

The College Application Timeline

September

DETERMINE THE **application requirements and deadlines** for each college.

Find out which of these colleges accept the **COMMON APPLICATION** and/or **UNIVERSAL COLLEGE APPLICATION**.

Start your applications, including your **ESSAYS**.

If you need to take the SAT in November, **register now**.

Start looking for **private scholarships**.

CHOOSE AT LEAST **four to eight colleges**.

MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR to go over your grades and other information you will need to fill out your **college applications**.

ASK YOUR TEACHERS or other adults for **letters of recommendation**.

SEND YOUR **SAT® SCORE REPORTS TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

Find out which colleges require you to submit the **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®**.

Quick Tips

? Log into "My SAT" account to send your scores.

? For due dates and a list of colleges that accept the PROFILE, go to css.collegeboard.org.

October

If you need to take the SAT in **November, register now**.

COMPLETE THE **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE** if required by any of your colleges.

REMEMBER: December is your last chance to take the SAT.

Ask your school counselor to **send your transcript** to the colleges to which you are applying.

Check that your letters of recommendation are complete.

? Registration deadline for November SAT is October 9.

? Use colleges' net price calculators to get a better sense of your net price and estimated financial aid award.

? Net price calculators are also available through studentnpc.collegeboard.org.

November

Take the November SAT and **SEND YOUR SCORE REPORTS TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

Remember to ask your school counselor to **send your transcripts** to the colleges to which you are applying.

If you need to take the SAT in December, **register now**.

KEEP WORKING ON YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS. Some colleges have deadlines as early as the **end of November!**

? Registration deadline for December SAT is November 5.

? Ask for support when you need it. Research whether the colleges you are interested in offer tutoring, cultural events, academic, and financial aid counseling.

December

Take the December SAT and **SEND YOUR SCORE REPORTS TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

Sign up for **CAMPUS TOURS**.

Submit your completed college applications!

? A good way to determine which college factors are the most important to you is to visit several colleges to get a sense of how they might differ.

January/February

Ask your school counselor to send your midyear grade report to your colleges.

Complete the FAFSA.

? 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, work-study jobs, and loans. To complete the FAFSA, go to fafsa.ed.gov.

? Families often find it easier to complete the FAFSA while filing their taxes.

March/April

Colleges will let you know about their **offers of admission** and financial aid awards.

Study for your **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM® (AP®) EXAMS**.

Weigh all the factors and use your judgment to **choose the college that will be your best fit** — **ACADEMICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND FINANCIALLY**.

Submit housing forms, final transcripts, deposits, and other necessary paperwork.

? **Compare award letters!** After examining the financial aid packages you are offered, some schools may be more affordable than you thought.

May

If necessary, **START THE LOAN APPLICATION PROCESS**.

Contact the college you've decided to attend and **formally accept the offer**.

Take AP Exams that will earn you college credit.

? Once you've chosen a college, there are steps you need to take before starting in the fall. Get details on paperwork you need to complete, sending in deposits, and securing housing.

? Visit the college campus to learn about housing, academic majors, social life, and student organizations. Ask questions about student resources and services.

? Colleges have different policies about AP credit acceptance. To find out if your college accepts AP credits, visit their website or go to the College Board's AP Credit Policy Search tool at apstudent.collegeboard.org.