

## 2020-2021 JUNIOR YEAR CALENDAR & CHECKLIST

September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:</li> <li>• Challenging coursework</li> <li>• ACT scores, GPA/Class rank</li> <li>• How you spend your free time</li> <li>• You should have as much core curriculum completed as possible before you take college admissions tests (ACT/SAT), typically in April or June of this year. Retake in September (not offered at Hamilton), October or December (not offered at Hamilton) of your senior year. Review your program to make sure you are taking courses that will prepare you for admission and for these tests. Register online for the ACT or SAT. Registration info is available in Guidance.</li> <li>• Visit with college representatives that come to Hamilton, listen for announcements.</li> <li>• Student athletes intending to participate in sports in college should register with NCAA at <a href="http://www.eligibilitycenter.org">www.eligibilitycenter.org</a> and use code 1999 to send ACT/SAT scores.</li> <li>▪ Attend Virtual Financial Aid Information Session in September--dates and information will be sent to all families.</li> <li>• WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Wed., Sept 16 3:00-6:00pm</li> <li>▪ National Hispanic College Fair--stay tuned for dates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT Test offered Oct. 3</li> <li>• PSAT primary test date: Oct 14 Saturday test date: Oct 17 Alternative test date: Oct 28 Qualifying test for National Merit Scholarship Competition and National Achievement Program for Outstanding Black Students and the National Hispanic Program. Listen for announcements regarding registering for this test.</li> <li>• ACT offered Oct. 24 (<b>test not given at Hamilton in October</b>)</li> <li>• Junior conference with the counselors to review plans for after high school. Invite your parents to attend. Group meetings will take place during the evening. Emails will be sent home with dates and times.</li> <li>• Practice ACT for all juniors. Watch and listen for further information regarding date and time.</li> <li>• WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Wed., Oct 7 3:00-6:00pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT Test offered November 7</li> <li>• Online registration for December 12 ACT is due November 6 (<b>not given at Hamilton in December.</b>)</li> <li>• WCTC All Campus Open House. Stayed tuned for dates.</li> <li>• Pick up a copy of the <i>Introduction to the UW System</i> booklet, <i>Wisconsin's Independent Colleges &amp; Universities</i> and/or the <i>Wisconsin Technical College System Guide</i> during your junior conference to explore educational opportunities. These booklets contact information on admissions, requirements, financial aid, scholarships and programs.</li> <li>• WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Sun., Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00-6:00pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT offered Dec. 5</li> <li>• ACT Test Dec. 12 (<b>test not given at Hamilton in Dec.</b>) if you didn't take it in October.</li> <li>• Check out the Internet for scholarship opportunities at these sites: Financial Aid <a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a> College Board <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a> Fast Web <a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a> US Dept. Of Ed. <a href="http://www.ed.gov">www.ed.gov</a> Use these financial calculators to estimate college costs and aid eligibility:<a href="http://www.FAFSA4caster.gov">www.FAFSA4caster.gov</a> and College Board <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a></li> </ul>

**2020-2021**  
**JUNIOR YEAR CALENDAR & CHECKLIST**

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ACT online registration due Jan. 8 for Feb. 6 test (<b>test not given at Hamilton in Feb.</b>)</li> <li>▪ Identify a list of colleges you are interested in. Schedule campus visits. Go to <a href="http://www.campustours.com">www.campustours.com</a> for more info on the college search process.</li> <li>▪ Review your transcript as you plan your senior year program.</li> <li>▪ YOUR PSAT score should be back. Attend the interpretation session.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Watch for information on ACT preparation program at Hamilton HS</li> <li>▪ ACT Feb. 6 (<b>test not given at Hamilton.</b>)</li> <li>▪ As registration for next year approaches, be sure to continue to challenge yourself. Check with your counselor to make sure you will have the necessary admission requirements.</li> <li>▪ All juniors will take the state ACT on March 9th.</li> <li>▪ WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Wed., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 3:00-6:00pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT offered March 13</li> <li>▪ Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor if you have any questions about meeting college admissions requirements.</li> <li>▪ ASVAB (test for juniors and seniors. Listen for announcements.</li> <li>▪ Online registration due March 12 for April 17 ACT test.</li> <li>▪ WCTC All Campus Open House. Stay tuned for dates</li> <li>▪ WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Wed., Mar 10<sup>th</sup> 3:00-6:00pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ACT offered April 17. Online registration is due by March 12.</li> <li>▪ Online registration is due April 8 for SAT test on May 8</li> <li>▪ WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Sun. April 11<sup>th</sup> 3:00-6:00pm</li> </ul>
May	June	Summer	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AP exams given nationwide.</li> <li>▪ ACT online registration due May 7 for June 12 test.</li> <li>▪ SAT offered May 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT offered June 5</li> <li>▪ ACT offered June 12</li> <li>▪ Plan college visits</li> <li>▪ Wisconsin Private College Week. Stay tuned for dates.</li> <li>▪ Student Athletes intending to play sports in college should have transcripts sent to NCAA through Parchment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read widely</li> <li>✓ Save money for post high school education and/or training</li> <li>✓ Schedule more campus visits</li> <li>✓ If possible, get a summer job related to your career interest or do some volunteer work</li> <li>✓ Watch out for scholarship scams. No one needs to pay money to get information about college scholarships or grants.</li> <li>✓ Visit website of colleges you are interested in to learn their preferred application process</li> <li>✓ Check out ACT/SAT I test dates if you plan to retake. ACT has Sept. test date (not at Hamilton) in addition to Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr. and June.</li> </ul>	

**PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

It is definitely not too early to begin to investigate options for after high school! Below are some suggestions to help you get information you need:

- Pick up a list of helpful websites for financial aid, college exploration, career planning, etc. in the Guidance Office.
- Visit websites of the colleges you are interested in.
- Look at college catalogs (also available in the Guidance Office).
- Meet with college representatives who visit Hamilton (watch daily announcements for up-coming college rep visits)
- Take advantage of opportunities such as career nights at WCTC, open houses at colleges/universities.
- Attend college fairs.

## 2020-2021 JUNIOR YEAR CALENDAR & CHECKLIST

- Get involved in school and community activities.
- Review your transcript to be sure you are on track for graduation and for admission purposes.
- Log on to [www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu](http://www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu) for information on UW Systems schools and programs. Log on to [www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org](http://www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org) for information on private colleges and universities in Wisconsin. Log on to [www.witechcolleges.org](http://www.witechcolleges.org) for information on the technical colleges in Wisconsin.

Junior conferences will be scheduled first semester and you will meet with a counselor to discuss your individual plans.

### TESTS

If you are planning on going to a four year college or university, you must take either the **ACT or SAT I**. It is very important that you take these tests seriously and prepare appropriately. The best preparation is to take core curriculum that helps you develop the knowledge and skills that are tested and considered to be important for success in college. It is also helpful to take advantage of test preparation programs and activities so you understand the format of the test and effective test taking strategies. The ACT and SAT are not only used in college admission, but also to determine athletic eligibility, for scholarship purposes and for programming opportunities while in college. If you are planning on attending a technical college, a different test will be administered to you once you have applied.

The PSAT, a shortened version of the SAT I, is for students who are planning on attending a college or university and is taken in the junior year. It is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT will be given on Wednesday, October 14, 2021. (Alternative dates include October 17 and 28) Listen for information about registering.

Note: If you are hoping to attend a UW System University, you should apply around September 1<sup>st</sup> or soon thereafter next school year (when you are starting your senior year). Transcripts should be submitted through Parchment (information available in the Guidance Office), an online service provider.

## 2020-2021 SENIOR YEAR CALENDAR & CHECKLIST

September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Schedule campus visits if you haven't decided what schools you want to apply for next year. If still undecided, see your counselor.</li> <li>▪ Stop in Guidance for further information if the college you want to attend the SAT I and/or SAT II subject tests.</li> <li>▪ Submit applications for college/tech schools, usually any time after Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. You can apply online. Go to the Parchment link on the District website to request a transcript. Be aware of application deadlines.</li> <li>▪ Register online to retake the ACT or SAT I. Info available in Guidance.</li> <li>▪ Hoping to play Division I or II sports in college? For eligibility apply online at <a href="http://www.eligibilitycenter.org">www.eligibilitycenter.org</a></li> <li>▪ Stop in Guidance for information on ACT preparation programs.</li> <li>▪ Applying to a military academy? You'll need a nomination and must file a letter of intent by early Oct. See your counselor for more information.</li> <li>▪ Online registration due Sept 18th for the Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> ACT test</li> <li>▪ WI Education Fair – VIRTUALLY! Wed., Sept 16 3:00-6:00pm</li> <li>▪ Attend VIRTUAL Financial Aid Information Session. Dates and Information will be sent to all families at a later date.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submit your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after October 1 as possible. Keep copies of all forms sent. You can apply online at: <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a></li> <li>▪ SAT Test offered October 3.</li> <li>▪ National Hispanic College Fair dates are TBD. Keep checking the link for more information: <a href="https://collegefair.info/hs-registration/">https://collegefair.info/hs-registration/</a></li> <li>▪ Retake ACT on October 25 (<b>not given at Hamilton in October</b>)</li> <li>▪ Visit with college reps that come to Hamilton. Watch for announcements.</li> <li>▪ Apply for ROTC scholarships if you are interested in the military and/or college.</li> <li>▪ Stop in Guidance and sign up for notification of scholarships. Watch announcements closely all year for scholarship opportunities. A scholarship list is updated regularly on the District website under guidance resources.</li> <li>▪ ASVAB (Armed Services Aptitude Battery) test for Juniors and Seniors. Listen for announcements for further information.</li> <li>▪ WCTC Virtual Information Sessions: Oct 1, Oct 5, Oct 13, Oct 22, Oct 27. See link for more details: <a href="https://www.wctc.edu/">https://www.wctc.edu/</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT Test offered November 7</li> <li>▪ Online registration is due Nov 6 for the December 12 ACT test (<b>not given at Hamilton in December.</b>)</li> <li>▪ Begin to think about which teachers you will ask to write letters of recommendation for you for your scholarship applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT offered Dec. 5.</li> <li>▪ ACT Test Dec. 12 (<b>test not given at Hamilton in Dec.</b>) if you didn't take it in October.</li> <li>▪ Be wary of scholarship search scams. No one should have to pay money to get info about college scholarships or grants.</li> <li>▪ Check out the Internet for scholarship opportunities at these sites: Financial Aid <a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a> Fast Web <a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a> US Dept. Of Ed. <a href="http://www.ed.gov">www.ed.gov</a> Use these financial calculators to estimate college costs and aid eligibility: <a href="http://www.FAFSA4caster.gov">www.FAFSA4caster.gov</a> and College Board <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a></li> <li>Stop in Guidance to check out scholarship opportunities</li> </ul>

**OVER** 

**2020-2021**  
**SENIOR YEAR CALENDAR & CHECKLIST**

<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Watch the mail for acceptance letters</li> <li>▪ ACT online registration due Jan. 8 for the Feb. 6 test (<b>test not given at Hamilton in Feb.</b>)</li> <li>▪ Do not change your schedule without consulting with the college/university you applied to. It can affect your admissions.</li> <li>▪ Notify Parchment if you need to have your mid-year grades sent to the college(s) you are applying to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Scholarship Program applications available on District website: Hamilton – Guidance Resources</li> <li>▪ ACT Feb. 6 (<b>test not given at Hamilton.</b>)</li> <li>▪ College Goal Wisconsin – Get info and help to apply for financial aid. For more information and locations go to <a href="http://www.collegegoalwi.org">www.collegegoalwi.org</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ACT online registration due March 8<sup>th</sup> for April 13<sup>th</sup> test.</li> <li>▪ WCTC All Campus Open House is TBD. More information to come later.</li> <li>▪ Look for your Student Aid report (results of your application for financial aid. Call 1-319-337-5665 (Federal Student Aid Information Center) if there is a problem.</li> <li>▪ SAT offered March 13</li> <li>▪ Let Guidance know about any scholarships you receive for recognition at the Senior Scholarship Ceremony.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Watch the mail for financial aid award letters. Compare the awards you receive. Follow instructions for the returning award letter.</li> <li>▪ If you have made a final decision about the school you will be attending, notify the others you applied to of your decision.</li> <li>▪ Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc.)</li> <li>▪ ACT offered April 17</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AP exams given nationwide.</li> <li>▪ ACT online registration due May 7 for June 12 test.</li> <li>▪ SAT offered May 8</li> <li>▪ Senior Scholarship Ceremony Wednesday, May 19, 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAT offered June 5</li> <li>▪ ACT offered June 12</li> <li>▪ Graduation June 12</li> <li>▪ <b>Notify Parchment to send your final transcript to the college of tech school that you will be attending or NCAA, if applicable.</b></li> </ul>		

Pick up a copy of the *Introduction to the UW System* booklet, *Wisconsin's Independent Colleges & Universities* and the *Wisconsin Technical College System Guide*. All are resources that can help you understand admission requirements and opportunities. Your counselor is happy to meet with you if you have questions or need more information.

**QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

- What are your reasons for going to college/tech school/etc.? How is it related to your goals?
- Do you want to pursue an apprenticeship or on-the-job training?
- Do you want to attend a large university, small college or a technical school?
- How far from home do you want to go to school?
- Do you prefer a city campus, a suburban location or a small town?
- What program of study do you wish to pursue? What career are you preparing for? What training does that career require?
- Are there activities such as sports or clubs in which you want to participate?