

# Timeline For Your College Search\*



## Freshman Year

- Ask your guidance counselor to help you schedule “college prep” classes. In order to attend a college, you must apply to it and be admitted. You’ll want to take high school classes that prepare you for admission to most colleges, in addition to classes that give you the freedom to explore most academic majors once you start college.
- Study hard and get involved in extracurricular activities.

## Sophomore Year

- Continue to work hard in “college prep” classes and to explore extracurricular opportunities. Participate in volunteer service through an organization or even individually.

## Junior Year

### SEPTEMBER

- Dedicate yourself to getting great grades. The grades you achieve during your junior year are very important for college applications. Keep studying. Consult your guidance counselor about taking the PSAT and the PLAN exams.
- Attend college fairs and college receptions in your region. Listen for when colleges will be visiting your school and meet with the visiting admission’s counselor.

### DECEMBER

- Receive your results of the PSAT and PLAN. Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your strengths on these exams and to prepare for the SAT and ACT.

### FEBRUARY

- Check out college websites. Create a list of colleges to investigate. Talk to the representatives from your list of colleges and universities. Ask plenty of questions.

## MARCH

- Sign up for the SAT and ACT.

Attend college fairs and college receptions in your region or school. Continue to talk to representatives from your list of colleges and universities.

## SUMMER

- Visit several colleges and universities. Take campus tours, talk with the college admission counselors and meet faculty. Check the websites to schedule your visit on line or find the phone number to the school's admissions' office to schedule a visit.

## Senior Year

### SEPTEMBER

- Contact the colleges on your list and request application information and early financial assistance forms. Plan to visit any colleges you did not visit over the summer and re-visit your top choices. Visits play a big role in narrowing your list and helping you make your final college choice.

### OCTOBER

- Apply to the colleges and universities of your choice. Be aware of early-decision or application deadlines for scholarship consideration.
- Take the ACT.
- Ask teachers, counselors, pastor, or other key people in your life to complete letters of recommendation for each of your applications. Ask early, so they will have ample time to complete the letter. If you need multiple copies, please let them know and give them the addresses to each college/university you are applying to in order for them to appropriately identify the college/university they are writing to.
- Visit with college reps at college fairs and at your high school.

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Send the last of your admission applications to the colleges on your list.

- Take the SAT. Remember to forward your scores to the colleges/universities you applied to.**


### **JANUARY**

- Contact the colleges on your list to find out if they have overnight visit programs. If so, spend the night on the campuses still on your list.**
- Obtain financial aid materials from colleges and your high school guidance office. Be sure to research the deadline date for applying for the File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You must submit the FAFSA in order to be considered for financial aid. File online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).**

### **FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL**

- Complete the appropriate financial aid materials. Watch for deadlines; March 1<sup>st</sup> is a common deadline date.**
- Take any Advanced Placement exams.**
- Decide on the one college to attend and submit your tuition deposit. Congratulations! You've completed an important responsibility.**
- Notify the colleges you did not select of your final decision.**
- Sign up for summer orientation at the school of your choice. Your college career begins with orientation.**

### **JUNE**

- You've graduated from high school!!** 
- Inquire about and attend your college/university's summer orientation programs. Be sure to register for and attend these important events.**
- To be prepared for registration, carefully read registration material and the course catalog. If you have questions, contact your college advisor.**
- Send your final high school transcript to your university. JULY**
- Congratulations! You are now a college freshman.**

## **JULY**

- Your college will send you information about housing, roommates, orientation, advising, insurance and health plans, meal plans, and more. Remember to look at deadline dates for sending forms back to the college/university.**
- Contact your admission counselor with any remaining questions you may have. Call your new roommate to discuss who will bring the television, what costs you can share, and other details.**

## **AUGUST**

- Pack your room and whatever items make you feel at home.**
- Have an awesome time at college. Enjoy the campus community and take advantage of opportunities inside and outside the classroom.**

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