

KIDS **2** CAREERS



JUNIOR YEAR STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING GRADE LEVEL SUCCESS STEPS:

August

- Discuss education options with your school counselor or [ACPE Success Center](#)
- Make a list of colleges/career training programs and careers you are interested in
- Seek out leadership opportunities through work, volunteering, and extracurricular activities

September

- Register to take the [PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(NMSQT\)](#) in October at your local high school or testing center in an effort to qualify for merit scholarships
- Track your [achievements & activities](#) (extracurricular, academic, work) to prepare for [essays/applications](#); use [AKCIS \(akcis.org\)](#) to prep your resume
- Discuss postsecondary options (ways to learn after high school) with a school counselor, family, or a mentor and determine the right option for you
- Talk with a school counselor and your family about the following high school options: Advanced Placement (AP) classes, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dual Credit, Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), and tutoring programs
- Review [Alaska Performance Scholarship \(APS\) requirements](#) (Collegiate/Career & Technical Education)

October

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT Test at your local high school or testing site
- Study hard, seek tutoring when needed, and keep your grades up
- Attend a college & career fair and financial aid presentations to explore options
- Research Scholarship options, requirements, and due dates — plot on the calendar in advance

November

- Consider taking a world language (usually 1 semester college/dual credit = 1 year high school)
- Work and save your earnings, as long as you can maintain good grades
- Ask your school counselor how to best prepare for the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) (this is required for the [Alaska Performance Scholarship](#) and some colleges); the Alaska Job Center can help you prepare for [WorkKeys Assessments](#) if you are interested in career & technical education only

December

- Develop and maintain strong study habits
- Keep your grades up and seek out tutoring as needed; Colleges will review your final transcript
- Explore websites and sign-up on mailing lists for colleges or career & technical programs
- Research summer internships and jobs related to your career interests
- Ask your advisor if you might qualify for [UA Scholars Program](#) (top 10% of high school class)



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Continued: JUNIOR YEAR STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS

January

- Talk with your family about starting or adding to an [Alaska 529](#) education savings account (used for [qualified educational and apprenticeship expenses](#))
- **File taxes** (you and your parents) and save copies in a safe place to access them when you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); Taxes filed Junior Year will be used to complete the FAFSA during your 1st year after high school

Feb.

- Visit ACPE to learn about [financial aid & loan options](#); Take some time to review with family and become familiar with important terminology; [watch financial literacy videos](#) with your family

March

- Seek volunteer, community service, and summer opportunities that boost career and leadership skills
- Seek employment, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities; Job shadowing is a great way to learn about careers and gain skills
- Register to take the SAT during the summer before and/or fall of Senior year
- Look for SAT practice materials online and in bookstores
- Create a College Board account so you can register for important tests: SAT, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, and CLEP; From here, you can review scores, send them to colleges when required and participate in the BigFuture scholarship activities

April

- Review test scores to determine whether you want to re-take or submit scores where optional
- Update My Resume Info in AKCIS, with achievements, activities, skills learned, and job details
- Identify 2 teachers and 1 other person who could write Letters of Recommendation upon request

May

- Discuss post-high school plans with a school counselor and at least one other trusted adult
- Talk with a school counselor to ensure you will have all courses required for your preferred college/training center (college admissions requirements vary and may require more than high school grad requirements)

June

- Make a list of your favorite colleges or career training programs
- Explore campus and training options thoroughly (in-person when possible), review websites, deadlines & prerequisites, call with questions
- Estimate your Student Aid Index (SAI) and potential Federal student aid at [studentaid.gov](#); College website Net Price Estimators will also be helpful
- Continue to work or volunteer in your area of interest; seek leadership roles
- Enjoy time with your friends

July

- Finalize your list of preferred college & career training choices by the summer before senior year
- Decide if you will submit any early decision/early action applications (usually due Oct. - Nov.)
- Capture deadlines and requirements on a [digital calendar](#); College applications open in August; Deadlines run October-March; Apprenticeships often have 1-4 open application periods each year
- Review sample essays (many won't change year to year) and begin drafting your personal statement and other essays for your applications; Allow ample time to review, reflect, and share with counselors