



# ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

## MONTHLY PLANNER FOR COLLEGE

### Fall

#### Putting Your Applications Together

- Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10 and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible.
- Make a master calendar and note:
  1. Test dates, fees, and deadlines
  2. College application due dates
  3. Required financial aid applications and their deadlines
  4. Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials
  5. Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript
- Ask for recommendations. Give each person your resume, a stamped and addressed envelope, and any required forms.
- Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.

#### Applying Early Action or Early Decision?

- November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November.
- Send colleges your SAT scores through [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com).
- Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.

#### Get Financial Aid Info

- Attend financial aid info events in your area and talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid profile.
- Use Scholarship Search at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com), review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources.

#### FAFSA

- If you plan on attending college for the 2018-2019 school year, the FAFSA can be submitted any time between OCTOBER 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2019. However, because of the variation in state and college deadlines, it is highly recommended that you fill out the FAFSA **as soon as you can after October 1** to ensure that you do not miss out on available aid.

## Winter

### Application Details

- Keep track of regular application due dates. A lot of colleges accept applications between January 1st and February 15th. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
- Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.

## Spring

### When the Letters Start Rolling In

- You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Compare awards from different colleges. Questions? Talk to financial aid officers. Not enough aid? Ask if other financing plans are available.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.

### May 1: Making Your Final Choice

- You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by
- Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

## Summer

### Next Steps

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.
- Start preparing for the year ahead!