

Princeton Review Junior Year Checklist



Take the PSAT® in October.

Your junior year PSAT scores can qualify you for scholarship programs such as the National Merit® Scholarship, which can help cover the cost of tuition and get you into a great college. It's also good practice for the SAT.



Prep for the SAT® and ACT®.

The amount of time needed will depend on your starting scores and the average scores of your top-choice colleges. Our prep courses and private tutors can help you reach the score you want. Not sure where you stand? Register for a free practice test at [PrincetonReview.com/FreePracticeTest](https://www.princetonreview.com/free-practice-test).



State tests.

Many high schools require you to pass state assessment tests to advance to the next grade or to graduate. Your school counselor knows all the details, and we have many state-specific books and resources to help you prepare.



Look into financial aid.

With the cost of higher education soaring, financial aid really helps. Cast a wide net in your search for grants and scholarships. Check out our comprehensive guide at [PrincetonReview.com/CollegeFinance](https://www.princetonreview.com/college-finance).



Good grades count—put in extra effort.

When colleges review your transcripts, they look closely at your sophomore and junior year grades. It pays off to work hard this year. Let us help you raise your GPA with Homework Help powered by Tutor.com at [PrincetonReview.com/HomeworkHelp](https://www.princetonreview.com/homework-help).



Think about what you want in your prospective college.

Research is a must. Talk to your school counselor and then check out our book *The Best 381 Colleges* for advice from real students. You'll find ranking lists for everything from best professors to best food at [PrincetonReview.com](https://www.princetonreview.com). For personalized guidance, work with one of our expert Admission Counselors. We'll help you polish your application, make a list of target schools and more. Learn more at [PrincetonReview.com/Admissions](https://www.princetonreview.com/admissions).



Sign up for the SAT or ACT.

Once you're a junior, you can take the SAT as early as October and the ACT as early as September. You can take the tests more than once—colleges will look at your highest score. Check out all of the upcoming SAT test dates at [PrincetonReview.com/TestDates](https://www.princetonreview.com/test-dates). Our expert SAT and ACT instructors can help you get a better score, guaranteed.† Find a course near you at [PrincetonReview.com](https://www.princetonreview.com).



Seek out new experiences and opportunities in the summer.

Some students enroll in university programs to start getting college credits. Others dive into outdoor activities or find a summer job. Whatever you do, the summer after junior year will factor into your college application.



Start working on your college essay.

The essay is an important part of your college application, so give yourself plenty of time to write, edit and rewrite! Our Admission Counselors can help you write, polish and perfect your essay. Learn more about it at [PrincetonReview.com/Admissions](https://www.princetonreview.com/admissions).

Junior Year Testing Timeline Recommended versus Traditional

Recommended Timeline

Who should follow this: You're a high achiever and had time to prep for exams over the previous summer. You anticipate being extremely busy during the school year. You want to try for National Merit status and/or may apply as an early decision candidate.



October:

Take the PSAT and the SAT or ACT

November:

Take the SAT

December:

Take the SAT or ACT



Winter:

Brush up on your SAT and ACT prep

January/February/March/April:

A third crack at the SAT or ACT, if necessary, or try the other test, if you only took one



May:

Take the AP tests and SAT Subject Tests*



June:

Take the SAT Subject Tests*

*There are many possible combinations of Subject Tests, and you can only take three at a time. If you have questions about your testing plan, call us at 1-800-2Review (800-273-8439).

You have many choices to make your junior year, especially when it comes to a timeline for test taking. Here are two options you can pursue based on your personal goals and schedule.

Traditional Timeline

Who should follow this: You have followed the standard college prep route freshman and sophomore years. You're not sure where you want to go to school, but you want to have options.



September/October:

Light prep for PSAT



October:

Take the PSAT



Fall/Winter:

Intensive prep for SAT or ACT (can do extended prep starting in November or beginning in January)



May/June:

Try a second attempt at the SAT or ACT (or take the SAT Subject Tests, if necessary!)



Find out if the ACT or SAT is right for you with a free practice test. Get started at PrincetonReview.com/FreePracticeTest.