



JUNIOR CHECKLIST

FALL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Keep talking.** Continue conversations with guidance counselors, teachers, family members and other trusted adults about your plans after high school. Ask family and friends about their educational choices. Start talking about how your family will pay for college.
- ☐ **Show me the money.** Talk to your parents and other loved ones about your future college expenses. If financial aid and scholarships don't cover the costs, who will? Speak to your guidance counselor or the financial aid department at the college you're considering attending to gather some information.
- ☐ **Take it to the next level.** Enroll in AP and other honors-level classes, if possible.
- ☐ **Enroll now.** Discuss concurrent enrollment (college credit courses offered in high school) with your counselor.
- ☐ **See for yourself.** Attend a college fair in your area. These events offer families a chance to talk with representatives from different colleges. Ask your guidance counselor for dates and times of fairs close to you, then visit UCanGo2.org to find the College Fair Worksheet to help you make the most of this event. Keep working on your Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) to explore your skills, interests and values.
- ☐ **Do a thorough review.** Visit with your guidance counselor to make sure you're on track to graduate in another year. You can begin to plan your class schedule through your junior and senior years and include electives that might be applicable to careers that interest you.
- ☐ **Choose an exam.** ACT or SAT? Contact the college you plan to attend and ask which test they prefer. Once you decide which exam to take, sign up and prepare for it by using the free Test Prep section found at OKcollegestart.org. Ask your counselor about fee waivers to help cover the cost and visit ACT.org or SAT.org to find upcoming test dates. These exams are important college preparation steps.
- ☐ **Get in.** Investigate admission requirements and costs for your chosen college(s) at OKcollegestart.org.
- ☐ **Pssst...remember the PSAT.** Register and take the PSAT. This score is required for several national scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship.
- ☐ **Pick your top five.** Narrow your list of possible colleges or career technology centers based on research you've already completed. Your list will probably include three to five institutions.
- ☐ **Apply for Oklahoma's Promise!** If you haven't applied yet, visit okpromise.org to sign up for this scholarship program.

SPRING CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Start the process.** You and your parent(s) or guardian(s) may want to schedule campus visits in the spring or summer. Check with your counselor to see if your high school offers free days to take campus tours. You can also check out the *Making the Most of Campus Visits* guide at UCanGo2.org.
- ☐ **Test.** Register for the spring [ACT](#) and/or [SAT](#) tests. You may also want to take the exam again over the summer and/or in the fall of your senior year to boost your score. Visit OKcollegestart.org to find free ACT and SAT test prep resources.
- ☐ **Select special classes.** Consider taking Advanced Placement or concurrent enrollment courses next year. Talk to your counselor now about your options. These classes are worth checking out because some offer college credit, which could save you time and money in the long run.
- ☐ **Find some money for college.** Continue researching financial aid options and review the *Are You Looking for Money?* booklet at UCanGo2.org to find helpful websites and learn tips for earning scholarship awards. We encourage juniors to apply for 1-2 scholarships a week! Don't forget — complete the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available during your senior year, and every year you might need money for college.
- ☐ **Let it add up.** Continue to contribute to your Oklahoma 529 college savings plan (Oklahoma529.com) or another savings account. It's generally best to keep most savings in your parent(s)' or guardian(s)' name(s).

SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Set up your account.** Summer is a great time to get a head start on your FAFSA. You'll complete this form to apply for federal and state financial aid for college. You and your parent can create your [StudentAid.gov account](http://StudentAid.gov) to access and electronically sign your FAFSA. Visit FAFSA.gov for more information.
- ☐ **Recruit some ambassadors.** Ask teachers or other community members to write letters of recommendation for your college admission and scholarship applications. Think about what you'd like to include in these letters and politely ask those you respect if they'll help.
- ☐ **Extend your stay.** You may have already toured some campuses, but use the summer months to visit friends and family currently attending the school(s) you're interested in. Consider sitting in on classes or staying in the dorms with your pals. Also, call ahead to set appointments with financial aid, admission and academic advisors. All these experiences will help you get a feel for the campus to see if it's a good fit for you.
- ☐ **Be courteous.** If you go on interviews or visits, don't forget to send thank-you notes to those who helped you.
- ☐ **Test again.** You may want to take the [ACT](#) and/or [SAT](#) test more than one time to boost your score.
- ☐ **Practice and evaluate.** Practice completing college admission applications and preparing essay answers. Visit OKcollegestart.org and click on the College Planning tab to fill out a sample college application and practice your writing skills.
- ☐ **Decide what you like.** Explore careers by taking a summer job or internship in your field of interest. Remember to set some money aside from your paycheck to pay future expenses.
- ☐ **Check your email and snail-mail.** Read your college mail carefully and be sure to send responses by listed deadlines.

Visit UCanGo2.org for tools to help you plan, prepare and pay for college!

