

## Junior Summer To-Do List

- ☀️ **Get a summer job-** Personal responsibility is an important trait all admission counselors are looking for, and nothing says responsibility quite like a job. Even if it's serving ice cream in six hour shifts, colleges will look on any work experience very favorably.
- ☀️ **Develop your personal interests-** Colleges want you to be passionate about something. Take extra guitar lessons, join a summer soccer league, go on extra camping trips-all you have to do is demonstrate your interests. Admission officers love well-rounded people who can bring something unique to campus. A personal interest may help you stand out.
- ☀️ **Make a list of colleges/universities you are interested in and make a list of application deadlines-** Everyone knows that college isn't all about hitting the books. So, what other qualities are you looking for in a college? There's many to research: city versus rural life, athletics, the quality of facilities and the tastiness of dining hall food, famous professors, the strength of a potential major, male-to-female ration, among many others.
- ☀️ **Think about and outline a college essay-** As more and more schools sign onto the Common Application (over 400 colleges use it now), it's safe to say you'll apply to one that uses it for their admissions process. For this reason, you can get a jump start on an essay on any of the topics below:
  - a. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
  - b. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
  - c. A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- ☀️ **Visit two or three colleges-** This is especially important if you haven't visited the schools you are interested in applying to in the fall.
- ☀️ **Apply for scholarships-** use scholarship websites like [www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com) or [www.washboard.org](http://www.washboard.org) to start a profile that will match you to scholarships.
- ☀️ **Get rolling with recommendation letters-** Sometimes colleges ask for letters of recommendation. Also a majority of scholarships require you to submit at least 2-3 letters with your applications. Think of who you will ask them in advance.
- ☀️ **Register with NCAA Eligibility Center if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college. ([ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://ncaaclearinghouse.net))**
- ☀️ **Prepare to take the SAT or ACT, if needed!** If you took one of these tests in the spring and you are happy with your score, then you do not have to retake it. Keep in mind SAT or ACT score universities require for admissions.