall of your senior year.

Need help along the way?

Admissions counselors can help with questions and guidance as you venture out to find the best path for you. Contact our team: admissions@naz.edu • naz.edu/admissions • 585-389-2860