Now That You Are a Junior

For the Fall...

- Take the PSAT in October to practice taking entrance exams and to establish eligibility for some scholarships.
- Attend sessions with college representatives who visit your high school. You may find it helpful to visit local college fairs.
- Develop a list of possible post-secondary schools. eCampusTours.com can help you learn more
 about schools and link you to each college website where you can request literature and
 applications. Talk with an admissions representative to determine if there are any institutional
 scholarships for which you could apply.
- Begin researching private sources of financial aid, such as scholarships, and fill out applications.
 Request financial aid bulletins from all potential schools. Estimate the costs for each school and begin identifying ways to meet them.

For the Spring...

- Take the SAT/ACT. Check with your intended college(s) about which standardized test they prefer.
- Begin narrowing your choices for post-secondary schools. Schedule campus visits. Visit colleges
 online via eCampusTours.com. Consider an overnight trip that would allow you to get a feel for
 what life is like on that particular campus.
- Now is the time to check with your counselor, libraries, community organizations, and *Student Outreach Services* for possible scholarship sources. Send for applications as soon as possible. Keep records of anyone you speak with concerning grants or scholarships.
- Start developing portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talents required for college admission and/or for scholarships.
- If you plan to play sports in college, email college coaches at your target schools. Include a schedule of your athletic events for the upcoming year. Register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Develop a resume of your sports accomplishments including a highlight tape and relevant articles about your successes.

For the Summer...

• Practice writing online applications, filling out rough drafts without submitting them.

 Review applications, especially the essays. Ask others to proof the essay for any grammar, content, or punctuation errors.

Read all college mail and send reply cards back to schools of interest.

 Apply for those scholarships whose deadlines are in the fall. You may be too busy once school starts.

