

# The College Application Timeline

Heads Up: You may be eligible for fee waivers for SAT® and college applications. Go to [sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers).

## September

- DETERMINE THE **application requirements and deadlines** for each college, including **FINANCIAL AID**.
- START LOOKING FOR **PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**.
- Take any September tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR 8+ COLLEGES**.
- CHOOSE YOUR **8+** safety, fit, and reach colleges.
- Find out which of these colleges accept the **COMMON APPLICATION** and/or **UNIVERSAL COLLEGE APPLICATION**.
- Start your applications**, including your **APPLICATION ESSAYS**.
- If you need to take a college entrance exam, such as the SAT in October, **register now**.

## Quick Tips

- ? Need a checklist to keep track of college application requirements, tasks and deadlines? Go to [College Application Checklist](#).
- ? For advice on how to select your 8+ colleges, see [Finding the Right College For You](#), page 4.

## October

- ASK YOUR TEACHERS and possibly other adults for **letters of recommendation**, if necessary.
- Take any October tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR 8+ COLLEGES**.
- REMEMBER: **December is your last chance** to take tests that will **HELP YOUR APPLICATIONS!**
- COMPLETE THE **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®** if required by any of your 8+ colleges.
- If you need to take a college entrance exam, such as the SAT in November or December, **register now**.

- ? Public flagship colleges are funded by state governments and frequently offer favorable tuition rates for state residents. See the enclosed [Net Price](#) sheet.
- ? Use colleges' net price calculators to get a better sense of your net price and estimated financial aid award.
- ? Net price calculators are available through [student.collegeboard.org/collegepotential](http://student.collegeboard.org/collegepotential).
- ? Some colleges offer students a financial aid package that covers all remaining expenses after a calculated family contribution. See the enclosed list of [Colleges and Universities That Meet 100% of Financial Need](#).

## November

- Take any November tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR 8+ COLLEGES**.
- Ask your high school to **send your transcripts** to the colleges to which you will apply.
- WORK ON YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS. Some colleges have deadlines as early as the **end of November!**

- ? One thing is for sure: If you don't fill out financial aid forms, you won't get any aid.
- ? Ask for support when you need it. Research whether the colleges you are interested in offer tutoring, cultural events, academic and financial aid counseling, and other services.

## December

- Take any December tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR 8+ COLLEGES**.
- Submit your completed college applications.**

## January/February

- SUBMIT ANY REMAINING **completed college applications**.
- Complete the FAFSA.**
- SUBMIT **MIDYEAR REPORTS** to colleges that require them.

- ? Scholarships may be given to students who have strong academic or athletic skills, who are members of a specific ethnic group, or who are from faith-based or civic organizations.
- ? FAFSA gives you access to grants and scholarships, work-study jobs, and loans. See [Finding the Right College For You](#), page 17.

## March/April

- Colleges will let you know about their **offers of admission** and financial aid awards.
- Study for your **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM® (AP®) TESTS**.
- Weigh all the factors and use your judgment to **choose the college that will be your best fit—ACADEMICALLY, PERSONALLY, AND FINANCIALLY.**

- ? You should never have to pay for scholarship information. To find more scholarships, you can use free services like the College Board's [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search).

## May

- If necessary, **START THE LOAN APPLICATION PROCESS**.
- Take AP® Exams** that will earn you college credit.