

**University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program
College Planning Check-list**



Eleventh Grade

- Keep taking the most challenging courses offered at your high school.
- Junior year grades are very important in college admissions decisions. If you are having trouble with your school work, be proactive about seeking help and using resources available to you.
- At the start of the year, make a special folder marked “college.” Keep everything connected to your college planning in one place – forms, schedules, information and mailings from schools.
- Check the schedules for the PSAT, SAT and ACT. Register if you are not automatically registered at your school.
 - *Most tests charge a fee. If you cannot afford the fee, talk to your guidance counselor to obtain a fee waiver*
- If your school does not offer test prep courses, take the ACT/SAT test prep courses offered by CSP in the Winter Quarter.
- Attend the CSP College Fair in the summer. Attend other college fairs too. Gather information about the colleges. You can also go to colleges’ websites to request that they send you more information.
- Learn more about how to pay for college. Check out the FAFSA forecaster and Net Price Calculators on college websites.
- Stay involved in the activities you care about (school, community, summer). Take on a leadership role within your activities. List any leadership roles or important activities/recognitions here:

- *Don’t overload yourself just to have a longer list. Stay involved in the ones you care most about, and excel. Colleges will want to hear about the ones that you care the most about.*

- Narrow down and refine your college list. Think about having at least three in each category: “safety”, or schools you think you will probably get accepted two, “reach”, or schools with more competitive admissions requirements, and “in between”.

Reach	In Between	Safety
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- Talk to your guidance counselor at school and Jacqueline Gaines at CSP about college visits and potential fly-in opportunities.

_____	_____
_____	_____

- Keep reading as much as you can this year. Make a list of books you read this year and indicate your favorites, and why you liked them.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Make a folder or large enveloped marked “Grade 11 Portfolio” and save your best work in it, so it won’t get lost. This should include class assignments, but don’t forget poems, art, awards, etc.

- Have questions? Reach out to CSP staff. The Manager of College Advising and Admissions, Jacqueline Gaines, is here to help! Jgaines@uchicago.edu