



COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE CHECKLIST

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FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEARS:

- Focus on maintaining a strong GPA throughout high school.
 - Explore extracurricular activities and clubs that interest you.
 - Build positive relationships with teachers and mentors.
 - Consider taking challenging courses to prepare for advanced coursework.
 - Begin thinking about potential majors or career interests.
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FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEARS:

- Meet with a school counselor to discuss college planning.
 - Research colleges and universities to identify potential options.
 - Register and prepare for standardized tests (SAT or ACT).
 - Create a preliminary list of colleges you want to apply to.
 - Attend college fairs and campus visits to gather information.
 - Seek out scholarship and financial aid opportunities.
 - Start drafting a resume of your accomplishments and activities.
 - Plan and schedule college entrance exams.
 - Request letters of recommendation from teachers or mentors.
 - Begin working on your personal essay or statement of purpose.
 - Explore summer programs or internships to enhance your resume.
 - Finalize your list of colleges to apply to, including reach, match, and safety schools.
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SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR:

- Visit colleges on your list if possible.
 - Continue test preparation and consider retaking standardized tests if needed.
 - Begin working on college application essays and personal statements.
 - Create an organizational system for tracking deadlines and requirements.
 - Consider applying for early decision or early action programs if interested.
 - Investigate and apply for scholarships and financial aid.
 - Plan for teacher recommendations and provide them with necessary information.
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EARLY FALL (SENIOR YEAR):

- Complete the Common Application or other college-specific applications.
 - Write and revise your college essays.
 - Finalize your list of colleges and deadlines.
 - Request transcripts from your high school.
 - Confirm teacher recommendations have been submitted.
 - Research and apply for local and national scholarships.
 - Continue to prepare and register for standardized tests if necessary.
 - Attend college application workshops or information sessions.
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LATE FALL (SENIOR YEAR):

- Submit college applications by their respective deadlines.
 - Double-check that all required materials have been received by colleges.
 - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if applicable.
 - Review financial aid award letters and compare offers.
 - Continue applying for additional scholarships.
 - Prepare for college interviews if requested.
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WINTER (SENIOR YEAR):

- Monitor your email for application status updates and interview invitations.
 - Consider filing the CSS Profile for additional financial aid opportunities.
 - Finalize your college decision criteria (academic, financial, location, etc.).
 - Make a decision if applying to early decision programs.
 - Complete any remaining scholarship applications.
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SPRING (SENIOR YEAR):

- Receive admission decisions and financial aid offers.
 - Compare acceptances, financial aid packages, and other factors.
 - Confirm your enrollment by submitting deposits or required forms.
 - Notify colleges of your decision to accept or decline their offer.
 - Complete any housing applications or preferences.
 - Ensure all final transcripts and documents are sent to your chosen college.
 - Attend orientation programs and prepare for the transition to college.
 - Thank teachers, mentors, and others who supported your application process.
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SUMMER AFTER SENIOR YEAR:

- Prepare for the move to college, including packing and logistical arrangements.
- Take care of any remaining financial aid paperwork.
- Review your financial plan for college expenses.
- Complete any summer assignments or reading required by your college.
- Enjoy your summer and prepare for the exciting college journey ahead!



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