HOW TO GET THERE FROM HERE

When looking at colleges, consider the following:

- **GPA**: Is the average SAT® scores and GPA of students admitted to the school? Does it have any prerequisites? Apply to colleges that are a good academic fit — whether they are a safe bet or a little out of reach.
- **GPA**: Do most students graduate in four years? If not, why not?
- **Location**: Do you prefer a big city, suburb, or small town?
- **Major**: Does the college offer a variety of majors that interest you?

SIZING

- Do you want a smaller campus with smaller class sizes, or a larger school with a wider variety of programs, such as a state university?

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- Does the college’s library meet your needs? Does the campus use the latest technology?
- What about lab facilities?

CAMPUS LIFE AND SERVICES

- What are the housing options? Are there social activities, cultural events, clubs, or athletics that interest you?
- What support services are available on campus to help with social, health, academic and financial challenges?

Take a college tour.

College Application Timeline

**SEPTMBER/OCTOBER — PREPARE**
- Sign up for updates at applyto4.org.
- Talk to your school counselor or adviser about the college search and application process.
- Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®. Certain colleges use it to see if you qualify for additional grants and scholarships. (There is a fee for application.)
- Complete the FAFSA: It is necessary if you are applying for federal and state grants and loans. Funds are limited, so make sure to file by the financial aid priority filing dates.
- Compare award letters: After examining the financial aid packages you are offered, some schools may be more affordable than you thought.
- Review acceptance letters: Go over all offers of admission, consider the pros and cons of each school, and pick the college that fits you best.

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY — APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID**
- Complete the FAFSA: It is necessary if you are applying for federal and state grants and loans. Funds are limited, so make sure to file by the financial aid priority filing dates.
- Tip: Families often find it easier to complete the FAFSA while filing their taxes.
- Compare award letters: After examining the financial aid packages you are offered, some schools may be more affordable than you thought.

**MARCH/APRIL — DECIDE!**
- Get information: Dig a little deeper to help you make the best choice for you. Ask questions.
- Create a list of any questions you still have about the colleges you’re considering.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER — APPLY TO COLLEGES**
- Work on your applications: Some have deadlines as late as November.
- Consider the Common Application: Over 500 colleges use this one form. Check commonapp.org for the four (or more) colleges you are considering.
- Send transcripts: Ask for your transcripts to be sent to your chosen colleges.

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER — PREPARE**
- Send your SAT and AP® scores: This ensures that colleges have the most complete set of your information to review for admission as well as scholarship awards, course placement, or selection to a specific program or major.
- Register for the SAT: If you haven’t taken it yet, or would like to take it again, it’s not too late! Sign up now and be sure to send score reports to colleges.
- Opt In to Student Search Service®: More than 1,100 colleges use this service and are looking for students like you.

We know you’re ready for college — your academic track record has proven that. Now it’s time to apply. Here are some tips on how to get started.

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