

# Junior College Planning Calendar

## *Juniors*

### *January / February*

- ✓ Prepare carefully for all semester exams. Maintain your grades!
- ✓ Continue the activities you enjoy, sharing your expertise and leadership. Joining everything in sight isn't the answer. Selective colleges are looking for sustained interest and involvement. Keep activities balanced and think about a leadership role.
- ✓ Fill in your date book. Look at the big picture and figure out when you'll be taking important tests like the ACT and/or the SAT and mark the registration deadlines on your calendar. You are advised to take a National ACT test date on a Saturday in April or June, in addition to the PSAE test that you are required to take in April during all school testing at Proviso West. You will need to register and pay for the National tests on Saturdays by the deadlines, but you will register for the PSAE test during school.
- ✓ Stay involved with your community connections. If you volunteer, keep it up for as much as you can. 36 hours of community service are now required for graduation at Proviso West H.S.
- ✓ Focus on your college/career research. Utilize the P.W. guidance website, the college/career resource center, and Career Cruising to research education and career options.
- ✓ Give some thought to careful selection of courses for senior year. When you sign up for your senior classes, don't load up totally on electives. In addition to electives that you want to take, select challenging courses that will help your competitive edge. If possible, take include some AP or Honors courses.
- ✓ Create a free email account on sites such as Hotmail, Yahoo, etc. Be sure your address is professional.

### *March*

- ✓ Register for ACT exams. (SAT exams are optional, but some selective colleges will require SAT Subject Tests) Watch deadlines for registration. Visit the testing websites for practice tests! [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), and [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com).
- ✓ Attend Junior College night (date TBD) and schedule an appointment with your counselor to narrow your college search. Be sure to find out the admissions requirements for the colleges you are interested in attending.
- ✓ Become familiar with the Guidance Department Web Page and start organizing the college mail that will start to pile up.
- ✓ Visit colleges during spring break: large/small; public/private. Get a feel for what works for you. Develop a list of 15 to 20 college possibilities that interest you.

- ✓ Register for AP exams and SAT II (Subject) tests to be taken in May.
- ✓ Consider all of your resources for test preparation.

## ***April***

- ✓ Take ACT (and/or SAT I Tests and SAT Subject tests, if appropriate) You are advised to take a National ACT test date on a Saturday, in addition to the free Proviso West PSAE test. You are advised to consider taking the Writing test at least once.
- ✓ Discuss participating in athletics on the college level with your coach. Registering for the NCAA clearinghouse is required if you intend on participating in athletics at the college level.
- ✓ Visit college websites directly for information and admission requirements.
- ✓ Visit colleges, read college information, review this website and start refining your college list of your top 15-20 choices. Enjoy this time to compare and contrast. Remember the categories of “stretch/reach schools, probable/likely, and sure admission.”
- ✓ Look into summer jobs and opportunities for educational experiences. (Some job openings are posted in the college/career center. Remember that college students arrive home in mid-May, so don’t wait until school is out before you start this process!)
- ✓ Discuss opportunities for summer programs with your counselor.

## ***May / June***

- ✓ Take Advanced Placement tests (if applicable).
- ✓ Prepare carefully for final exams.
- ✓ Plan on visiting several schools of your choice over summer vacation. Follow up with thank you notes as needed after any interviews.
- ✓ Take college road trips with your parents and your friends! The best time to check out a school is when it’s in session, but tours and interviews can be arranged any time. Start with the college websites, prospective student section, and always call ahead to verify your visit times.
- ✓ Continue to refine your list. Start to narrow your list to 15.
- ✓ Anticipate your college admission essays.
- ✓ Start thinking about some scholarships. Register on [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) to search the national on-line data base, and plan to apply for any matches. Ask parents to help you with information on the profile.
- ✓ For a comprehensive look at all of the issues relating to college funding, check out [www.managingcollegecost.com](http://www.managingcollegecost.com)