

# Junior Year Guidance Timeline



OCALA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## Fall

- ★ Meet with Mrs. Cumbie/Mrs. Loyd for planning in October or November.
- ★ Plan a family discussion about college. *Do you have a college fund?*
- ★ Update your College Resume/High School Activities
- ★ Take the PSAT (preliminary SAT) in October (**we have this scheduled already**)
- ★ Start your college search
- ★ Take the Career Test <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
- ★ Begin in prayer, ask God to guide you; I'm very serious. He WILL show you.
- ★ Make a list of your abilities, preferences, & personal qualities
  - Make a list of what you want in a college (majors, sports, size, location, etc.)
- ★ Learn about colleges- attend a college fair (if available in your area)
  - Talk to friends, family, & teachers. My English teacher and ColorGuard coach were instrumental in helping me choose to go AWAY to college!
  - Visit college websites and request information online from colleges
- ★ Start thinking about paying for college
  - FAFSA on the web- "FAFSA 4caster Tool"- <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/>
  - Do not use scholarship search engines that charge a fee
- ★ Start a file of financial aid information for your reference
- ★ Take ACT and/or SAT
  - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- ★ Start a *college information file* of colleges that you want to consider

## Winter

- ★ Plan to take the ACT/SAT again in the Spring & Summer
- ★ Go on the College Trip to PCC
- ★ Students interested in attending **military academies** should begin this process in the spring and contact their senators and congressmen.
- ★ Turn in your community service hours to Mrs. Cumbie or Mrs. Etheredge
- ★ Explore career options:
  - Job shadowing/Volunteer
  - Community service

## Spring

- ★ You may wish to re-take the ACT & SAT again if you want to raise your scores
- ★ Start visiting local colleges
- ★ List colleges that interest you.
- ★ Attend College Fair at CF just to see what it's like
- ★ If you're considering the military, talk to a recruiter
- ★ Look ahead to your senior year.
  - Plan to take academic classes that will benefit you in college
  - Consider Honors courses
- ★ Plan Summer Activities early
  - Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting a job in a career field that you want to pursue, and travel, if possible.
  - Bright Futures candidates NEED a project. Get busy!

## Summer

- ★ Visit colleges that require traveling
  - Take campus tours and talk with admission representatives
- ★ By the end of summer, you should start narrowing down your list of colleges (Top 5)
- ★ Take the ACT or SAT to get the best score possible. Don't wait until your senior year. You may get too busy and never take it again.
- ★ Prepare College/Scholarship Essays
- ★ Update College Resume
- ★ Investigate scholarship opportunities
- ★ Finalize ACT and SAT scores for Fall applications