

# Countdown Grade 11

## *Grade 11 Fall – Visit And Calculate*

- Register for the PSAT for the National Merit Scholarship, visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for tips and sample questions
- Review results – check out test prep sources on the internet
- Start college visits and gather financial aid information
- Attend Post High Planning Days Career Fair
- Develop a preliminary list of potential colleges and request information from them
- Take the ASVAB, especially for military careers, and review results
- Explore ROTC careers [http://todaysmilitary.com/training/rotc?source-id=ROTC\\_Exact&content-id=r.o.t.c&medium-id=Exact&campaign-id=Todays\\_Military\\_Responsive](http://todaysmilitary.com/training/rotc?source-id=ROTC_Exact&content-id=r.o.t.c&medium-id=Exact&campaign-id=Todays_Military_Responsive)
- Use the books in the Counseling Office and the internet sites to research
- Explore Careers using:
  - US Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>
  - SDMyLife [www.SDMyLife.com](http://www.SDMyLife.com)
- Visit college representatives in the Counseling Office
- Prepare for college essays by keeping a diary of your interests, educational priorities, special talents, etc.
- Volunteer and keep track of your hours
- If you haven't already, start saving for college
- Stay involved in clubs and activities in school
- Interested in college sports
  - NCAA [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
  - NAIA [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org)
- Take the free practice ACT Test at school and work on your skills using Method Test Prep in SDMyLife
- Talk with your parents about saving and paying for college

## *Winter/Spring – Excel and Interview*

- Register for the ACT and/or SAT
- Do the ACT practice test <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>
- Consider retaking the ACT in June, July, September, October or December. Reminder that students will not only need to reach the minimum ACT score required for college entrance, but, for SD 4-year schools, will also need to have and 18 on the ACT English subtest and a 20 on the ACT Math subtest. Students may also consider taking the College Readiness curriculum and/or the Accuplacer test to meet sub-test proficiencies. The SD 4-year public schools have implemented a new Math Index for placement. Information can be found at <http://www.sdstate.edu/mathstat/for-students/placement.cfm>
- **ACT Information** - ACT Fee waivers are available if students and their families meet income guidelines. Several ACT study books and practice test materials are available to check out in the counselor's office. In addition, [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) has on-line practice tests available. The ACT test also offers an additional writing assessment. Currently, no SD schools require

the writing portion. If a student is considering an out-of-state school, it is best to check with the school's admission personnel about taking the additional writing test component. If students do not meet set ACT sub-test scores, remedial (College Ready) courses may be required.

- ***ACT Testing Dates***

Visit the ACT website to identify the testing dates for this year.

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

- ***ACT District Testing***

Leola School is currently working to set up a district test date on Tuesday March 8th. The cost will be slightly lower than the national dates above but no fee waivers can be used. More details will be shared with the students as we near this date.

- Take the SAT practice test and go on-line to take another
  - [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/newsat/prep/prep.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/newsat/prep/prep.html).
- Schedule college visits and on-campus interviews
- Plan Grade 12 classes taking honors and college courses if possible
  - Make sure you have the required credits to graduate
  - Sign up for the most difficult classes you can handle. Stay focused on your school work
  - Sign up for classes that will earn college credit during your senior year through Advanced Placement and dual credit.
  - Sign up for courses to meet the SD Opportunity Scholarship and other scholarship requirements.
- Find out how your favorite school ranks using the internet.
- Use FASTWEB ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)), [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) [www.sdmylife.com](http://www.sdmylife.com) and other internet sources for scholarship searches
- Shadow a professional – stop in the School Counseling Office to set it up
- Consider what field you would like to study but remember that it is okay to change your mind. Students attending a technical school may not have as much flexibility as those attending college.
- Make a list of colleges that interest you. Write to the admissions office to obtain catalogs and application forms.
- Ask teachers, administrators, work supervisors, and counselors for recommendations. Be sure they know your work, personality, and characteristics well enough to make valid judgments.
- Write a list of pros and cons for each college you're considering
- If you're considering a military academy, write to your US Senator or Representative for an endorsement
- Sign up for a summer enrichment program – experience new things.