



THE SENIOR'S GUIDE TO PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

FOR STUDENTS

SUMMER

- By August, register for your last **SAT or ACT** test.
- **Finalize your list of safety, match, and reach colleges** with your counselor.
- Explore websites of colleges and **check application deadlines**.
- Determine which schools take the **Common Application**. Begin your college essays.
- **Request recommendations** from your teachers, counselors, and mentors if needed.
- **Schedule college interviews** if required.

AUGUST - NOVEMBER

- **Take on leadership positions** in your extracurricular activities.
- **Update your "Best Of" list** of awards, activities, honors, and work (both paid and volunteer).
- **Take the SAT or ACT in the fall** and send scores to your colleges.
- **Request your high school transcript** to submit with your applications.
- **Make a calendar to keep track of all your deadlines** and each school's requirements for admission.
- **Give your completed essays to your counselor** and any relevant teachers for editing.
- **Submit any Early Admission/Decision applications** according to their deadlines.

DECEMBER - JANUARY

- **Maintain your GPA**; depending on your applications, some colleges will see these grades! You also want to stay in the running for academic scholarships.
- Put the finishing touches on your essays and applications, and **send them off!**
- Take the December SAT or ACT if necessary and **submit scores**.
- **Complete the FAFSA** to qualify for federal aid.

FEBRUARY - MAY

- Finish and submit your **scholarship applications**.
- **Confirm** that your colleges received your applications.
- **Inform** all schools you will not be attending as soon as possible to give another student your spot.
- **Celebrate! You're going to college!**