

MADELEINE WHARTON
A2 ACHIEVE COLLEGE APPLICATION & ATHLETIC RECRUITING CALENDAR

FALL 2027 ADMISSION

Date	Deadline Type	What You Need to Do
August 28	A2 ACHIEVE	Finalize your working college list. Separate it into: (1) academic/admissions list, (2) schools where pole vault may be a realistic recruiting opportunity, and (3) high-reach schools where athletics may or may not help.
August 31	A2 ACHIEVE	NCAA Eligibility Center account completed. Because Division I and II remain on the table, I want you using the Academic and Athletics Certification Account. NCAA says D-I/D-II prospects need this account and recommends registering early.
August 31	A2 ACHIEVE	Give me/confirm your weighted GPA, class size, exact senior schedule, dual-enrollment institution, pole-vault club/coach information and exact verified PR/history so we can finish the recruiting materials.
September 1	OFFICIAL — ACT	Last day for late registration for the September 19 ACT. I would only use this date if you are prepared now; otherwise October is the better planned attempt.
September 2	A2 ACHIEVE	Pole-vault recruiting resume/profile complete. Include PR, verified championship finishes, GPA, ACT, rank, graduation year, intended major, coaches and video/result links.
September 3–4	A2 ACHIEVE	First coach-outreach wave. I want emails/questionnaires going to Emory, UAH, Montevallo, Samford, UAB, Ole Miss, South Alabama, Auburn, Alabama, UGA, Miami, Harvard, Yale and Princeton—and to additional schools we identify in the expanded athletic search.
September 8	A2 ACHIEVE	Common App Education, Testing, Family and Profile sections completed.
September 10	A2 ACHIEVE	Common App Activities + Honors master drafts completed. This is where we properly frame state-champion pole vault, SGA leadership, dermatology employment, cheer leadership, art awards/business and service.

September 10	A2 ACHIEVE	Request college recommendation letters and provide recommenders with your resume/brag materials.
September 11	OFFICIAL — ACT	Registration deadline for October 17 ACT . I like this test date for you if we're going to make one serious push from a 32 toward 33–34+. Initial paper scores are scheduled beginning October 27.
September 12	A2 ACHIEVE	Auburn application submitted if everything is ready. Goal: make the first EA round rather than waiting until December.
September 15	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Early Action Round 1 materials deadline. Auburn's subsequent EA deadlines are Oct. 15, Nov. 15 and Dec. 1.
September 15	OFFICIAL — OLE MISS	Freshman Scholarship Application, CAPApp and Ole Miss Honors application become available.
September 18	A2 ACHIEVE	First coach follow-up to programs that have not responded. Send recruiting questionnaire if one is required and confirm they received the resume/video.
September 20	A2 ACHIEVE	Submit Alabama, UAH, UAB, South Alabama, Ole Miss and Montevallo general applications if ready. There is no strategic reason for these to sit unfinished until winter.
September 25	A2 ACHIEVE	First full review of your Common App personal essay .
September 29	OFFICIAL — ACT	Late-registration deadline for the October 17 ACT.

OCTOBER 2026 — EARLY APPLICATION MONTH

Date	Deadline Type	What You Need to Do
October 1	OFFICIAL	FAFSA is scheduled to open for 2027–28; Ole Miss and Auburn currently publish October 1 as the FAFSA opening date. Complete it promptly rather than treating it as a winter project.
October 5	A2 ACHIEVE	UGA Early Action application completely drafted.
October 7	A2 ACHIEVE	Samford and Miami EA applications completely drafted.
October 9	A2 ACHIEVE	Second major coach outreach/follow-up wave . Send any new training video, fall testing update or relevant athletic information.
October 10	A2 ACHIEVE — MAJOR STRATEGY DECISION	Decide your high-reach early strategy . Unless one of Harvard/Yale/Princeton becomes an unmistakable #1 or a coach gives us reason to change strategy, my default would be do NOT use restrictive Ivy early action . Keep Samford EA + Miami EA available and apply Harvard/Yale/Princeton RD. Harvard, Yale and Princeton all restrict simultaneous early applications to other private colleges.
October 12	A2 ACHIEVE	Submit UGA Early Action. I want a three-day buffer.
October 15	OFFICIAL — UGA	UGA Early Action application deadline. Supporting materials are due October 29.
October 15	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Auburn Early Action Round 2 materials deadline.
October 17	OFFICIAL — ACT	October ACT test date. Initial paper scores scheduled beginning October 27.
October 20	A2 ACHIEVE	UGA Foundation Fellowship application finalized if we are pursuing it.
October 20	A2 ACHIEVE	Final review of Samford EA, Miami EA and any Nov. 1 high-reach application.
October 25	A2 ACHIEVE	Ole Miss Honors early-action application submitted.
October 25	A2 ACHIEVE	All recommendation requests checked. No November application should be waiting because a recommender was contacted too late.
October 27	OFFICIAL — ACT	Initial October ACT score release begins. If you improve, immediately update every college that accepts updates and every coach we have contacted.
October 29	OFFICIAL — UGA	UGA EA materials deadline for transcript, testing, school report and optional recommendation.

NOVEMBER 2026 — THE BIG MONTH

Date	Deadline Type	What You Need to Do
November 1	OFFICIAL — SAMFORD	Early Action deadline. Non-binding.
November 1	OFFICIAL — MIAMI	Early Action / Early Decision I deadline. I currently prefer EA unless Miami becomes your certain first choice.
November 1	OFFICIAL — UGA	Foundation Fellowship deadline.
November 1	OFFICIAL — OLE MISS HONORS	Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Early-Action deadline. Final deadline is Jan. 10.
November 1	OFFICIAL — HARVARD / YALE / PRINCETON	Restrictive/Single-Choice Early Action deadline only if we intentionally choose one of these plans. Harvard and Princeton also have Jan. 1 RD; Yale has Jan. 2 RD.
November 3	A2 ACHIEVE	Coach update: tell coaches which applications have now been submitted. Ask directly whether they need additional information from you.
November 5	A2 ACHIEVE	Auburn Honors essays returned to me in final-working-draft form.
November 6	OFFICIAL — ACT	Registration deadline for the December 12 ACT , useful primarily for RD schools and scholarship upgrades.
November 10	A2 ACHIEVE	Submit Auburn Honors application.
November 13	A2 ACHIEVE / AUBURN-RECOMMENDED	Auburn itself recommends completing undergraduate admission by Nov. 13 if you still need portal access for the Nov. 16 Honors deadline.
November 15	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Auburn Early Action Round 3 deadline.
November 15	OFFICIAL — EMORY	Emory University Scholar Programs deadline. I absolutely want this on your calendar if Emory remains on the list.
November 15	OFFICIAL — MIAMI	Current Miami guidance lists Nov. 15 for FAFSA/CSS materials for EA/EDI applicants seeking need-based aid.
November 16	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Fall 2027 Honors College application deadline, 11:59 p.m. CST.
November 20	OFFICIAL — UAH	Freshman Scholarship Priority Deadline. Application and required checklist materials need to be received.
November 25	A2 ACHIEVE	All December scholarship applications and essays finalized.
November 29	OFFICIAL — ACT	Late-registration deadline for Dec. 12 ACT.

DECEMBER 2026 — SCHOLARSHIP & HONORS MONTH

Date	Type	What You Need to Do
December 1	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Final Early Action deadline and deadline for a complete admission file for full merit scholarship consideration.
December 1	OFFICIAL — SAMFORD	First freshman scholarship deadline.
December 1	OFFICIAL — SAMFORD	Completed Fellows application due, including resume, essay and academic recommendation.
December 2	OFFICIAL — EMORY	Financial-aid materials due for ED I applicants.
December 4	OFFICIAL — ALABAMA	UA Summer/Fall 2027 priority admission + scholarship deadline. Supporting materials and applicable official test scores must be submitted for maximum scholarship consideration; competitive ASAM opportunities also use Dec. 4.
Within 7 days of UA admission	A2 ACHIEVE	Apply to Alabama Honors College. UA Honors currently has no formal freshman deadline, but explicitly recommends applying as soon as possible because of housing and related timelines.
December 10	A2 ACHIEVE	South Alabama Honors application submitted.
December 12	OFFICIAL — ACT	December ACT. This is the last test I would plan around for this application cycle.
December 15	OFFICIAL — UAH	Priority deadline for competitive scholarship consideration.
December 15	OFFICIAL — SOUTH ALABAMA	Honors College priority deadline for Fall 2027.
December 18	A2 ACHIEVE	Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Emory RD supplements locked . No starting these during Christmas week.
December 22	OFFICIAL — ACT	Initial December ACT score release begins. Use improved scores immediately where allowed.
December 22	A2 ACHIEVE	All January applications completely ready to submit.
December 27	A2 ACHIEVE	Submit every January 1–5 application. I do not want you submitting Ivy/high-reach applications at 11:43 p.m. on the actual deadline.

JANUARY 2027 — FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINES

Date	Deadline Type	What You Need to Do
January 1	OFFICIAL — UGA	Regular Decision application deadline if we did not use EA.
January 1	OFFICIAL — HARVARD	Regular Decision deadline.
January 1	OFFICIAL — PRINCETON	Regular Decision application + Princeton questions + graded written paper due.
January 1	OFFICIAL — EMORY	Regular Decision / Early Decision II application deadline.
January 1	OFFICIAL — SOUTH ALABAMA	JagSPOT General Scholarship Application priority deadline currently published by South.
January 2	OFFICIAL — YALE	Regular Decision application deadline.
January 5	OFFICIAL — MIAMI	The current University of Miami bulletin lists Jan. 5 for ED II and Regular Decision.
January 8	OFFICIAL — PRINCETON	Optional visual-arts supplement due for RD. Because art is a legitimate part of your profile, I want to make a deliberate decision about whether your work is strong enough for this rather than automatically ignoring it.
January 10	OFFICIAL — OLE MISS	Freshman Scholarship Application + CAPApp deadline.
January 10	OFFICIAL — OLE MISS	Final Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College deadline. The Honors application also serves as the application for its competitive honors scholarships.
January 11	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Updated official ACT/SAT scores must be received for additional scholarship consideration.
January 12	A2 ACHIEVE	Full recruiting update to coaches: applications submitted, semester grades, any new ACT score, winter training progress and current PR.
January 15	OFFICIAL — UAB	Primary in-state freshman scholarship deadline. With your current numbers, this is a deadline I do not want you anywhere near missing.
January 15	OFFICIAL — UGA	RD materials deadline and Jere W. Morehead Honors College application deadline.
January 15	OFFICIAL — MONTEVALLO	M.A.P.S. Scholarship deadline. This is the competitive scholarship covering room, board, tuition and fees for 12 recipients.
January 15	A2 ACHIEVE	My deadline for every South Alabama freshman scholarship item.

FEBRUARY 2027 — FINANCIAL AID & SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Date	Deadline Type	What You Need to Do
February 1	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Regular admission deadline. We should be nowhere near this because you are applying early.
February 1	OFFICIAL — PRINCETON	RD Princeton Financial Aid Application, FAFSA and required tax documents due if applying for aid.
February 1	OFFICIAL — SOUTH ALABAMA / CONSERVATIVE DATE	One current South scholarship calendar lists Feb. 1 as the Freshman Admission Scholarship priority deadline; another current page says Feb. 15. We are treating Feb. 1 as the outside deadline and finishing by Jan. 15.
February 10	OFFICIAL — EMORY	FAFSA/CSS/IDOC deadline for Regular Decision financial aid.
February 12	OFFICIAL — AUBURN	Auburn's current Financial Aid office lists Feb. 12 as the Financial Aid & Scholarship Priority Date for FAFSA, AUSOM and requested verification items.
February 15	OFFICIAL — SAMFORD	Second scholarship deadline and FAFSA priority date .
February 15	OFFICIAL — UAB HONORS	Priority deadline for UAB's specialized honors programs. With your medicine/science goals, Science and Technology Honors deserves a serious look if available for Fall 2027.
February 15	OFFICIAL — SOUTH ALABAMA	Freshman Endowed Scholarship application deadline on South's scholarship calendar.
February 20	A2 ACHIEVE	Financial-aid/scholarship audit: verify FAFSA, CSS where applicable, portal requirements and missing documents at every school.

MARCH–MAY 2027 — MONEY, ATHLETICS AND THE FINAL DECISION

Date	Deadline Type	What You Need to Do
March 1	OFFICIAL — MONTEVALLO	Priority deadline for entering-freshman academic scholarships.
March 1	A2 ACHIEVE	Athletic recruiting status review. By now I want schools classified as: coach-supported/recruited, roster possibility, walk-on possibility, or athletics unlikely.
Every new PR during spring track	A2 ACHIEVE	Notify active college coaches within 48 hours. Include verified result link and video when possible. At this point a move from 11'0" to 11'6", 12'0", etc. can materially change conversations.
March 15	A2 ACHIEVE	Start the A2 admission + scholarship + athletics comparison sheet. Do not compare schools using sticker price alone.
April 1-ish	A2 ACHIEVE	UAH Honors application complete if not already submitted. UAH currently accepts Honors applications on a rolling basis; its handbook describes a priority deadline around April 1.
April 5	A2 ACHIEVE	Finalist-school visits, coach conversations and pre-med/honors comparison underway.
April 15	OFFICIAL — UAB HONORS	General incoming-freshman Honors application deadline and extended specialized-program deadline if space remains.
April 20	A2 ACHIEVE	Final A2 Achieve college decision meeting. By this date I want us comparing net cost, athletic opportunity, pre-med support, honors opportunities, campus fit and what you actually want—not just school names.
May 1	OFFICIAL — NATIONAL DECISION PERIOD	Candidate reply/deposit deadline for many schools on your list, including Auburn, UAH, Samford, UGA, Miami, Yale and Princeton. Auburn and UAH specifically publish May 1 for Fall 2027 deposits.
May 15	OFFICIAL — UAH	Freshman Academic Scholarship Upgrade Deadline for 2027–28.

NOTES:

Madeleine, **your goal is not to beat the college deadline. Your goal is to beat my deadline.** When UGA says October 15, I want you submitted October 12. When Auburn says November 16 for Honors, I want you done November 10. When everyone else is panicking during Christmas break over January 1 applications, yours should already be finished.

I would currently run your applications this way: **Auburn early; UGA EA; Samford EA; Miami EA; Alabama, UAH, UAB, Ole Miss, South and Montevallo early/rolling; Emory RD with Scholar Program consideration unless an Emory coach conversation changes the calculus; Harvard RD; Yale RD; Princeton RD.** That keeps the broadest number of doors open.

The one thing that could change that plan is **athletic recruiting**. Because you are a state champion and still have senior-year development ahead of you, I am not treating the coach conversations as something we do after applications. I want them running **ahead of the applications**. Your questionnaire shows pole vault is not casual participation; you trained around 10 hours per week in club vault in addition to varsity track, and you described winning state as one of the accomplishments that required the most sustained work from you.

And I would **absolutely register you for the October 17 ACT** unless there is a compelling reason not to. A move from a 32 to 34 is not necessary for most of your current list, but it could materially help the Harvard/Yale/Princeton/Emory/UGA end of the list and potentially scholarship opportunities elsewhere. The registration deadline is September 11.