

The College Application Timeline

SEPTEMBER

Explore and choose **5-10** colleges

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

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

START LOOKING FOR **PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**.

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

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

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

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

OCTOBER

***Complete the FAFSA**

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

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

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

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

? 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 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 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**

*Complete this step and you may be eligible for a College Board Opportunity Scholarship. Learn more at: [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).

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.

First, if you are unsure about your future career path, education, school selection, etc., **IT'S OK!** That is why you *do things like research careers/trades/schools/programs on <https://login.xello.world/>, or Occupational Outlook Handbook go to college fairs, take campus tours, and get more information online or from experts.*

Suggestions for next steps: do your research, complete your EDP, get an account & read some articles on www.getsschooled.com, ask questions, and fill out your FAFSA beginning October 1st!

When you are looking at schools, remember...you are looking for the best place for YOU! Not your sister, not your uncle, not your best friend...you. Where do YOU feel comfortable? Where will YOU get the most for what you want in your future? Where is your right fit?

1. **Research schools and programs** at <https://login.xello.world/> ...or just on the internet
 - a. (I would choose up to 10)
 - b. You may want to look into a possible career path first, and then find schools that carry programs to get you there, but it is not necessary...you could pick a school that simply has many career choices, and also has the right size, extra-curriculars, etc
2. **–OR- access websites for military and/or trade schools**
 - a. To access military information, go to: <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces>
 - b. Look at job prospects, or search for trade schools in the Occupational Outlook Handbook – <https://www.bls.gov/ooh> <https://www.bls.gov/k12/students.htm> or on <https://www.going-pro.com/>
3. **Some schools have their own scholarships**...you may need to look at their website to see if you have to apply to be considered for special scholarships...they may have deadlines as soon as October or November, so check it out soon.
4. **Fill out your FAFSA** at www.FAFSA.ed.gov Do this starting on **October 1st of your senior year**
5. **Transcripts**: Create an account at www.parchment.com so that you can easily send your transcripts to schools.
6. **Make sure that you can access your SAT scores** at www.collegeboard.org You may need to pay to send them to schools
 - a. If you need to re-take tests like the SAT, do so by December
 - b. If you cannot access your account, CALL COLLEGEBOARD!
7. **Complete applications for the schools that you would like to attend.**
 - a. Some schools use the Common Application, and some use their own
 - b. many schools require an application fee, check that out as well...although some do not cost anything to apply.
 - c. Make sure to look at the GPA/SAT/ACT requirements for each school to be sure you are eligible (most schools report freshman “averages”), although many schools accept students that fall below...don’t let that dissuade you from applying...**there may be other reasons that the school will want you.**
 - d. You may want to visit to be sure of the right fit...if you are accepted; hopefully you WANT to go there.
8. **Work on private scholarship applications**
 - a. Make a goal for yourself...maybe 1-2 per week?
 - b. You can start at a clearinghouse that allows you to create a profile, and then lets you know which scholarships you might be eligible for. Try www.goingmerry.com, www.fastweb.com, www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org, <https://cfsem.org/Scholarships/>, your Xello site, or even Scholly, an app for your phone which does the same thing (there may be a fee for Scholly?)
 - c. There are also links to scholarships at the Roseville student-run website...you will have to check the requirements on your own
 - d. Any scholarships sent to you via e-mail...you may need to take the links to the online application.
 - i. **HOWEVER: some applications are attached via Microsoft Word or a PDF file...they will need to be printed, filled out and mailed in. If you cannot do this, stop by the counseling office to see if they are available in hardcopy form.**