



June – August

- Create a list of colleges and universities you are interested based on your personal, academic, and professional interests and skills.
- Create a list of schools you plan on visiting and a schedule as to when you will visit them during the summer.
- If you need to improve your SAT or ACT scores, lay out a plan on how to improve them for tests in the Fall or enroll in a prep course.
- Take summer classes at a local community college for classes you are interested in, but may not be offered at our high school.
- Continue with participation in a meaningful activity (it is sometimes a question on your college application).
- Create a resume of all your activities – include any leadership positions and approximately how much time you spend on each activity
- Create a list of teachers, advisors, etc for whom you plan on asking for recommendations.
- Review the schools you are most interested and determine which ones you plan on applying Early Decision or Early Action for and be aware of their deadlines.
- Gather potential college application essay topics and start brainstorming and even writing a first draft for some. The Common Application essay topics are available at <https://appsupport.commonapp.org/link/portal/33011/33013/Article/1694/2014-15-Common-Application-Essay-Prompts>
- Register for September ACTs if applicable.

September

- Narrow down your list of potential schools to eight (2 safety, 3 on-target, 2 reach, and 1 extreme reach)
- Approach those whom you would like to write a recommendation for you and politely ask them if they would and also provide them with a list of your activities, the list of schools you are tentatively applying for, and the deadline in which you need the letter from them.
- Schedule time with your school counselor to ensure your high school transcript is accurate, including the classes you took, grades, GPA, rank, etc.
- Meet with a counselor to ensure that list of schools you are applying for are a good fit for your interests and skills.
- Continue visiting any schools you may not have had a chance to visit.
- Start working on your Early Decision/Early Action applications.
- Prepare for college admissions interviews if the school you apply to requires it.
- Take the ACTs if you registered.
- Register for the SAT and SAT Subject tests if applicable.

October

- Finish up your Early Decision/Early Action Applications as their deadlines are approaching.
- Start completing your Regular Decision applications.
- Continue to work hard in school, since grades for Senior Year, especially the first half are still important.
- If you are applying for financial aid at schools that require the CSS Profile, complete the form.
- Take the SAT and SAT Subject tests, if you registered.

November

- Submit Early Decision/Early Action Applications, due this month, if you haven't done so already.
- Take the SAT and SAT Subject tests, if you registered.
- Continue to work on Regular Decision applications.



December

- Submit the remainder of your Regular Decision applications (try to finish them over Winter Break).
- Attend financial aid information sessions

January

- Focus and maintain your grades in school, especially for mid-terms and finals.
- If you are applying for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online <https://fafsa.ed.gov>.

February

- Follow up with the schools you applied to and ensure they received your complete application, including your grades from September through December.
- Make sure your FAFSA and CSS are both complete and that your schools have everything they need to make a financial aid decision.

April

- Start monitoring for application results and financial aid packages.
- Attend Open House and Acceptance programs for the schools you're interested in.
- Once you receive all your acceptances, review your options and make a decision on which college you will attend and send in the deposit by the due date. Also, make sure you sign and accept any financial aid packages with your deposit.
- If you are waitlisted for any schools that you genuinely want to attend, send them a handwritten note about your genuine intent to attend their school.

May

- Inform schools that you have decided not to attend of your decision to enroll somewhere else.
- Take Advanced Placement exams if applicable.
- Start preparing for your finals.

June

- Follow up with your guidance counselor to ensure they have send your final transcript to the college you plan on attending.
- Enjoy high school graduation!

July - August

- Keep an eye out for information from your college on new student orientation, placement exams, course selection, etc.