

College Preparation:

The Senior Year Timeline

SEPTEMBER

- Even though it is senior year, you have to keep your grades up. Meet with your counselor at the beginning of the year to make sure your college list is complete and you are collecting the correct information for your college applications. Keep your counselor informed of any new potential school interests and any questions that come up.
- If you are feeling dissatisfied with your SAT or ACT scores thus far, register to take them again (SAT dates are generally in October, November, and December and ACT dates are generally in September, October, and December).
- Review your college list and make sure you have a final selection that balances targets, reaches, and safeties. Run them by your counselor and then begin to fill out the general information on your applications.
- Whether you are visiting before or after you have submitted your application, make sure to set up interviews at the office of admissions at each school (if offered).
- Request recommendation letters from teachers and give all necessary forms to your counselor so he or she can start preparing the material for you. The earlier the better!
- Update any other information, such as your résumé and any lists of awards, accomplishments, or activities that will be important to your applications.
- If you are applying Early Action or Early Decision, make sure you get a head start on your applications now so they can be in on time.
- Begin work on your personal statement and short answer essays.

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OCTOBER

- Follow up with teachers and counselors for recommendation letters and forms. Be proactive and make sure they have all forms and materials they need at least four weeks before their letters must be submitted (preferably more!).
- Start compiling your financial aid information (talk to your parents, gather the necessary info) to be ready for January submission.
- All Early Decision applications (if applicable) should be submitted by the end of the month.
- Work on your personal statement and short answer essays.

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NOVEMBER

- Make sure you submit Early Action or Early Decision applications on time.
- If you are applying Regular Decision, this is the time to get your application essays, personal statements, and short answers completed.
- Proofread your essays before and after taking a break from the process. Return to the essays with a fresh eye and make necessary revisions.
- Hand your written work over to your teachers and counselors to get outside feedback.

S E N T I A

TEST PREPARATION & TUTORING

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DECEMBER

- Finish your college applications (and pay attention to the earlier submission deadlines for select schools) before winter break so you can actually have fun and enjoy yourself!
- Make copies of all applications before sending them out.
- Last chance to take the SAT for regular decision applicants at schools with decision deadlines on/after January 1st.
- Make sure all of your financial aid materials are ready for submission in January.
- Gather and complete scholarship applications.

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JANUARY

- FAFSA becomes available online on January 1. Complete and submit your FAFSA application as soon as possible so you can get the maximum amount of aid. (See the [FAFSA website](#) and [Financial Aid Worksheet](#) for more information)
- Most Early Action and Early Decision responses should have arrived by the end of January.
- Let your counselor know which of your prospective schools require mid-year scholastic reports and have those sent out accordingly.

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FEBRUARY

- Don't let senioritis get the best of you, keep those grades up!
- Follow up with all of the schools to which you have applied. Make sure the schools have all necessary paperwork and reports for successful review. (See the [College Application Worksheet](#))

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MARCH

- If you are still looking for financial aid resources, continue looking for contests and scholarship options through websites like fastweb.com.
- Decision letters begin to arrive. Look everything over carefully.

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APRIL

- If you have been waitlisted for one of your top schools, make sure to do a follow-up phone call and write a letter to the admissions office. Let them know that you are interested and that the school remains your top choice. If possible, elaborate on achievements in and out of school since the application was submitted.

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MAY

- May 1 is the college decision deadline for most schools. Make sure your letter accepting their offer of admission is in!
- Send in the deposit check or pay online for your school of choice by May 1 and the school will send you the necessary information about housing and how to prepare for your fall arrival on campus.
- Once again, keep those grades up. You are almost done but you have to maintain a solid GPA! A significant drop in grades can lead to the withdrawal of your acceptance.
- AP exams are also this month so if you plan on taking them have the AP scores sent to your college to apply credit.
- Begin writing thank you notes and letters to everyone who has helped you along this process (teachers, counselors, school alumni, interviewers, etc.).

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JUNE

- Make sure your final transcript has been sent to your future college.
- Enjoy graduation!

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SUMMERTIME

- Enjoy your summer before college.
- Begin gathering all the items you will need for your new life at school.
(See the [College Supply Checklist](#))
- Read, read, read! Use the summer as an opportunity to sharpen your mental acuity and improve your vocabulary by reading.
- Attend freshman year orientation and get acquainted with your new school.