



Junior year is the busiest year for college planning. You can take control of the process by staying on schedule. Use this timeline to meet your deadlines. Remember to check this document at least once a month.

September

- Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you are enrolled in the most challenging academic courses available to you.
- If you have not taken the PSAT, ask your guidance counselor for information about PSAT scheduling at your school.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities and take on leadership roles, if possible.

October/November

- Attend information sessions with college representatives who visit your high school.
- Attend free college fairs, including the Philadelphia National College Fair on October 30, and Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling's Regional College Fairs throughout the year (p. 19).
- Continue talking with your parents or guardians and your College Prep Team about your college plans.
- Attend a workshop with your parents or guardians to learn about the financial aid process.
- If necessary, confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov). Your citizenship status will determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid.

December/January/February

- Meet with your guidance counselor to identify colleges that may be a good fit for you.
- Begin your fit research (pp. 22-23).
- Choose your 12th grade classes with your guidance counselor, carefully making sure you will have enough credits to graduate and that they meet college admissions requirements.
- Start preparing for the SAT or ACT (p. 28).
- Enroll in an SAT or ACT prep course or utilize online test prep materials (p. 28).

March/April

- Register for the May or June SAT, or June ACT and SAT Subject Tests (pp. 25-27).
- Register and prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, if applicable.

May/June

- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Take SAT Subject Tests for the courses you have recently completed, if required by the colleges in which you are interested (p. 26).
- Take applicable Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.
- Ask the 11th grade teachers with whom you have good relationships to write college recommendation letters on your behalf (p. 32).
- Before the school year ends, obtain a copy of the *Step Up to College Guide Summer Supplement*. Visit: www.StepUpToCollege.org.

July/August

Follow the steps outlined in the *Step Up to College Guide Summer Supplement*:

- Prepare to take the SAT or ACT (p. 28).
- Understand your admissions options for college (p. 29).
- Do college fit research (pp. 22-23).
- Visit colleges (pp. 20-21).
- Begin the application process (pp. 31-32).
- Start to draft your college application essay (pp. 33-35).
- Research options for paying for college (pp. 37-49).
- Stay connected to Step Up to College digital media resources (p. 2).

Senior year is an exciting, busy time in the college admissions process. Keep up with your schoolwork as you balance your academic responsibilities with the college application process. Use this checklist to stay on track.

August/September

- Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you will have enough credits at the end of the year to graduate and that the credits meet college admissions requirements.
- Update your resumé, highlighting accomplishments, work experience and awards. Provide a copy to teachers who will write letters of recommendation for you (pp. 12-13).
- Finalize your list of colleges and universities, and check their application requirements.
- Continue working on your applications, planning to meet all deadlines (p. 36).
- Register for the fall SAT or ACT, if you would like to improve your scores (p. 27).
- Register for fall SAT Subject Test(s), if required at the colleges to which you are applying (p. 26).
- Research scholarship opportunities and request application materials (pp. 42-43).
- Work with your parents or guardians to gather the financial documents and materials necessary for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (pp. 44-45).
- Apply for an FSA ID; go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and select “FSA ID.” Keep your login information in a safe place. You will need to refer to it often (see p. 44).
- Use the FAFSA4caster to estimate your eligibility for need-based financial aid. Visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>.
- Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR), which will be available online within three to five days after you submit your FAFSA online, or will arrive by mail several weeks after you submit your FAFSA by mail. Check your SAR for any errors and make the necessary corrections (p. 45).
- Determine whether the colleges which interest you require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE on www.collegeboard.org, by searching each school’s website or by calling the school’s financial aid office. If necessary, submit the CSS (p. 46).
- Attend a financial aid workshop with your parents or guardians.
- Visit as many of your potential colleges as possible (pp. 20-21).
- Meet with college representatives who visit your high school.
- Attend free local college fairs including the Philadelphia National College Fair on October 30, and Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling’s Regional College Fairs throughout the year (p. 19).
- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Check all college application deadlines and submit your materials and fees on time. Remember: the application deadline for Early Admission and Early Decision is usually around November 1 or 15. Use the College Application Tracking Worksheet to stay organized (p. 36).
- Make copies of all documents you send by mail or submit online and place them in your college file.

October/November

- The FAFSA will be available October 1. Complete and submit the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.studentaid.ed.gov/PDFfafsa or 1-800-4-FED-AID) to apply for state, federal and institutional grants and loans.
- Follow up with colleges to make sure your Early Action, Rolling Admissions and Early Decision application materials were received.
- Confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov), if you are unsure.