

STUDENT GOALS CHECKLIST FOR

Juniors

- ❑ **Register to take the SAT or ACT** (or both). Pay attention to deadlines. Decide whether to sign up for the SAT with essay. See which colleges recommend or require it. See tips below.
- ❑ **Begin researching financial aid and scholarship opportunities**—your school counselor is a great resource. Also, check out more information in the tips below.
- ❑ **Develop a “short list”** of 5 to 10 colleges that you’re considering.
- ❑ **Meet your college admission counselor** they’re the experts on their schools. Find your Hood representative at hood.edu/counselor.
- ❑ **Attend college fairs and information sessions** near home to learn more about different colleges.
- ❑ **Plan college visits**—register with the college in advance and ask to see the features that interest you most. You will get the best tour that way!
- ❑ **Take note of application deadlines** for the colleges you’re most interested in.

Tips for Juniors:

Make the college search pay off! Using the online tools raise.me and tuitionrewards.com, you can research colleges and earn money to put toward your college tuition.

Opportunity.collegeboard.org offers chances to win scholarships from \$500 to \$40,000 while you practice SAT skills and learn about colleges.

Learn SAT essentials, from registering to finding out which colleges require an essay: collegereadiness.collegeboard.org

From test prep to test day, **register for the ACT** at act.org

In the next year, the term FAFSA will be used a lot. FAFSA is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. You will use the online platform (<https://studentaid.gov>) to apply for financial aid to pay for college. Some of this money is free, which is great news; some must be earned through work on campus and some repaid after college.

Tips for writing your college essay. Start with a brainstorming session. Create an outline. Be genuine yet concise in your writing. Always proofread and get feedback.



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