

The College Application Timeline

SEPTEMBER

DETERMINE THE **application requirements and deadlines** for each college, including **FINANCIAL AID**.

START LOOKING FOR **PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**.

Take any September tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

***Strengthen Your College List** with a mix of academic safety, fit, and reach schools.

Find out which of these colleges accept the **Common Application, Universal College Application, and/or Coalition Application**.

Start your applications, including your **APPLICATION ESSAYS**.

If you need to take a college entrance exam, such as the SAT in October, **register now**.

QUICK TIPS

- ? Need a checklist to keep track of college application requirements, tasks, and deadlines? Visit bigfuture.org.
- ? For advice on how to select colleges for your list, visit bigfuture.org.

OCTOBER

ASK YOUR TEACHERS and possibly other adults for **letters of recommendation**, if necessary.

Take any October tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

***Complete the FAFSA**

COMPLETE THE **CSS Profile™** if required by any of your colleges.

If you need to take a college entrance exam, such as the SAT in November or December, **register now**.

- ? Public flagship colleges are funded by state governments and frequently offer favorable tuition rates for state residents. Visit bigfuture.org to look at specific college costs.
- ? Use colleges' net price calculators to get a better sense of your net price and estimated financial aid award.
- ? Search for colleges with the College Board's **Net Price Calculator**.
- ? Some colleges offer students a financial aid package that covers all remaining expenses after a calculated family contribution.
- ? FAFSA gives you access to grants and scholarships, work-study jobs, and loans. Don't forget to fill out the FAFSA, which opens Oct. 1. Visit studentaid.gov/.

NOVEMBER

Take any November tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

Ask your high school to **send your transcripts** to the colleges that you will apply to.

WORK ON YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS. Some colleges have deadlines as early as the **end of November!**

- ? Ask for support when you need it. Research whether the colleges you are interested in offer tutoring, cultural events, academic and financial aid counseling, and other services.

DECEMBER

Take any December tests that are needed and **HAVE YOUR SCORE REPORTS SENT TO YOUR COLLEGES**.

***Apply to College**

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

SUBMIT ANY REMAINING **completed college applications**.

SUBMIT **MIDYEAR REPORTS** to colleges that require them.

- ? Scholarships may be given to students who have strong academic or athletic skills, who are members of a specific ethnic group, or who are from faith-based or civic organizations.

MARCH/APRIL

Colleges will let you know about their **offers of admission** and financial aid awards.

Study for your **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM® (AP®) TESTS**.

Weigh all the factors and use your judgment to **choose the college that will be your best fit—ACADEMICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND FINANCIALLY**.

- ? You should never have to pay for scholarship information. To find more scholarships, you can use free services like the College Board's **Scholarship Search**.

MAY

If necessary, **START THE LOAN APPLICATION PROCESS**.

Take AP Exams that will earn you college credit.

Learn about College Board Opportunity Scholarships at cb.org/opportunity.

****Disclaimer**** The college search timeline provided by College Board serves as a general guide to help students navigate the application process. Individual circumstances may vary, and students should consult with their high school counselors, college admissions offices, and official College Board resources for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Deadlines, requirements, and admissions policies may change, so it is essential to verify details directly with the colleges and universities of interest. College Board does not guarantee admission to any institution and encourages students to use multiple sources when planning their college search and application journey.