

College Planning: 12th Grade

FALL:

- Strengthen your college list:** Meet with your counselor about your college choices.
- Update your academic planner, and create a spreadsheet that includes:**
 - Tests you will take and their fees, dates, and deadlines.
 - College application due dates.
 - Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines.
 - Recommendation requests, transcripts, etc.
- Speak to your counselor about fee waivers.**
- Improve your score!** Many seniors retake the SAT in October.
- Complete the FAFSA.** To apply for financial aid, click here:
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Complete the CSS profile:** CSS Profile™ is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>
- Prepare for early decision/early action or rolling admissions applications as soon as possible.** To learn more about early admissions, click here:
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/apply-to-college/facts-about-early-decision-and-early-action>
- Ask your teachers for recommendation letters.** Give your teachers and counselors an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. F
- Write first drafts.** Talk to your teachers and have them read your college essay. If you're applying for an early decision, finish the essay for that application.
- Apply for college:** Submit your applications to the schools you want to attend.
- Ask your counselor to send your transcripts!** Give your counselor two weeks before the deadline- make sure you let your counselor know all the colleges you are applying to.

WINTER/SPRING:

- Keep active in school.** If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.
- Visit your final college before accepting.** By the spring you should start receiving acceptance letters and financial aid offers. Notify your counselor of your choice.
- Inform every college** of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admissions and/or financial aid by May 1.
- Send your deposit to one college only!**

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- Are you waitlisted?** If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application.
- Work with your counselor to resolve any admissions or financial aid problems.**
- Ask your counselor to send your final transcripts to your college.** (Final transcripts are usually ready to be sent out at the end of June).
- Review your financial aid awards.** Not all awards are the same. Choose the aid package that is best for you and your family.

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