

MONTH-BY-MONTH College Planning Calendar

Ready? Let's go!

August

- Set academic goals for your senior year
- If you haven't already, ask your teachers, advisors, coaches, etc. for [letters of recommendation](#)
- Schedule an [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) date for September or October (if you need to take/take it again)
- Research [potential colleges](#). Take into account your [major\(s\)](#) choice and future [career](#) options. Consider if the colleges on your list offer the major(s) you are interested in.
- Visit colleges and explore options. Attend college fairs and information sessions.
- Create a list of colleges. Shoot for around 10–15 and add/remove colleges as you learn more about them. Build a list that includes “[safety](#)”, “[match](#)”, and “[reach](#)” schools.
- Begin [brainstorming college essay topics](#) and begin a simple outline

September

- Complete the list of colleges you want to apply to
- Continue working on [college essays](#) or supplemental essays
- Mark application deadlines on your calendar for each college
- Attend college visits and open houses
- Use [College Raptor's Scholarship Search](#) tool to find scholarships to apply to

October

- File FAFSA!** Most years, [FAFSA](#) opens on October 1.
- Attend college visits and open houses
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Continue proofing and editing your college essay and supplemental essays
- Begin filling out [college applications](#)
- Submit college applications for early decision and early action before the deadlines. Confirm transcripts and letters of recommendation are sent.
- Mark financial aid deadline dates in your calendar

November

- Submit regular decision applications before the deadlines
- Confirm transcripts and letters of recommendation are sent
- If you haven't already, work on financial aid forms ([FAFSA](#), [CSS Profile](#))
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Continuing to work hard in school to maintain or [increase your GPA](#)

December

- Submit any remaining [regular decision](#) applications before the deadlines
- Confirm transcripts and letters of recommendation are sent
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Check application status for any early admissions
- Volunteer or get a seasonal job. If you still need your application to shine, now is a great time to get involved in volunteer and extracurricular activities.

January

- If you haven't yet done so, file FAFSA!**
- Check the application status for each college you applied to
- Keep searching for new scholarships, mark deadlines in your calendar
- Continue to work hard in school to maintain or increase your GPA

February

- Check for offer letters in the mail
- [Narrow down college choices](#) and make secondary visits or interviews if necessary
- Consider housing options and submit any necessary forms
- Search for and apply to summer jobs or internships

March

- Narrow down college choices and make a final decision
- [Compare financial aid offer letters](#) from each college
- Send in any required enrollment deposits
- Continue searching for and applying to summer jobs or internships
- Check for any extra paperwork required by the chosen college

April

- Review and complete housing arrangements
- Begin preparing for AP exams or final exams
- Notify colleges of your decision by [May 1](#) (National College Decision Day)
- Start thinking about and planning for the transition to college

May

- Take AP exams or final exams
- Plan for graduation and any related activities
- Confirm housing details and connect with future roommates
- Begin a packing list for college. Starting this early is helpful. Write down things you currently use every day in your home and add things you'll need for your dorm.
- Mark your calendar and prepare for any summer orientations if your school offers one

June

- Attend graduation ceremonies
- Check and complete any leftover college paperwork
- Continue your packing list for college
- [Work a summer job](#) to save money for college
- Enjoy time with your family and friends

July

- Enjoy the last moments at home in your hometown
- Familiarize yourself with college orientation materials
- See if your school made a [Top Colleges](#) or [Hidden Gems](#) list, just for fun
- [Attend orientation](#) where you can ask aid questions, register for classes, and more
- Head to school and start your academic journey!

You did it! Your college journey begins now!



Find free college planning tools at collegeraptor.com