

# Junior College Planning Checklist

## Early Planning

- Meet with your **SCHOOL COUNSELOR** early in the fall to discuss your senior year coursework and plans for college.
- Access **CAREER CRUISING** by logging in to your Delaware Student Success Plan (SSP) at <https://www.careercruising.com/ssp>. You will find tools to assess your skills and interests, write your resume, explore careers, learn about financial aid, and search for scholarships. Contact your advisor or school counselor if you do not have your user name and password.
- Visit [www.mycollegecalendar.org](http://www.mycollegecalendar.org) to help you **ORGANIZE** your college search activities and learn about the admissions process.
- Maintain the highest **GPA** that you can this year—your junior year grades will be important.
- Participate in **SCHOOL and COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** and earn one elective credit toward graduation. To learn more, call 1-800-815-5465 or visit [www.volunteerdelaware.org](http://www.volunteerdelaware.org).

## Tests

- Talk to your school counselor about how you should prepare for the **PSAT/NMSQT** ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) in October.
- Talk to your school counselor about registering and preparing for the **SAT** ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) and/or the **ACT** ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)). Consider taking **SAT Subject Tests** and **AP Exams**.

## Finding Information

- **ASK QUESTIONS.** Talk to parents, teachers, and friends who have attended college, as well as professionals in fields that interest you. Visit [www.yesyoucande.com/index.php/home](http://www.yesyoucande.com/index.php/home) to help you find answers.
- Visit [www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo) to learn about **STATE FINANCIAL AID**. Click on the "Other Websites" link to find **RESOURCES** that will help you plan and pay for college.
- Visit **COLLEGE WEBSITES** to explore your options. Most colleges publish their **CATALOGS** online.
- Attend **COLLEGE FAIRS** and talk to representatives from a variety of schools. Visit the National Association for College Admission Counseling's website at [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org) for tips on attending a fair.
- Attend a **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT** this winter to learn about applying for financial aid. A schedule of financial aid nights will be posted at [www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo) in late fall.
- Visit [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to receive an early estimate of your eligibility for **FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID** programs.

## Looking Ahead

- Make a list of what you want to study and accomplish in college. Think about your **CAREER and PERSONAL GOALS**.
- Plan **COLLEGE VISITS** for spring vacation or during the summer. The "Visiting Campus" section at [www.EducationPlanner.org](http://www.EducationPlanner.org) will help you prepare and make the most of your visits.
- Use the worksheet on the back to **COMPARE COLLEGES**. ➡
- Apply for **SUMMER JOBS**. Start **SAVING** for college.
- Consider taking a course or enrolling in a **SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM** at a **LOCAL COLLEGE**.

## SEED

- If you are considering full-time enrollment in an associate degree program at Delaware Technical & Community College or the University of Delaware's Associate in Arts program, you may be eligible for the **DELAWARE SEED SCHOLARSHIP**. Visit [www.dtcc.edu/seed](http://www.dtcc.edu/seed) or [www.udel.edu/associateinarts/SEED](http://www.udel.edu/associateinarts/SEED) to learn more.

## INSPIRE

- If you are considering full-time enrollment at Delaware State University, you may be eligible for the **INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP**. To learn more, visit [www.desu.edu/inspire](http://www.desu.edu/inspire).

## ACM

- If your major is not offered at a public college in Delaware, visit [www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo) to learn about tuition savings in 14 southern states through the **ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET**.

# College Comparison Worksheet

## LOCATION

distance from home

proximity to educational & cultural resources

## ENVIRONMENT

size of school

rural, small town, suburban, or urban setting

diversity of student body

## TYPE OF SCHOOL

public or private

community college

proprietary school

religious affiliation

Historically Black College or University (HBCU)

Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)

coed, all male, or all female

## ADMISSIONS

tests required

average test scores, GPA, rank in class

early decision, early action, or single-choice early action

## QUALITY

retention rates

graduation rates

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

majors offered

accreditation

student-faculty ratio

typical class size

## EXPENSES

application fee & deposit

tuition & required fees

computer & lab fees

room & board

books & supplies

living expenses

transportation

## FINANCIAL AID

availability of tuition payment plans

percentage of students receiving aid

availability of need-based aid

availability of merit-based aid

## HOUSING

on-campus housing options

on-campus housing requirements

percentage of students living on campus

off-campus housing options

## CAMPUS LIFE

extracurricular activities & facilities

athletic programs & facilities

clubs & organizations

College 1

College 2