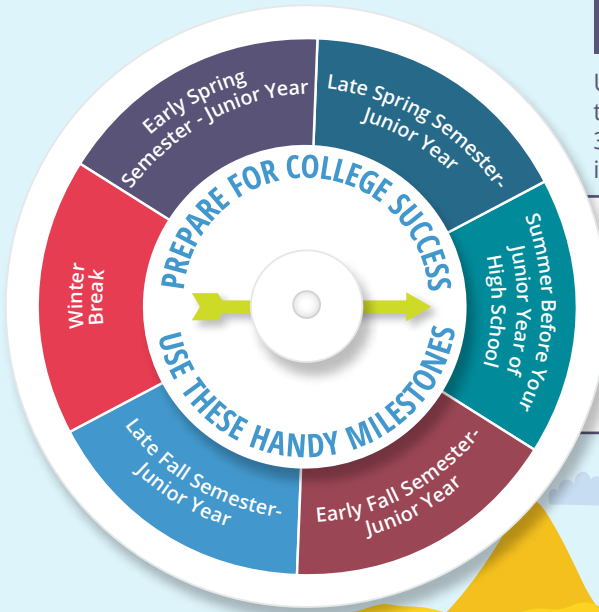


# MILESTONES FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION— RISING JUNIORS

Utilize the spinner key to navigate the milestones you will need to accomplish this school year. Each letter corresponds to a specific milestone on page 2 and 3, to be completed throughout the school year. The most important milestone is being a SWENexter, so don't forget to [sign up for free](#) if you haven't already.



**START  
HERE**

**A**  
**STUDY  
FOR THE  
PSATS/  
SATS/ACTS**

**CONTINUING  
COLLEGE  
RESEARCH**

**B**  
**START  
YOUR  
COLLEGE  
RESEARCH**

**C**  
**COLLEGE  
ESSAY AND  
PERSONAL  
STATEMENT**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND OTHER  
THINGS**

**E**  
**SIGN UP  
FOR PSATS  
AND AP  
TESTS**

**STANDARDIZED  
TESTING**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND OTHER  
THINGS**

**D**  
**MAKE THE MOST  
OF YOUR SUMMER**

**WORK  
EXPERIENCE/  
INTERNSHIPS**

**F**  
**APPLY FOR  
LOCAL OR NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**STANDARDIZED  
TESTING**

**G**  
**TAKE THE  
PSAT**

**H**  
**PICKING  
A COLLEGE**

**GET ADVICE  
FROM YOUR  
GUIDANCE  
COUNSELOR**

**STANDARDIZED  
TESTING**

**I**  
**CONTINUE WITH  
YOUR STUDIES**

**L**  
**SIGN UP TO  
TAKE THE  
SATS/ACTS**

**STANDARDIZED  
TESTING**

**K**  
**APPLY FOR  
A SUMMER  
JOB OR  
INTERNSHIP**

**WORK  
EXPERIENCE**

**J**  
**NARROW  
DOWN YOUR  
LIST OF  
COLLEGES**

**PICKING  
A COLLEGE**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND OTHER  
THINGS**

**M**  
**CHECK OUT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**N**  
**APPLY  
FOR A  
SWENEXT  
AWARD**

**STANDARDIZED  
TESTING**

**O**  
**TAKE AP/IB/  
CAMBRIDGE  
EXAMS**

**PICKING  
A  
COLLEGE**

**P**  
**DO A  
COLLEGE  
SUMMER  
TOUR**

**Q**  
**ASK FOR  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

# CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE A JUNIOR!

You are half way through your high school experience and just two years away from college.

To set yourself up for college success, take a look at the typical milestones a high school junior goes through in the next 10 months. Keep this schedule handy to remind you of the activities and deadlines.

## SUMMER BEFORE YOUR JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL



- A** • Study for the PSATs, SATs, ACTs, or other standardized tests. There are free sample tests available online. If you're feeling confident, think about signing up for the fall test date as a trial run. You can always retake the test again later to get better scores if you don't do as well as you had hoped.
- B** • Research colleges that have good programs in the type of engineering or technology industry you are interested in. Have questions about college? [Consider reaching out to SWE members at one of our university Sections/Affiliates.](#)
- C** • Get a head start on writing your college essay and personal statement. Essay prompts are continuously released and are often similar year-to-year. You can use these to get a draft ready.
- D** • Any summer job can help you learn important work skills and earn money for college.  
• If you have the opportunity, see if you can sign up for a local STEM summer camp! You can work on your technical skills and also make friends with similar interests.

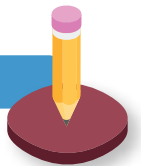


## EARLY FALL SEMESTER – JUNIOR YEAR

- E** • Sign up for the PSAT through your school. The scores from your junior year are used to qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.  
• If you're involved in clubs and haven't done so already, look into becoming an officer or leader. You'll be able to show what kind of student and person you are when you apply to college next year.
- F** • Start looking into local/national scholarships. Not sure where to look? [Check out our Scholarships and Financial Aid SWENextTV episode.](#)

## LATE FALL SEMESTER – JUNIOR YEAR

- G** • Take the PSAT. The test day is usually in October. The PSAT scores from your junior year are used to qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship competition. [Learn more here!](#)
- H** • Talk to your school's guidance counselor about the college application process. Do your research and develop a list of schools to apply to. Be mindful about the classes you need to take in order to apply to the schools you are interested



## WINTER BREAK

- I** • Continue studying for the SATs, ACTs, or other standardized tests.
- J** • Narrow down your list of colleges to apply to and start thinking of colleges that you want to visit in the summer. Pick out three to five potential schools so that you have options.
- K** • Begin your search and apply for a summer job or internship. Some internships have application deadlines as early as January! Finding the right internship will give you important work experience and give you direction for your future career.



## EARLY SPRING SEMESTER – JUNIOR YEAR



- L** • Sign up to take the SATs, ACTs, or other standardized tests. Do you need to take multiple tests? Check out the colleges that you are interested in to see what their requirements are.
- M** • Stay on the lookout for scholarships that are applicable to you! SWE's scholarship application will be available to you in your senior year of high school.
  - If you're planning on applying for merit scholarships for college, keep an eye on your grades. Some of the better scholarships require a 3.5 grade point average (GPA). However, don't worry – there are plenty without high GPA requirements.
- N** • Apply for a [SWENext Award](#).

## LATE SPRING SEMESTER – JUNIOR YEAR



- O** • Take any AP/IB/Cambridge exams you've been in classes for. You can get college credit at most schools by taking the qualifying exams. For your senior year schedule, sign up for one or more AP/IB/Cambridge classes available to you.
- P** • Finalize plans to visit colleges in the summer. Check if the school you plan to visit provides a fly-in program and if you are eligible for it. [Here's a good place to start](#).
- Q** • Ask for recommendation letters at the beginning of senior year. This gives teachers time to write them.