



“Always Giving Back”

College Timeline

August - December

- Contact your school counselor - your counselor plays a big role in helping you get into college. Meet to talk about your college plans and review your transcript.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities to improve your teamwork and leadership skills. Create and/or update your Activities Resume for use with admissions and scholarship applications.
- Finish your college visits and narrow your selection to 3-4 schools.
- Organize materials into separate files by college.
- Consider taking the ACT and/or SAT to improve your test score. Colleges use your top score when awarding college-based scholarships.
- Make sure your scores are sent to each of your colleges.
- Apply for admission to your top 3-4 colleges - be sure to apply before the college's deadline.
- Apply for scholarships; be sure to visit <http://www.educationquest.org/scholarshipquest> to start your search.
- Ask your guidance counselor about other local awards.
- Apply for college-based scholarships.
- Visit free, online scholarship sites to apply for national scholarships.

December

- Try to wrap up college applications before winter break. Make copies of each application before you send it.
- Contact the financial aid office at the colleges on your list to see what financial aid forms they require.
- Visit and explore <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Make sure to request your pin number for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Visit the "Completing the FAFSA" section at EducationQuest.org for free tools to help you prepare.

January - March

- Have your counselor send your first-semester grades to colleges that require a mid-year grade report or colleges with late academic scholarship deadlines.
- Contact your colleges and confirm that all necessary application materials have been received.
- Apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Continue to perform well in school and don't get senioritis; colleges want to see strong second-semester grades.
- Register for AP Exams you want to take in May.
- Read carefully any admission decisions that arrive this month; some may require action on your part.

April

- Compare the financial aid award letters that arrive this month and make a final decision.
- Mail the enrollment form and deposit check to the college you select before the May 1 enrollment deadline (for most colleges).
- Notify all colleges applied to with your final decision.

May

- If you take any AP Exams, make sure your AP score report is sent to your college.
- Request final high school transcripts are sent to chosen college.
- **CELEBRATE GRADUATION!**

June - July

- Make sure to sign up for first-year orientation.
- Plan your first-semester courses. Choose subjects that interest you and may become your college major.