



APEX ACADEMICS

College Application Timeline

Junior Year: Spring

March - May:

- **Initial College Research:** Begin exploring colleges that align with your **academic** interests, **extracurricular** activities, and **personal** preferences.
- **Create a Preliminary List:** Compile a list of potential colleges (reach, target, and safety schools). Aim for a diverse range of options.
- **Standardized Test Prep:** Start preparing for the SAT or ACT. Take **practice tests** to identify areas for improvement. Consider enrolling in a test prep course or using online resources.
- **Extracurricular Involvement:** Continue to actively participate in extracurricular activities and seek **leadership roles** if possible.
- **Talk to a Counselor:** Schedule a meeting with your high school counselor to discuss your college plans and academic progress. For more personalized, hands-on help with your application, book a session with Apex Academics to discuss options and next steps.
- **College Visits:** College visits at this point in the process can help you get a sense of the type of school you'd like to apply to (size, culture, location).

Junior Year: Summer

June - August:

- **College Visits:** If possible, visit colleges that are high on your list **during the school year**. However, Summer is a great time to attend information sessions and take campus tours that align with your schedule, as well as connecting with admissions counselors to set up interviews for the Fall.
- **Standardized Testing:** Take the SAT or ACT for the first time. **Register early** to secure your preferred test date and location. You can always take the tests more than once.
- **Begin Essay Brainstorming:** Start thinking about potential essay topics. **Reflect** on your experiences, values, and goals. Consider what makes you unique and what you want to convey to colleges.
- **Research Scholarships & Financial Aid:** Explore scholarship opportunities and learn about the FAFSA and CSS Profile. Understand the financial aid process.
- **Summer Programs/Activities:** Participate in summer programs, internships, volunteer work, or other activities that demonstrate your interests and skills.

- **Begin building portfolio items:** Craft a **resume** that reflects your experiences and skills. **Create a common app account** and familiarize yourself with what you need for your application,

Senior Year: Fall

September - October:

- **College Visits:** Visit colleges that are high on your list **during the school year** in order to get a better sense of the campus culture. Attend information sessions, book campus tours, audit an interesting class, and perhaps connect with an admissions counselor!
- **Finalize College List:** Narrow down your college list and finalize your reach, target, and safety schools. Double-check application deadlines.
- **Request Letters of Recommendation:** Ask teachers and counselors for **letters of recommendation**. Provide them with your resume, transcript, and a brief statement of your goals.
- **Essay Drafting & Revision:** **Write and revise** your college essays. Seek feedback from teachers, counselors, and trusted adults.
- **Complete Applications:** Fill out college applications carefully and accurately. Pay attention to **deadlines and requirements**.
- **Standardized Testing (If needed): Retake** the SAT or ACT if you are not satisfied with your previous scores.
- **Financial Aid Applications:** Complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile as soon as they become available (usually in October). Look into merit-based scholarships, fellowships, and grants available at each college/university.
- **Submit Applications:** Submit your college applications before the deadlines. Double-check that you have included all required documents.

November - December:

- **Continue Submitting Applications:** Prioritize completing all applications. Regularly check each school's application portal to see if anything is missing. Some schools may have earlier deadlines than others.
- **Monitor Application Status:** Keep track of your application status online. Ensure that all required documents have been received.
- **Prepare for Interviews (If applicable):** Practice answering common interview questions. Dress professionally and be prepared to discuss your interests and goals.

Senior Year: Winter/Spring

January - April:

- **Receive Admission Decisions:** Colleges will begin releasing admission decisions. **Check your email and online portals regularly.**
- **Compare Financial Aid Packages:** Carefully **review financial aid** offers from each college. Compare the amounts of grants, loans, and work-study options in order to find the right option for you.
- **Visit Admitted Student Days (Optional): Attend admitted student days** at colleges you are seriously considering. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the campus and meet current students.
- **Make a Decision:** Choose the college that is the best fit for you **academically, financially, and personally!**

Learn More...

This timeline provides a comprehensive guide to the college application process, from initial research to final decisions. It is important to stay organized, meet deadlines, and seek help from teachers, parents, counselors and friends! For guided help through this process, connect with Apex Academics! Apex Academics provides in-depth and personalized 1:1 college application advising for every type of student. Schedule a FREE 20 minute consultation to learn more today!