

COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE

Senior Year



AUGUST

- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Visit the three to five colleges that interest you most.
- Get registration materials and test dates for the SAT and/or ACT. Remember to take such tests at least six weeks before colleges' score submission deadlines.

SEPTEMBER

- Meet with college admissions representatives visiting your school.
- Make a calendar of key application and financial aid deadlines.
- Ask teachers, guidance counselors and other adults who know you for letters of recommendation for scholarship and admission applications.

OCTOBER

- Take SAT or ACT exams if necessary.
- Work on admissions application essays.
- Visit your top school choices. Talk face to face with current students and faculty members at those schools.
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarship awards.

NOVEMBER

- Take SAT or ACT exams if necessary.
- Obtain financial aid applications from your colleges of choice. Determine the info required and due dates.
- Prepare your college applications.

DECEMBER

- Start gathering the info needed for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at fafsa.ed.gov.

JANUARY

- Submit your completed FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. It's helpful if your parents can complete their income tax returns early — schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.

FEBRUARY

- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- If you're enrolled in AP classes, plan for AP exams or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.

MARCH

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. If you have not received your SAR four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

APRIL

- Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid packages.
- Choose a school and send in a deposit by the deadline. Notify other schools that you will not be attending them.
- Contact the financial aid office at your chosen school to make certain your application is complete.

MAY

- Take AP examinations.
- Write thank yous to the people who wrote you letters of recommendation.
- Celebrate your high school graduation!