**High School Senior Timeline and Checklist**

Your senior year of high school is the most important time in the college planning process because you'll need to decide which colleges and universities to apply to, send in your applications and explore financial aid and scholarship options for the colleges you seek to attend.

* **Fall (September-November)**
  + Start your senior year by finalizing your [**college list**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/38DC0BE2/How-to-Finalize-Your-College-List/).
  + Now that you have an idea of where you want to go, [**visit prospective colleges**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/EC8C40F1/Visit-Prospective-Colleges-Before-You-Submit-Applications/) and get a feel for the campuses.
  + Consider options for [**early action**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/AC0BFBF6/Manage-Deadlines-Decide-on-Early-Action-and-Recommendations/) and your recommendation letters.
  + Register for required tests, it is your last chance to take the [**SAT, ACT, or SAT subject tests**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/4B1C8A36/Take-Your-Final-Tests-SAT-ACT-or-SAT-Subject-Tests/)!
  + Fill out and complete [**your college applications**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/3824D6C4/How-to-Start-Your-College-Applications/) before the deadlines arrive.
  + Make an appointment with your guidance counselor to ensure all your colleges get what they need.
  + Start working on your [**college application essay**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/A3A49252/Start-Writing-Your-College-Application-Essay/); it's a crucial part of your application.
  + Explore your prospective schools' [**financial aid requirements**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/51DD29AF/Determine-Your-Financial-Aid-Eligibility/) to plan your college budget.
* **Winter (December-February)**
  + Schedule your [**college interviews**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/2BA74A41/Seniors-Start-Planning-Your-College-Interviews/) to finish the admissions process.
  + Complete [**your FAFSA**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/F13CB676/How-to-Complete-Your-FAFSA-on-Time/) so you can get the most possible financial assistance for college.
  + Cross everything off this [**post-application checklist**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/0AC0229A/Seniors-Dont-Forget-Your-Post-Application-Checklist/).
  + Continue your hunt for [**scholarships**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/scholarships/) and apply for scholarships.
* **Spring (March-May)**
  + Once you've received all of your responses from colleges, make your [**final decision**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/99584FC1/Compare-Colleges-to-Make-Your-Final-Decision/)!
  + [**Verify your financial aid**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/9FE6D667/How-to-Verify-Your-Financial-Aid-for-College/) before you make any college budget decisions.
  + Follow our last admissions checklist: Send your [**final transcripts**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/B1990DE7/Why-You-Should-Send-Your-Final-Transcripts-on-Time/) to your college and meet housing deadlines.
  + Prepare for your AP exams and complete your [**AP tests**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/4537EAF2/Seniors-Complete-Your-AP-Tests-Before-Summer/) before summer.
  + Cross everything off your [**graduation checklist**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/9B1679CF/Graduate-on-Time-With-our-High-School-Graduation-Checklist/) and graduate!
* **Summer (June-August)**
  + Start your last ever high school [**summer job**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8731913E/Start-Your-Pre-College-Summer-Job/).
  + Attend your college's [**summer orientation**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/B57A351B/Attend-Your-College-Summer-Orientation/) to get the lay of the land before school starts.
  + [**Apply for student housing**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/EE4A7E10/Dont-Forget-Apply-for-Student-Housing-Early/) and get matched with a great roommate.
  + There's no time to waste, begin preparing for your [**college coursework**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/A5BA67E4/Seniors-Prepare-for-College-Coursework-Over-Summer/) now.
  + Get ready for a new world of student organizations, on-campus living, and [**college life**](https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8E82DA9A/Prepare-for-College-Life-Consider-Your-Activities/) by learning more about what your school has to offer.