

High School Junior College Application Timeline

August

- Assess academic progress
- Research admissions statistics of colleges
- Visit college campuses

Sept./Oct.

- Meet with guidance counselor
- Take the PSAT
- Keep up with academics
- Do extracurriculars

Nov./Dec.

- Attend local college fairs
- Prep for the SAT or ACT (or both)
- Ramp up college research

Jan./Feb.

- Continue prepping for the SAT/ACT
- Start scholarship search
- Add to your resume

March/April

- Take the SAT or ACT
- Think about summer plans
- Prep for SAT Subject Tests
- Visit college campuses

May/June

- Take SAT/ACT again (if needed)
- Take SAT Subject Tests
- Identify teachers to write recommendations

July/August

- Create list of schools to apply to
- Decide if you want to retake the SAT or ACT
- Get started on your Common App essay



TESTIVE SAT/ACT Prep

www.testive.com

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER

- Get psyched for senior year!
- Meet with counselor — make preliminary college list, double check graduation requirements
- Create calendar of admission and financial aid deadlines
- Plan final campus visits
- Register for Oct., Nov. or Dec. test dates if retaking SAT or ACT
- Request teacher recommendations
- Draft Common Application essay
- Work hard in your classes

OCTOBER

- Attend admission rep visits at the high school
- Complete financial aid forms (FAFSA, CSS Profile)
- Polish Common App essay; begin supplemental essays (if required)
- Finalize list of schools to apply to
- Complete Early Decision and/or Early Action application(s) if applying early
- Keep up with and enjoy extracurricular activities

NOVEMBER

- Prepare to submit regular decision applications in advance of deadlines
- Schedule Skype or alumni interviews if unable to interview in person
- Clean up social media accounts
- Research and apply for scholarships
- Take care of your health
- Have a happy Thanksgiving with your family!

SEPTEMBER 09

OCTOBER 10

NOVEMBER 11

DECEMBER

- Follow up with teachers/counselor about recommendations
- Send test scores and transcripts
- Complete Common Application and supplements
- Celebrate if you received an offer of ED or EA admission
- Submit applications before winter break so you can enjoy the holidays!

JANUARY

- Submit applications to colleges with late deadlines
- Send fall semester grade reports
- Follow up with schools to make sure your applications are complete
- Considering a gap year? Research options

FEBRUARY

- Stay engaged with high school (watch out for senioritis)
- Plan something fun for spring break
- Continue to apply for scholarships
- Order graduation announcements

DECEMBER 12

JANUARY 01

FEBRUARY 02

MARCH

- Celebrate your offers of admission!
- Compare financial aid awards
- Think about summer (job? Internship? travel?)
- Make graduation party plans with friends and family

APRIL

- Attend "admitted student" events at colleges you're considering
- Decide whether to accept wait list spots (if offered)
- Keep grades up — the college you accept will require a final transcript
- Choose your college and mail the deposit by May 1st!

MAY

- Take AP tests (your college may accept scores for course credit)
- Inform counselor/teachers who wrote recommendations of your choice (and write thank-you notes)
- Research first-year housing options; connect with potential roommates
- Happy graduation! You're a college student now!



MARCH 03

APRIL 04

MAY 05

Templates: (Make a copy first)

- [College LIST](#)
- [College Planning Spreadsheet](#)
- [Example Resume for College Applications](#)

Helpful General Websites and Links:

- <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/>
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/ApplyingToCollege/>

Good Prep Books for the ACT/SAT:

- The official ACT Prep Guide (whatever year is the post up to date)
- The Complete Guide to ACT English (by: Erica L. Meltzer)
- PWN the SAT Math Guide (by: Mike Mcclenathan)

Teacher Rec. Request email Template:

- When asking for a letter of recommendation always give at least two weeks' notice
- You can ask for letters of recommendation as early as late March. (The earlier the better)
- Put no more than three things that you did in the email. In total, it should only be about 1/2 to 2/3 of a page long

Hey (Teacher name),

I hope you are having a wonderful year so far! This year I had the opportunity to (What you did in junior year/summer before senior year) in addition (more things you did). I hope you got the chance to (teachers favorite activity or hobby). I really appreciate everything I learned about (Teacher's class) also I loved (why you enjoy them as a teacher), my favorite (unit/activity/project/book) in your class was (Favorite unit/activity/project/book)

I feel as though you were a teacher that knows me the best as you were an amazing teacher. Secondly, (Why they know you the best). If you agree to be my recommender I will provide my resume to help you know more about me. Can I request a recommendation through Naviance?

Thank you,

(Your name)