



Checklist for Juniors  
and How to Prepare  
for Fall 2022.

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MAJOR SPOTLIGHT  
AND COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLEGE REPS VISITING CAMPUS

Every fall representatives from college admissions offices set out to visit area high schools in person. When they are unable to travel as with COVID, they set up personalized zoom sessions for your student's high school. Here are some of the benefits of attending a college rep visit with a student's own high school.

- College reps work in the admissions office of the college or university. The rep who visits your school is often the person who reads and reviews applications from your school.
- Reps see the environment of your school and gain a better understanding of the variety of programs, rigor, and student populations. These reps will advocate for the admission of qualified students from your school with the university's admissions committee.
- It is important for students to meet the reps of colleges to which they plan to apply. It demonstrates the student's interest in the school and gives the rep a chance to put a face with the student's name. Many colleges keep track of any contact the student has made with them (attending a college rep visit, visiting the college campus, emailing the rep with a follow-up question...) and factor it into the admission decision because it shows that the student is serious about attending the school if admitted.
- Attending a college rep visit is also a great way for a student to gain information to see if it would be a good fit. This is one way of building or narrowing a college list to decide which schools to visit and ultimately apply.
- Presentations at your school are more private and interactive than the atmosphere of large college fairs where students move from table to table directing quick questions to a multitude of college reps..
- Your counselors have a chance to personally meet reps with whom they later communicate about particular students.
- Often, after hearing the qualifications for college admission, students take their academic records more seriously.



## HOW JUNIORS CAN PREPARE FOR 2022

As a Junior, you can line up important parts of your college application now. The following are items that will be required on any college application you need to fill out, be it the Common, Coalition, the University of California, or many of the school-specific applications.

If you are undecided on a major, consider taking an interest/career assessment. Most are short, online questionnaires that help you see where your interests and aptitudes overlap, and what majors may align with them.

Next up is the activity list. Aside from the essay, this is where you can showcase the most about yourself. Activities can include any sport you've played, school clubs or organizations, volunteer activities, or employment. List everything you've done since Freshman year, including summers. Indicate the activity, your role, the hours per week, and weeks per year you were involved. This information will be transferred to the applications.

While many colleges are test-optional or test blind for the 2020 and 2021 admission cycles, many have not decided what to do for 2022 and beyond. Consider taking the PSAT in the Fall and consider taking either the ACT or SAT in the Winter or Spring. This will give you plenty of time to get your scores, and if needed, allow you time to take the exam again.

Another key component of the application is teacher recommendations. Identify one to two teachers in a core class who you can ask to write you a recommendation. And remember that activity list? Make sure to email it to your teacher so they can see all the other things you've done in high school besides being amazing in their classroom.

Interested in the performing arts? You'll need to prepare a portfolio of your work. Each college lists its requirements for the portfolio, what it should contain and when it should be submitted. Make sure to check the college website for specifications.

It seems like a lot, but starting now will reduce what you'll have to do in your Senior year. And don't forget, you can always hire an Independent Educational Counselor to help you along the way! Good luck!

## HOW TO ACE THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW

- Prepare for the interview in advance.
- Determine if the interview is evaluative or informative.
- Attend a campus tour and information session prior to the interview to understand the school.
- Dress appropriately and be on time.
- Who are you interviewing with? It could be a student, admissions representative, or alumni representative.
- Bring specific questions that cannot be easily answered on the college website.
- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Be yourself!
- Remember that the main goal of the interview is to let the college know more about who you are.

## PRACTICE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why do you want to attend this college?
- What have been your favorite high school classes and why?
- What do you hope to contribute to our community?
- Why do you want to go to college?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- Who do you most admire?
- What are some interesting things about you that I wouldn't know from your application?
- What do you want to study in college and why?

# COLLEGE CONNECTIONS



## UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

The University of Redlands is well-known in the state of California. Its 160-acre campus and facilities are a mixture of older, historical buildings and renovated ones, and neighboring ski resorts give endless getaway opportunities. Redlands is a national leader in science curriculum reform. Business is the most popular major with psychology, communication sciences and disorders, and biology next in line. All students must take a first-year seminar, participate in 80 hours of community service, and complete a capstone requirement in order to graduate. If incoming students are unable to graduate in four years, Redlands will cover the cost of additional courses needed for graduation.

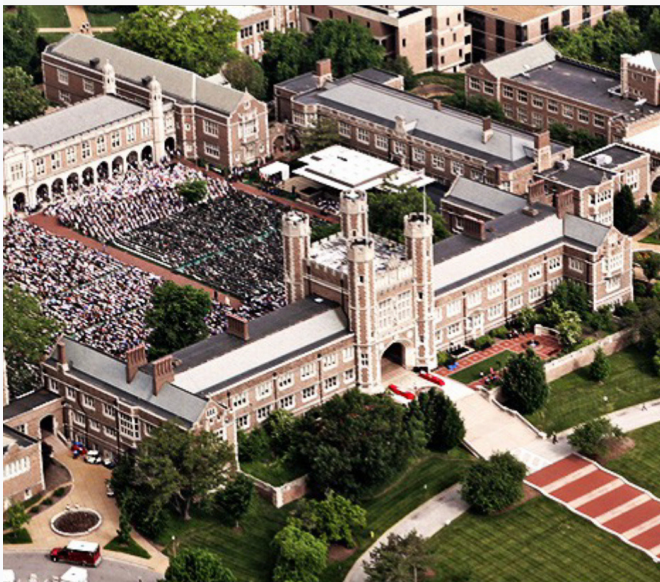
## NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Northeastern University is a large private university located in Boston, Massachusetts. Northeastern is well known for its co-op program, which is offered for every major. NEU is close to Fenway Park, nightlife, museums, and tons of shopping with easy access to other parts of the city on public transportation! Top programs at Northeastern include business, engineering, health professions, and social sciences. NEU students must live on campus for the first two years and housing is guaranteed for all four years. School spirit is high around the Huskies ice hockey team. Centennial quad is the largest green space on campus.



## WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Wash U is a private institution founded in 1853 with an undergrad enrollment of 7,653 choosing majors in the schools of Arts and Sciences, Olin Business School, McKelvey School of Engineering, and Sam Fox School of Art and Design. All first years and sophomores live in the South 40, complete with its own fitness center, dining facilities, intramural fields, basketball and sand volleyball courts, and much more. Wash U is set in the city of St. Louis offering professional sports in baseball and hockey. The campus sits adjacent to Forest Park, the 1400 acre park and its abundance of free attractions and activities including a zoo, an ice-skating rink, and museums. Students walk to "The Loop" for eclectic shops, ethnic restaurants, theaters, and cultural attractions.



# MAJOR SPOTLIGHT

## CYBER SECURITY

A bachelor's degree in cybersecurity can prepare students to enter the complex and fast-paced world of information security. Students typically learn about network, wireless, cloud, and mobile security; digital forensics and ethical hacking; and business and cyber laws. The need for smart people who understand both business and cybersecurity is significant and growing. The U.S. government's Bureau of Labor and Statistics states that the field is expected to grow 37% from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. .



## TERMS TO KNOW

### Counselor Recommendation

Provides a holistic picture of your character, personal qualities, passions or challenges that can't be conveyed by grades or test scores.

### Teacher Recommendations

Conveys the teacher's classroom experience with you and may describe your academic performance, intellectual promise in a subject area, or extra-curricular pursuits in relation to that subject.

### Other Recommendations

Though most applicants do not submit more letters than what is required, some colleges allow students to send additional recommendations from advisors, coaches, community members, or alumni.



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