



11th Grade

College & Career
Planning

Checklist: Junior Year

Throughout the Year:

- Take rigorous academic coursework.
- Consider taking optional PSAT
- Take college admissions test(s): ACT or SAT
- Actively use Xello for college and career exploration
- Begin your college search:
 - Develop a list of questions to ask.
 - Attend college fairs (www.wefs.org)
 - Attend college visits at the high school.
 - Research online.
- Look at college catalogs.
- Start college visits.

Summer suggestions:

- Continue to work or be involved in club, extracurricular activities, or community service.
- Tour college campuses.
- Start discussing a financial aid plan.
- Research admissions requirements for colleges you are interested in.
- Review priority dates and deadlines of admission.
- Begin drafting application essays.

College Tour Checklist

Visiting a college campus can help you get a better feel for what your life could be like at college. There is a lot to consider, and it can be overwhelming. This guide will help you prepare for and get the most out of your college tours. Campus tours can be scheduled online on any University, College, or Technical College website.

Before Your Tour:

- Browse the school's website, campus blogs, and social media pages.
- Prepare any questions you have ahead of time.
- Review a map of campus and surrounding areas.

During Your Tour:

- Walk around surrounding area/off campus housing
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, bookstore, and other campus facilities
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play
- Chat with someone in the admissions office
- Get the names and business cards of people you meet, so you can contact them later if you have questions.
- Take pictures.
- Take notes.

After Your Tour:

- Sit down with your parents and review notes.
- Reach out to the people you spoke with on the tour with any follow-up questions.
- Chat with your parents about your financial plan.
- Decide which schools you want to apply to.
- Come up with a plan to apply to schools (e.g. tackling one application a week)

Questions to Ask on Your Tour

- What do you do in your free time?
- Are there any study abroad opportunities?
- Do most students use Apple, PC products, or a mixture?
- Are there any grocery shopping options both on and off campus?
- How do students get around campus (cars, bikes, walking, mopeds, etc.)?
- How diverse is the campus?
- Are there meal plans offered?
- What is the process like to declare or change your major?
- What is the average class size?
- How are roommates assigned?
- Are online classes offered?
- Are students usually able to take their first-choice courses?
- How many hours of class do students typically have each week?
- How much homework do you have to do outside of class?
- What are the best places to study on campus?
- Is there a writing center to help with essays and research papers?
- Are academic advisors accessible and effective?
- Are there tutoring services available on campus?
- What are some of the most popular extracurriculars and why?
- What clubs or other opportunities for community service exist?
- Do sports play a large role on campus?
- Are there any intramural sports opportunities or exercise classes?
- What percentage of the student population lives on campus?
- What do you wish you had known going into freshman year?
- What do you wish you had asked on a campus tour?
- What's a typical weekday like for you?
- What surprised you about campus life here?
- What's your favorite spot you've discovered on campus since arriving?

ACT National Test Dates

ACT (No writing) - \$52

ACT (Plus Writing) - \$68.00

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Required</u>
October 26, 2019	September 20, 2019	October 4, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 22, 2019
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 26, 2020

To register for the ACT visit: www.actstudent.org

ACT Test Preparation

- The best preparation – a solid high school curriculum in English, Math, Reading and Science.
- Become familiar with the test content and format.
- Know appropriate test-taking strategies.
- See your counselor for test preparation materials.
- Take ACT's free practice test www.actstudent.org/sampletest.
- Make sure you are well rested and receive a healthy breakfast.
- Remember that you are able to retake the ACT as many times as you choose.

**Remember, test scores are only ONE factor used for college admissions and scholarship decisions.*

Financial Aid Information

- **Loans:**
 - Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized
 - The Federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans during periods of authorized deferment, such as the in-school and economic hardship deferments, while the interest remains the responsibility of the borrower on an unsubsidized loan.
- **Grants:** Money you do not pay back. Typically needs based.
- **Work Study:** Money you can earn while working on campus.
- **Scholarships:** Money you do not pay back. Could be from any of the following:
 - National
 - Local
 - Websites
 - Scholarship Services
 - College/University
 - Private Foundation

Ways to Reduce Tuition Costs

- Inquire about state and regional tuition costs if planning to apply out of state.
- Enroll in community college classes.
- Maximize the number of college credits you can take each semester.
- Try not to switch majors.
- Maximize scholarship opportunities.
- Check sibling discounts.
- Live at home.
- Check for accelerated degree programs.
- Ask about fixed rate tuition plans.
- Maximize your high school experience.

Madison College- Scholars of Promise

- Qualifications:
 - Have a minimum of a 2.25 GPA in high school
 - Submit ACT or Accuplacer test scores by April 1st of your senior year
 - Apply to a Madison College Degree Program by April 1st of your senior year
 - Complete the FAFSA by April 1st of your senior year
 - Must be eligible for federal and state financial aid, and your expected family contribution must be \$3,000 or less
- If you can check off all these boxes, Madison College will pay your remaining balance of tuition and fees after federal and state aid have been issued
- Complete and return the Scholars of Promise Online Interest Form before the end of your junior year: <https://madisoncollege.edu/scholars-of-promise-interest>

Badger Promise- UW Madison

- Who is eligible?
 - UW-Madison has existing transfer agreements with partner institutions that guarantee admission to students meeting the academic requirements. Badger Promise builds on that, providing free tuition and segregated fees to qualifying Wisconsin residents whose parents did not graduate from a four-year college.
- What type of aid will you receive?
 - Up to two (2) semesters of in-state tuition and segregated fees. Those who have shown Federal Pell Grant eligibility at UW-Madison will receive up to four (4) semesters of in-state tuition and segregated fees.
 - For more information: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/types-of-aid/badger-promise/>

Bucky's Tuition Promise

- Who is eligible?
 - Wisconsin Residents
 - Incoming Freshman or Transfer Student
 - Household Adjusted Gross Income of \$58,000 or less
 - Must submit FAFSA by December 1st
- What type of aid will you receive?
 - Free tuition and segregated fees
 - 4 years for freshmen, 2 years for transfer students
- For more information go to: <http://financialaid.wisc.edu/btp>

Additional Resources

ACADEMIC & CAREER PLANNING

Xello

<https://xello.world/en/>

Military

<http://todaysmilitary.com/>

WHS Academic & Career Planning

<https://goo.gl/MDpSV9>

FINANCIAL AID

FREE Application for Federal Student Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FREE Local Assistance

www.collegegoalsunday.usa.org

Financial Aid

www.finaid.org

Scholarships

www.careersandcolleges.com

National Scholarships

www.fastweb.com

Local Scholarships (Deb Fischer)

fischerd@watertown.k12.wi.us

COLLEGE SEARCH

WI Educational Fairs

www.wefs.org

UW Help

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

University of WI Schools

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/>

WI Private Colleges/Universities

www.waicu.org

MN Private Colleges/Universities

www.mnprivatecolleges.org

WI Technical Schools

www.witechcolleges.org

TEST INFORMATION

ACT

www.actstudent.org

SAT

www.sat.collegeboard.com

WHS Student Services Phone #

(920) 262-7550

<https://www.watertown.k12.wi.us/schools/high/whsstudent-services.cfm>

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