

12TH GRADE

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE



KEEP TRACK OF DEADLINES AND COMPLETE APPLICATIONS

You'll be filling out lots of forms this year, so it's important to know what form is due when. Make a calendar showing the application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships. Finish and proofread all necessary application forms. Make sure you and your school's guidance office have sent all necessary materials, including test scores, recommendations, transcripts, and application essays.



TAKE OR RETAKE STANDARDIZED TESTS

Register for and take the ACT®, SAT®, or SAT® Subject Tests as necessary. Be sure you have requested (either by mail or online) that your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice.



CONTINUE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Apply for scholarships whose deadlines are approaching and keep searching for more scholarship and grant opportunities. Using online scholarship search tools is a great way to find potential aid.



FINALIZE YOUR COLLEGE LIST

Use the information you've gathered from college visits, interviews, and your own research to decide to which schools you'd like to apply. It's okay to apply to colleges that you think will be more difficult to get into. But it's also important to put a few safety schools (where you're sure you'll get in) on your list.

WINTER



ACT ON THE RESULTS OF EARLY DECISION APPLICATIONS

If you applied early decision, you'll soon find out if you were accepted. If you get in, you have to withdraw your applications from other schools. If not, keep your other applications out there and focus on those colleges.



FOLLOW UP ON YOUR APPLICATIONS

Check with the schools to make sure they have received all your information, including test scores, transcripts, and recommendations.



SUBMIT FINANCIAL AID FORMS

Fill out the FAFSA, no matter what your family's income level. Don't send the forms until after January 1.



WATCH FOR NOTIFICATION FROM COLLEGES

If you applied under the regular application process, you should receive an admissions decision by March or April.



CONGRATULATIONS!

You've finished high school and are about to embark on an exciting new phase of life. Yahoo!



FINAL CHECKLIST

Compare financial aid packages carefully and reach out to the financial aid offices if necessary.

Make your final college decision. Send your deposit to your chosen school and ask your guidance counselor to send your final transcript to the college in June.

Follow up on financial aid information and apply for loans if necessary.

Complete enrollment paperwork for the college you will attend by the appropriate deadlines.

SPRING