



Summer Quarterly Update

For 2016-2017 Juniors

Making School Count

- **Make summer count.** Check out six important steps on the [college planning timeline](#) that college-bound juniors can undertake take this summer. For additional perspective on how to think about balancing your summertime investment, check out this high school student's guide to [summer planning for college](#).

Finding Colleges for You

- **Narrow down your college list.** Most college counselors recommend that students apply to five to eight colleges. If your list is longer than that, summer is a good time to narrow it down to the set you will use for applications in the fall. To help you think about it, [Stephanie Balmer](#), Dean of Admissions at Dickenson College, talks about how to select foundation (safe), mid-range (good bet), and stretch colleges.
- **Visit high priority colleges.** Campus visits plays a crucial role in determining if a college is the right "fit" for you. Last quarter we included [tips for getting started](#) on college visits. Here are additional suggestions for productive college visits from the [College Board](#). Keep in mind that while summer visits may be more convenient, you will not see campuses in full swing, as they are when classes are in session.

Looking Ahead to College

- **Build your College Admission Resume.** Your College Admission Resume highlights your accomplishments during high school and can be a tremendous asset when you fill out applications, ask for recommendations, apply for scholarships, or meet with college admissions interviewers. Learn how to build your [College Admissions Resume here](#).
- **Did you take the SAT or ACT this semester?** Here are some tips for [managing your tests and test results](#) as you apply to colleges.
- **Take or re-take tests in the fall.** There are at least two and potentially three opportunities to take college admissions tests next fall and still meet admissions deadlines, including a new SAT test date in August. Register for [SAT here](#), and for [ACT here](#). Before registering, make sure to check the admissions deadlines for colleges to receive test scores, particularly if you plan to apply for early decisions.
- **Need help preparing for the fall SAT or ACT?** *Sage College Prep Services* will offer prep classes for the SAT and ACT starting in September. [Watch the Sage website](#) or email us at DoctorQ@sagecps.com for details.

Applying to College

- **Get familiar with college applications.** As "rising seniors," summer is a good time for current year juniors to make the shift from planning to action when it comes to college applications. Get familiar with the application process and how you can break it down into actionable steps at [Applying 101](#).

- **Research admission requirements.** Each of the schools on your final college application list may have a different set of application requirements, and you'll need to plan ahead to meet those requirements. To get started, take a look at [sample college application requirements here](#).
- **College application timeline.** Check out this college application timeline, paying particular attention to what you can do [before August](#) to get a good head start. If you already have a list of colleges to which you know you will apply, consider starting those applications this summer, including drafting your college essays. This will take pressure off of your fall semester deadlines.

Paying for College

- **Talk about the cost of college.** If you haven't done so already, now is a good time to have a family conversation about college costs. [Myra Smith](#), Executive Director, Financial Aid Services at the College Board offers simple suggestions to students on how to talk to parents. And, college services giant Unigo offers this [advice to parents](#) for communicating about the costs of college.
- **Types of financial aid.** Get a quick overview of the types of financial aid that may be available to you [here](#).
- **Financial Aid Q&A.** Read answers to some of the most [common questions about college financial aid](#).
- **Scholarship application deadlines, month by month.** Each year, millions of scholarship dollars go untapped. Last quarter we offered an [introduction to scholarship search websites](#). In addition to signing up for scholarship search services, consider creating a schedule of promising [scholarship applications due each month](#).
- **Getting started on federal financial aid.** The Federal Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1, 2017. Use some time this summer to [get familiar with the FAFSA](#) and [create your FSA ID](#) so that you are prepared to complete the application next fall. You can also [estimate your eligibility for federal aid](#) using the FAFSA4caster.



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