

Ten tips for making the most of July 2025



1. **START YOUR SUMMER READING.** Start reading any books that are required reading for the summer. Don't forget to read at least one really enjoyable book just for fun!
2. **PRACTICE FOR THE PSAT/SAT/ACT.** Log into [Methodize](#). Select either ACT or SAT prep and follow the week-by-week outline. This will prepare you for the upcoming exams. Register for upcoming exams and don't procrastinate!
3. **GET INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEER WORK.** Look to do things that are of interest to you. Ask at your local church or synagogue, community center, hospital, nursing home, animal shelter, etc. It will make you a more "interesting" person!
4. **START NARROWING COLLEGE CHOICES.** Continue to use the "colleges" tab in *Naviance* to do a college search. Visit college websites and, if you are a rising senior, narrow your choices to about 12-15 colleges by the end of the summer (1-2 "reach", 2-3 "possible", 3-4 "likely" and 3-4 "safe" schools). Contact Jan to discuss college choices.
5. **VISIT COLLEGES VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON.** Register online for college visits or attend an online info session and take a virtual college tour. Colleges will consider you a more serious candidate if you request an interview. Take notes while your impressions are still fresh in your mind. Colleges will want to see that you understand what they are about.
6. **BRAINSTORM YOUR ESSAY APPLICATION THEMES.** 2026 Grads: Knowing how you want to present yourself to an admissions committee will help you to come up with great ideas for your essay. Read [Planning Your College Essay](#) to see the essay questions for the 2025-2026 admissions cycle. Platinum members, send your essay ideas in a Google Doc to Jan@collegechannel.net or schedule a brainstorming session.
7. **START YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.** 2026 Grads: Register for an account at www.commonapp.org and get started. Your information will rollover when the new applications open on August 1st. Platinum members, send your username and password to Jan@collegechannel.net so she can help you review your common app.
8. **START REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM COLLEGES.** Go to the websites of the colleges that you are interested in to become more familiar with them, sign up on their social media and request a zoom call with admissions or a department chair. Check out their application requirements and essay questions. Look at the majors they offer and the curriculum.
9. **PUT TOGETHER YOUR ACTIVITY LIST / RESUME.** Use the **Resume Builder** under the "about me" tab in *Naviance* to organize your activities. This will help you complete the "Activities" section of your college application. Send an email to Jan@collegechannel.net for review.
10. **UPDATE YOUR *Naviance* PLAN.** Log into your Collegechannel *Naviance* account. Click on the "**Self-Discovery**" tab and if you have not already done so complete the **Personality** and **Learning & Productivity** assessments. Update your goals in the **Planner** section. Record your goal statement and steps you will take to achieve your goal. **MOST OF ALL...ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**