

Curious about what you can do **NOW** to get ready for your senior year?

#1 Make sure you're earning good grades and on track to graduate! Good grades can help you earn merit scholarships and qualify you for more competitive colleges that may interest you. If you're applying for early college admission, the transcripts you send in will reflect junior year grades. The same idea applies if you're applying for scholarships first semester of senior year. So keep your grades up. It's also good to work with your school counselor to be sure you're "on the right track". Your counselor will help you reach your academic goals and explain exciting opportunities like dual credit (take college classes in HS or earn HS credit at your job).

#2 Start beefing up that resume! Try new things, join a club, start volunteering and learn what things you are passionate about. Get involved at school and in your community, you'll have rewarding experiences AND open many doors for your future. Sports, clubs, and volunteering can be a good avenue for obtaining letters of recommendations that you'll DEFINITELY need later. Join *Career Center Teams* to see the page on volunteering for ideas and opportunities.

#3 Study for the ACT! You'll likely take this in second semester. The Career Center has resources to help you study and prepare. Colleges may reinstate minimum standardized scores for admission and institutional aid. Scholarships often have minimum ACT/SAT score requirements. ACT and SAT scores are also used to place incoming college freshman in correct English and math classes. If you score high, you may be able to skip introductory and remedial classes! Covid has some colleges (LTCC for example) discontinuing the use of standardized scores for admission, but the decision is not widespread. So, keep studying!! You need to **SAVE your ACT Score Report** if you want to use these scores later as a senior.

#4 Now is the time to start thinking about what schools (college or vocational) interest you. Start researching! It may be helpful to have an idea of what you would like to do after high school. If you want to get ideas, the Career Center has a multitude of resources to help you on that journey- stop by any time or check out our [Career Exploration website](#) and take a self-assessment survey to learn about yourself and what careers may suit you. Once you have some ideas, you can narrow down what schools will meet your needs. This year, 2021, many college fairs have been virtual, the *Career Center Teams* has links to recorded fairs if you'd like to hear from colleges themselves.

#5 There are scholarships out there for grade 11! Apply apply apply!

#6 You will need to apply for federal financial aid (most colleges and scholarships require this), so take a look at this checklist from the official website. Filling out FAFSA is a TOP priority for anyone pursuing post-high school education, either college or vocational schools!

- [FAFSA Checklist](#)