

The College Application Timeline

Heads Up: You may be eligible for fee waivers for SAT® and college applications. Go to collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers.

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**.

CHOOSE YOUR **8+** safety, fit, and reach colleges.

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/get-in/applying-101.
- ? For advice on how to select your 8+ colleges, visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges.

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/Financial Aid 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.
- ? Net price calculators are available through <http://studentnpc.collegeboard.org/>.
- ? 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 fafsa.ed.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 to which you will apply.

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 8+ COLLEGES**.

Submit your completed college applications.

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 bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search.

May

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

Take AP Exams that will earn you college credit.

Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more information.

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