

College planning calendar for seniors

September

- Narrow your list of colleges to 5 to 10. Meet with a counselor about them and 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. (Note: 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.

October

- Try to finalize your college choices.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible.
- Ask for counselor or teacher recommendations if you need them.
- 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 test scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the appropriate test organization to have them sent.

November

- November 1-15: For Early Decision admission, colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates.
- Complete your application essays, proofread them rigorously for mistakes.
- Counselors send transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before colleges require them.

College planning calendar for seniors (page 2)

December

- As you finish and send your applications and essays, be sure to keep copies.
- Get PINs for the FAFSA for both yourself and one of your parents from www.pin.ed.gov.

January

- Submit your FAFSA as soon as you can. If a college you're applying to has a financial aid priority date of Feb. 1, use estimates based on end-of-year pay stubs and last year's tax returns.

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 learned of its decision.
- File income tax returns early. Some colleges want copies of your family's returns before finalizing financial aid offers.

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 admission or financial aid problems.

June

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

Source: The College Board