

High School Senior Year

Timeline



September

Get psyched for senior year!
Meet with counselor – double check graduation requirements, discuss other post-high school options, make preliminary college list.
Create calendar of admission and financial aid deadlines.
Plan final campus visits
Register for Oct., Nov. or Dec. test dates if retaking SAT or ACT.
Request teacher recommendations.
Draft Common Application essay.

October

Work hard in your classes.
Attend admission rep visits at the high school.
Complete financial aid forms (FAFSA, CSS Profile).
Polish Common App essay; begin supplemental essays (if required).
Finalize list of schools to apply to.
Complete Early Decision and/or Early Action application(s) if applying early.
Keep up with and enjoy extracurricular activities.

November

Prepare to submit regular decision applications in advance of deadlines.
Schedule virtual or in-person interviews if available.
Clean up social media accounts.
Research and apply for scholarships.
Take care of your health.
Have a happy Thanksgiving with your family!

December

Follow up with teachers/counselor about recommendations.
Send test scores and transcripts.
Complete Common Application and supplements.
Submit applications before winter break so you can enjoy the holidays!

January

Submit applications to colleges with late deadlines.
Send fall semester grade reports.
Follow up with schools to make sure your applications are complete.
Considering a gap year or an alternative to college? Research options.

February

Stay engaged with high school (watch out for senioritis).
Plan something fun for spring break.
Continue to apply for scholarships.
Order graduation announcements.

March

Celebrate your offers of admission!
Compare financial aid awards.
Think about summer (job? internship? volunteer? travel?).
Make graduation party plans with friends and family.
Focus on self-care.

April

Attend “admitted student” events at colleges you’re considering.
Decide whether to accept wait list spots (if offered).
Keep grades up — the college you accept will require a final transcript.
Choose your college and mail the deposit by May 1st!

May

Take AP tests (your college may accept scores for course credit).
Inform counselor/teachers who wrote recommendations of your choice (and write thank-you notes).
Research first-year housing options; connect with potential roommates.
Happy graduation! You’re a college student now!