



College Application Timeline

9th Grade

- Set up a meeting with your guidance/college counselor to discuss future college plans and the classes you will take during your four years.
- Enroll in challenging courses to prepare for college. Remember, you will need 8 credits in English, 8 credits in social studies, 6 credits in mathematics, 6 credits in science, 2 credits in a foreign language other than English, 4 credits in phys. ed., 1 credit in health, 7 credits in electives, 2 credits in the arts.
- Start visiting college websites and getting familiar with colleges and their offerings. Visit college campuses inside and outside the city.
- Learn about college prep programs and how to join them (SEO, Opportunity Network, Bottomline, etc.)
- Talk to those around you who have gone to college, whether it is a teacher, parent, or family member.

10th Grade

- Meet your guidance counselor to register for AP classes (if offered).
- Make sure you are signed up to take the PSAT and the ACT practice test in October.
- Attend local college fairs at high schools and community organizations. Inquire about volunteer and community service opportunities based on your passions and interests.
- Continue researching colleges and visiting when school is in session - keep a folder to store information.
- Consider taking college level/credit bearing courses, e.g., College Now @ CUNY
- Start looking into SAT/ACT prep classes

11th Grade

- Attend college fairs and representatives that visit your school. Be prepared with questions for the representatives.
- Investigate local and national scholarships and start brainstorming on your college essay.
- Find out what is necessary to apply to colleges (essay, application, letters of recommendation, etc.).
- Begin building your college list and narrowing it down based on personal preferences (location, interest, etc.).
- Continue to work on your personal/college essay - Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers (spring).
- Take a practice SAT/ACT exam(s) and register for these exams. Be sure to ask your counselor for fee waivers.
- Continue to visit colleges near and far. Plan college visits for the mid-winter and spring breaks
- Apply for summer opportunities offered by various colleges. Many deadlines will be in either March or April.



College Application Timeline

12th Grade

- Review college materials, guidebooks, and other resources to narrow your college list.
- Review alternative post-secondary opportunities, including job training and trade programs
- Begin to finalize a list of colleges with your family and guidance counselor.
- Consider visits, overnight stays, and interviews at your top college choices.
- Register for the SAT or ACT if you haven't taken one yet - ****REMEMBER - MANY COLLEGES ARE SAT/ACT OPTIONAL.****
- Begin thinking about teachers who would be willing to write strong letters of recommendation
- Finalize ideas for your college essay, begin writing drafts
- Start working on your college applications (CUNY, SUNY, Common App, etc.).
- Attend college fairs for one final review of college choices.
- Be sure your senior year mix of classes are challenging.
- Finalize your list of college choices to a reasonable number, ideally with one or more "reach" schools.
- ****Prepare to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* in December/January****
- Fill out the CSS profile for specific private schools and NYS TAP for additional financial grants.
- If you have a clear "first choice" college, consider applying for Early Action/Early Decision.
- Finalize drafts of your college essays, but only after numerous edits, rewrites, and reviews
- Start a detailed financial aid search, including outside sources for scholarships and loans.
- Make your decision by May 1st** (*Enrollment deadlines for Spring 2025 will be based on 25/26 FAFSA release date*).
- Celebrate your high school success!!!!

****For 2025/2026, the release date of the FAFSA is currently unknown****

Transfer Students

- Explore your desire and why you want to transfer.
- Search and create a list of colleges you want to transfer to, including deadlines.
- Meet with your advisor - they will know who you must talk to in the registrar, bursar, and financial aid.
- Share your transcript with your future school to see what credits they will accept.
- Visit potential colleges to see if they are a proper fit.
- Complete your FAFSA and include your future school (the school you are transferring to.)
- Make sure to gather everything you need to complete your application.
- Once accepted, ensure you secure your spot and submit all required documentation.