

## 11th Grade Student Checklist

- ☐ **Continue to build on successes at school**  
Junior year is especially important because these are the most recent grades colleges will see when you apply as a senior. Keep challenging yourself and take advantage of Honors, AP, IB, and concurrent enrollment classes if available.
- ☐ **Understand how to use MaiaLearning as a resource**  
Your Peak Ed/Elevated Director of College Counseling can give you tips on how to use [MaiaLearning](#) to research schools, majors, and careers. It is good to get familiar now because you will use it more as a senior applying to college.
- ☐ **Create a list of colleges that match your interests and goals\***  
Research your colleges and determine if they would be a good fit for SOCIALLY (what is the school culture like?), ACADEMICALLY (what is the class rigor and do they have your major/program?), and FINANCIALLY (what is the cost of attendance and how well do they meet financial need?). Use [MaiaLearning](#) to research colleges and save a list to your personal account.
- ☐ **Prepare for SAT or ACT\***  
Colleges and some scholarships will look at your SAT (or ACT) scores, so make sure you study during the year to prepare for the statewide SAT test in April. Take a practice test and get study help at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).
- ☐ **Meet with Peak Ed/Elevated's Director of College Counseling**  
Sitting down with your college advisor during junior year can help you find resources and information specific to you and your college process. Whether you have a plan already or not, this meeting can make your next steps more clear. You can contact the Director of College Counseling at [jasmine@peakedu.org](mailto:jasmine@peakedu.org).
- ☐ **Create/update personal resume**  
Update your personal resume so that it highlights your accomplishments and involvement, which should include school activities, work, and volunteering/community service activities. Peak Ed/Elevated students can use [MaiaLearning](#) to create a resume.
- ☐ **Write a draft of your personal essay**

Most scholarship applications require a personal essay and many colleges require one as well. It is always good to send one in to support your application. Your essay will help you to stand out from other applicants.

☐ **Begin scholarship and financial aid search\***

Since scholarship deadlines are usually at the same time each year, you can use your junior year to find and save scholarships for which you may be eligible. Use tools such as the online FAFSA 4caster to help calculate how much financial aid you will receive and to estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Use your [MaiaLearning](#) account to research scholarships.

☐ **Attend College Nights and College Fairs**

This is the ideal year to gather college information. If you attend college nights and fairs now it will make your senior year that much easier. See [www.coloradocouncil.org](http://www.coloradocouncil.org).

☐ **Consider who to ask for a letter of recommendation**

Complete a letter of recommendation request form and keep them on file so that you can give to teachers, coaches, counselors and/or advisors during your senior year. Most students need 2 letters of recommendation.

☐ **Finalize Summer Plans**

Explore summer jobs, academic enrichment, and volunteer opportunities. Be aware of application requirements and deadlines. Look into workshops offered by college preparation programs at local colleges, as they can provide the information and structure your student may need to get started.