

PLANNING

Calendar

Junior Year – Fall

- Discuss plans with parents
- Prepare a list of questions to ask college reps
- Take the PSAT in October at high school
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights
- Begin to learn about ways to pay for college
- Take a career survey online to discover possible careers

Junior Year – December-January

- Review your PSAT results with a counselor

Junior Year – February-March

- Determine college criteria (characteristics you want in a college)
- Review college web sites-look at a complete list of colleges in Georgia and surrounding states
- Discuss plans with parents
- Visit testing web sites
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.act.org
- Plan to take February, April or June ACT – register online and take practice tests at www.act.org
- Plan to take March, May or June SAT Reasoning Tests; register online and practice test at www.collegeboard.com
- Begin studying for the SAT Reasoning and ACT Tests

Junior Year – March-May

- Make a preliminary list of around 25 colleges
- Contact the financial aid office for each college on your list
- Meet with high school counselor to discuss plans
- Attend spring college fairs and college nights
- Between now and November of your senior year, visit several colleges to get a feel for college in a session and campus styles
- Do a financial aid calculator online to determine your expected Family Contribution (EFC) - a great site for this www.finaid.org
- Select a rigorous course program for senior year, consider courses required for your intended college major

Junior Year – Summer

- List colleges to visit
- Request information from colleges
 - Course Catalog
 - Applications (usually not available before June)
 - Freshman profile of GPA and test scores
 - Costs and financial aid
 - Department or activities of interest to you
- If necessary take the June SAT II subject tests – these may be necessary for early decision and early action to private colleges
- Review college websites and catalogs
- Incorporate a few college visits into summer vacation plans
- List serious college options – between 5-10
- READ, READ, READ!
- Review any test booklets to practice, spot weaknesses, use your PSAT results and test booklet to help on SAT Reasoning
- Review Applications – note deadlines and requirements; familiarize yourself with essays and forms, consider application essay topics
- Do one or two trial interviews
- Do volunteer work-earn community service hours for a resume
- Talk to people in interesting careers
- Talk with college friends home from summer

Senior year- September-November

- Discuss your classes, college plans and test scores with your high school counselor
- Review your transcripts to be sure the information is correct
- Request applications from colleges you are interested in
- Look for health/shot record—you will need them when you enroll
- Attend fall college nights and fairs
- Visit with college representatives when they visit with BHS
- Do thorough college visits (2-3 day maximum)
- Campus interviews
- Start working on application essays
- Attend campus open houses
- Do final list of college applications: including review worksheets; review selectivity; consult parents; consult counselor
- Decide if you need to retake the SAT or ACT and Register
 - September ACT Test-Register in Aug.
 - October SAT Reasoning / ACT Tests-Register in Sept.
 - November SAT Reasoning and SAT II-Register in Sept.
 - December SAT Reasoning / ACT Tests-Register in Oct.
- Begin to apply for scholarships – search on the internet-see BHS website for a listing and search engines
- Make final college visits before semester ends
- Know deadlines for applications
- Give school forms to counselor
- Ask teachers, coaches, or others to write recommendations. Give them at least 3 weeks prior notice.
- Attend Parent Nights to learn more.

Senior year- December – January

- Local college receptions for applicants
- Request housing forms and send deposits
- Gather your financial records
- FAFSA forms available for financial aid in January-complete FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon after January 1 as possible
- January SAT Reasoning / SAT II Tests- Register in December

Senior year- January-March

- Deadlines for most college applications
- Colleges review applications
- Notification of decisions on college applications
- You should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). It indicates eligibility for aid and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Some colleges require mid-year grade reports-if so, contact your guidance office.

Senior year- April-June

- Finalize plans for housing, financial aid, and scholarships
- Compare financial aid packages
- Visit colleges offering admission
- Make your final choice and send required deposit
- May 1- common response date acceptance of admission; withdraw other applications and write thank you notes
- In May, make sure you request from the guidance office a final transcript to be sent to your college of choice.