

KIDS2CAREERS: 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. *If you miss the deadline, write to [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](#) ASAP before April to request another route of entry*
- ☐ 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

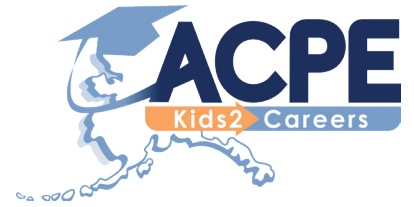
- ☐ Consider taking a world language (usually 1 semester college/dual credit = 1 year high school)
- ☐ Work and save your earnings, as long as you can maintain good grades
- ☐ Ask your school counselor how to best prepare for the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) (this is one qualifying option for the [Alaska Performance Scholarship](#) and required for 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)
- ☐ Ask your advisor or school counselor if you are on track to earn the [Alaska Performance Scholarship](#), and what steps you need to take Senior year to secure this scholarship



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