

College planning calendar for seniors

SEPTEMBER

- Narrow your list of colleges to five to 10. Meet with a counselor about them and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 - tests you'll take and their fees, dates and registration deadlines
 - college application due dates
 - financial aid application forms required and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
 - other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
 - your high school's own application processing deadlines
- If you can't afford application or test fees, a counselor can help you request a fee waiver.
- If you have not had your SAT® scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the College Board to have them sent.

OCTOBER

- Try to finalize your college choices.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action or rolling admissions applications as soon as possible.
- Ask for counselor or teacher recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.
- If you're submitting essays, write first drafts and ask teachers and others to read them. If you're applying for Early Decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- If you have not had your SAT scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the College Board to have them sent.

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1-15: For Early Decision admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates.
- Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving.
- Counselors send transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before colleges require them.

DECEMBER

- As you finish and send your applications and essays, be sure to keep copies.
- If your college wants to see seventh-semester grades, be sure to give the form to your counselor.

JANUARY

- If you apply to colleges online, be sure to have your high school send a transcript — it goes to colleges separately by mail.

FEBRUARY

- No senioritis, please! Accepting colleges *do* look at second-semester senior grades.

MARCH

- Keep active in school. If you are wait-listed, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.

APRIL

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. If you've not done so yet, visit your final college before accepting. As soon as you decide, notify your counselor of your choice.
- If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.

MAY

- May 1: Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before May 1. By that postmarked date, you must inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid. (Questions? Talk to your counselor.)
- Send your deposit to one college only.
- Wait-listed by a college? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- Work with a counselor to resolve any admissions or financial aid problems.

JUNE

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.

Source: The College Board.

