

Applying to College - Senior Checklist

1. Build Your College List

- Research colleges that match your **academic interests, location preferences, size, cost, and culture**.
- Include a mix of **reach, match, and safety** schools.
- Check each school's **application deadlines** and requirements.

2. Register for + Submit Test Scores (If Required)

- Determine if your schools require the **SAT/ACT**.
- If needed, register early for any final testing dates in the fall.
- **Request official score reports from [CollegeBoard.org](https://collegeboard.org) or [ACT.org](https://act.org)** to colleges before deadlines.

3. Request Letters of Recommendation (If Required)

- Ask **teachers, counselors, or mentors** early - give at least two weeks notice!
- Provide them with your **resume/Senior Brag Sheet** as well as the **deadlines** so they can write strong, personalized letters.

4. Complete Applications

- Most U.S. colleges use one of these systems:
 - **Common App; Coalition App; School-specific portals**
- Fill in **personal information, academic history, extracurriculars, and essays**.
- Use a personal, professional e-mail address, not your GCPS school email address.

5. Write and Edit Essays (If Required)

- Start with the **personal statement** for the Common/Coalition App.
- Write supplemental essays tailored to each school.
- Have someone you trust **proofread and give feedback**.

6. Send Transcripts

- In order to send your transcript electronically, you will need to **link your Common App and SchoolLinks accounts**. (see other page)
- Request your **electronic transcript** on MyPayments Plus for \$5.
- If applying to colleges in GA, you also need to send your transcript through your GAfutures.org account. Your **SSN** must be on file to do this.

7. Apply for Financial Aid

- **Complete the FAFSA** - opens online October 1st.
- If required, also complete the **CSS Profile** for certain private schools.
- Search and apply for **scholarships** (school-based and external).

8. Submit Applications Before Deadlines

- Common deadlines:
 - **Early Action / Early Decision:** Oct.-Nov.
 - **Regular Decision:** Jan.-Feb.
- Pay application fees or use **fee waivers** if eligible.

9. Track and Follow Up

- Use a spreadsheet or planner to track deadlines, application status, and financial aid forms
- Check **email and application portals** regularly for missing documents or updates.

10. Make a Decision

- Admissions decisions typically arrive:
 - **Early Action/Decision:** Dec-Jan
 - **Regular Decision:** Mar-Apr
- Compare **financial aid offers**.
- Submit your **enrollment deposit** (usually by May 1).

