



2026–2027 APPLICATION CALENDAR – BEAU BLACK

I am separating **REAL COLLEGE DEADLINES** from **A2 ACHIEVE INTERNAL DEADLINES**, so you never work toward the actual deadline. Our dates are intentionally earlier.

NOTE: *I really would like to see you include the optional Common App essay in your Auburn application, but you don't have to. This calendar assumes that we submit Auburn without the optional writing. If we can get it written prior to the Auburn Early Action (EA) 1 deadline, I'd like to include it.*

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 6

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE **FINALIZE COLLEGE LIST**

- Confirm:
 - Auburn
 - Clemson
 - Purdue
 - Georgia Tech
 - UT Austin
- Research and add 1–2 additional target/likely engineering schools.

COMMON APP - Complete:

- Personal information
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Courses & Grades if required
- Activities
- Honors
- Future plans

A2 ACHIEVE

- I build Beau's final Common App activity descriptions.
- I build Beau's final honors section.
- I clean and finalize the working admissions resume.

BEAU - Confirm:

- Current rank
- Senior SGA position
- Mu Alpha Theta role
- Martial arts dates
- Service hours
- Carnegie/CASA details
- Senior schedule
- ACT subscores

SEPTEMBER 1–7

ESSAY INCUBATION WEEK

Identify 3–4 possible Common App stories. Priority exploration:

- Martial arts teaching
- Learning through failure
- Finding the detail everyone missed
- Becoming his own person
- Mentoring younger students.

Do not force the engineering essay.

SEPTEMBER 8

A2 ACHIEVE INTERNAL DEADLINE

Common App essay direction selected. First full draft begins.

SEPTEMBER ACT

Retake ACT as planned. Do **not** delay Auburn submission solely waiting for the new score. Send updated scores after release where appropriate.

SEPTEMBER 10

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE

Auburn application completely reviewed. Transcript ready. Existing official ACT sent.

SEPTEMBER 12

A2 ACHIEVE TARGET — SUBMIT AUBURN

Auburn allows either its institutional application or Common App and states that it gives **no preference** between the two. Because we are already building your Common App for Purdue, Georgia Tech, Clemson and UT, I would use the **Common App** unless there is a logistical reason not to.

SEPTEMBER 15

REAL AUBURN DEADLINE

Early Action Round 1 complete-file deadline. Decision expected mid-October.

SEPTEMBER 15–21

CLEMSON WEEK

- Complete Clemson application.
- Complete Clemson-specific questions.
- Prepare Clemson STARS self-reported academic record.
- Indicate interest in Clemson Honors.
- Clemson requires STARS before the application can be reviewed.

SEPTEMBER 22

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE

First complete Common App personal essay. Not “first draft.” Application-ready working version.

SEPTEMBER 22–28

UT AUSTIN WEEK

Complete:

- Common App
- UT essay
- UT short answers
- Engineering major choice
- Cockrell-related materials
- Expanded resume if appropriate
- Confirm calculus readiness requirement.

SEPTEMBER 28

RECOMMENDATION INTERNAL DEADLINE

All recommenders formally requested. Provide:

- Resume
- College list
- Major/career direction
- Deadline list
- Brief information about what you hope each recommender can speak to

For Clemson Honors, remember that **two recommendation letters are required**.

OCTOBER 1

FAFSA

Begin FAFSA once the 2027–28 form is available. Do not wait for admission decisions.

OCTOBER 3

A2 ACHIEVE TARGET — CLEMSON COMPLETE

Everything should be ready approximately two weeks before the actual deadline.

OCTOBER 5

A2 ACHIEVE TARGET — UT AUSTIN COMPLETE

Final review. Check essay and short-answer duplication carefully. UT should learn something new from each component.

OCTOBER 8–10

SUBMIT CLEMSON + UT AUSTIN

Do not wait until October 15.

OCTOBER 15

REAL DEADLINE — CLEMSON EARLY ACTION

Application due October 15. Required materials due November 1.

REAL DEADLINE — UT AUSTIN EARLY ACTION

Application due October 15. Supplemental materials due October 22.

OCTOBER 16–18

PORTAL AUDIT

Log into:

- Clemson
- UT Austin
- Auburn

Verify every item shows received. Do not assume Common App submission means the file is complete.

OCTOBER 18

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE — CLEMSON HONORS DRAFT COMPLETE

- Complete both Honors essays.
- Build seven-activity Honors section.
- Build five-award section.
- Confirm recommendations.

OCTOBER 20

A2 ACHIEVE TARGET — SUBMIT CLEMSON HONORS

OCTOBER 22

REAL CLEMSON HONORS PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE

Priority Honors application due. Required materials due November 1.

REAL UT AUSTIN EA SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS DEADLINE

OCTOBER 20–25

PURDUE FINALIZATION WEEK

Complete:

- Common App
- Purdue questions
- Purdue essays
- First-Year Engineering selection
- Alternate major strategy
- Testing
- Resume/activity review

OCTOBER 23

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE — PURDUE COMPLETE

This gives us more than a week for review.

OCTOBER 25

SUBMIT PURDUE

Do not wait for November 1.

NOVEMBER 1

REAL PURDUE EARLY ACTION DEADLINE

This date is critical because it is simultaneously:

- Early Action deadline
- Engineering priority deadline
- Full merit-scholarship consideration deadline
- John Martinson Honors College consideration deadline.

There is almost no reason for you to apply to Purdue after this date.

OCTOBER 24–28

GEORGIA TECH FINALIZATION

- Complete Georgia Tech supplement.
- Final academic-interest narrative.
- Review engineering positioning.
- Make sure GT is not receiving a recycled Purdue or UT essay with the university name changed.

OCTOBER 28

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE — GEORGIA TECH COMPLETE

OCTOBER 30

SUBMIT GEORGIA TECH EA2

NOVEMBER 2

REAL GEORGIA TECH EA2 DEADLINE

Because you attend school in Alabama, you fall into Early Action 2.

Application: **November 2**

Documents: **November 16**

Self-reported testing: **December 8.**

NOVEMBER 5

COMPLETE PORTAL AUDIT

Check:

- Auburn
- Clemson
- UT Austin
- Purdue
- Georgia Tech

Print/save submission confirmations. Resolve missing materials immediately.

NOVEMBER 10

A2 ACHIEVE DEADLINE — AUBURN HONORS COMPLETE

This is a very worthwhile application for you.

NOVEMBER 13

TARGET: AUBURN HONORS SUBMITTED

Auburn itself recommends Fall 2027 Honors applicants complete their Auburn admission application at least three business days before the Honors deadline. You should already be admitted or well through the Auburn process by then.

NOVEMBER 16

REAL AUBURN HONORS DEADLINE

11:59 p.m. CST November 16, 2026.

REAL GEORGIA TECH EA2 DOCUMENT DEADLINE

DECEMBER 1

REAL AUBURN FINAL EARLY ACTION / MERIT DEADLINE

Auburn requires the complete admission file by December 1 for full merit scholarship consideration. We will be well ahead of this.

DECEMBER 8

GEORGIA TECH EA2 TEST SCORE DEADLINE

Updated/self-reported scores must be in by this date for EA2.

DECEMBER

DECISION MONTH

Expected:

- Auburn early-round decision depending on submission round.
- Clemson Early Action decision in mid-December.

Begin scholarship comparison sheet immediately after offers arrive. Do not emotionally “pick a college” yet.

JANUARY 15, 2027

PURDUE EARLY ACTION DECISION

Students meeting Purdue's November 1 EA deadline receive decisions January 15.

UT AUSTIN EARLY ACTION NOTIFICATION DEADLINE

Early Action applicants receive either a decision or deferral by January 15.

LATE JANUARY

GEORGIA TECH EA2 DECISION

Georgia Tech lists late January for EA2 decision release.

EARLY FEBRUARY

AUBURN SCHOLARSHIP / FINANCIAL AID PRIORITY

Complete:

- AUSOM
- FAFSA
- General scholarships
- Departmental scholarships
- Any outstanding financial-aid requirements

Auburn lists early February as its financial-aid and scholarship priority deadline.

FEBRUARY 2

PURDUE DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Purdue currently lists February 2 for its Departmental Scholarship Application.

FEBRUARY-MARCH

Build final comparison using:

- Net price
- Scholarships
- Honors
- Engineering pathway
- Aerospace access
- Undergraduate research
- Co-ops/internships
- Music opportunities
- Campus fit
- Distance
- Career placement
- Space-industry connections.

MAY 1, 2027

NATIONAL COLLEGE DECISION PERIOD

Submit enrollment deposit to selected institution according to its stated deadline. Withdraw applications/acceptances from schools you will not attend. **Celebrate.**

MY PRIORITY ORDER FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS

- 1. Auburn application**
- 2. Common App personal essay**
- 3. Clemson EA**
- 4. UT Austin EA**
- 5. Clemson Honors**
- 6. Purdue Engineering EA**
- 7. Georgia Tech EA2**
- 8. Auburn Honors**

And while we do all of that: **one more ACT attempt, but we do not allow ACT preparation to derail the applications.** The biggest strategic takeaway for me after reviewing your material is that **we should be much more ambitious about the storytelling than about adding accomplishments.** You already have the substance. Our job now is to make an admissions reader understand it. Your research, engineering, martial arts teaching, music, service and leadership are not six unrelated piles of activities. You are a very consistent kid underneath all of them: you study something closely, figure out how it works, improve yourself, and then tend to turn around and use what you know to help or teach someone else. That is the Beau I would build the entire application around.