



You College Application Timeline

Applying to college requires strict commitment to time and application procedures. To help you prepare for your college application, below is a comprehensive guide for the application timeline that you need to follow and a checklist of application requirements that you need to submit.

College Application Timeline

Preparing for college application should be done as early as possible. In fact, you should already be thinking about the course you want to take and the school you want to get into as early as your freshman year of high school. Here is a comprehensive timeline that can help you, not only prepare for college application, but get into the school you've always wanted.

1. Freshman Year

This is where you start establishing your competencies and identifying what you want to take in college. Although you may not have enough knowledge about your options, you should start get to know yourself better and determine what stimulates your mind and arouses your curiosity. As a preparation for college application, here are your responsibilities in your freshman year:

- a. **Build a good academic record.** You can do this by striving to become a responsible student who does assignments on time, participates in class activities, and reviews for and aces exams in every subject. Closely monitor your grades and know when to make up for unimpressive results.*
- b. **Get involved in extracurricular activities.** Now is the best time to start joining clubs and organizations that will help you meet new friends, get involved with the community, and develop skills that are not taught inside the classroom. Having a long list of extracurricular activities can help you gain an edge on your college application.*
- c. **Establish good relationships with your teachers.** Build a lasting positive impression and communicate with them as much as you can. When the time comes that you need to seek recommendation and evaluation letters for your college application, their positive insights and feedback about you can benefit you a lot.*

2. Sophomore Year

By this time, you should have adjusted well in high school. And since you're no longer a rookie, your objective is to further evolve as a student. As preparation for your college application, here are the things you need to do:

a. Identify your passion and refine your route. Take this time to learn what you're good at and what fuels your passion. Look ahead and decide which 11th and 12th grade courses you might be interested in taking and evaluate if they are something you will enjoy learning more when you get to college.

b. Continue getting good grades. Studying hard will pay off eventually, so make sure that you are constantly taking notes, participating in class, acing your exams, and excelling in academic classes. These will all leave a lasting impression to college admissions officers by the time you process your application.

c. Get some practice: By your junior year, you will start taking standardized subject tests as requirement for college application, so it's better that you start practicing by now so you'll get a better sense of what to expect even before you take the tests.

3. Junior Year

While you are busy building your academic record and growing your list of extracurricular activities, this is also a good time to step forward as a leader – both inside and outside the classroom. Explore pursuits that interest you, not only because it will look good on your college application, but will also help you flourish as a person. Additionally, here are the things you need to be doing to prepare you for your college application:

a. Put together a resume. This is a good time to start tracking back and listing down your hobbies, interests, extracurricular activities, and even community works. Make sure to update it accordingly, when you have undertaken new activities.

b. Ask for recommendation letters. Go up to your teachers and mentors whom you have established a good relationship with and start asking for letters of recommendations that you will need to submit with your college application. Refresh them about your accomplishments and what extracurricular activities you participate in.

c. Plan your testing calendar. Decide which subject tests will you take and when do you feel comfortable to take them. Take the test you are most confident in and be sure to allot time allowance in case you need to retake. It is recommended that you take the SAT or ACT in winter or early spring.

d. Make campus visits. You should have an idea by now as to which schools would you like to get into. And now is the right time to make campus visits and schedule informal interviews or consultations with admission representatives. This way, not only will you get familiar with the life and culture at each school, you will also be able to sincerely respond to interview and essay questions that ask you what you like about the school.

e. Start writing essays. Cramming won't help you create good essays. So, start drafting essays now and have your parents or English teacher review your write up. This way, you'll have plenty of time to revise and improve them.

4. Senior Year

The real work starts now! Yes, you have followed a lot of procedures in the previous year, but this year requires more hard work and continued preparation. Remember to start your college application early as colleges tend to withdraw offers to students who slack off. Below are the things you need to accomplish by this year:

a. Complete application requirements. If you strictly followed the timeline above, you should already have most of the requirements. Make a checklist and ensure that everything is in your hands. Otherwise, work on completing them.

b. Finish standardized tests. If you need to, retake the SAT, ACT, and subject tests to get better test results. The early fall test dates will still give you time to apply to your preferred college early.

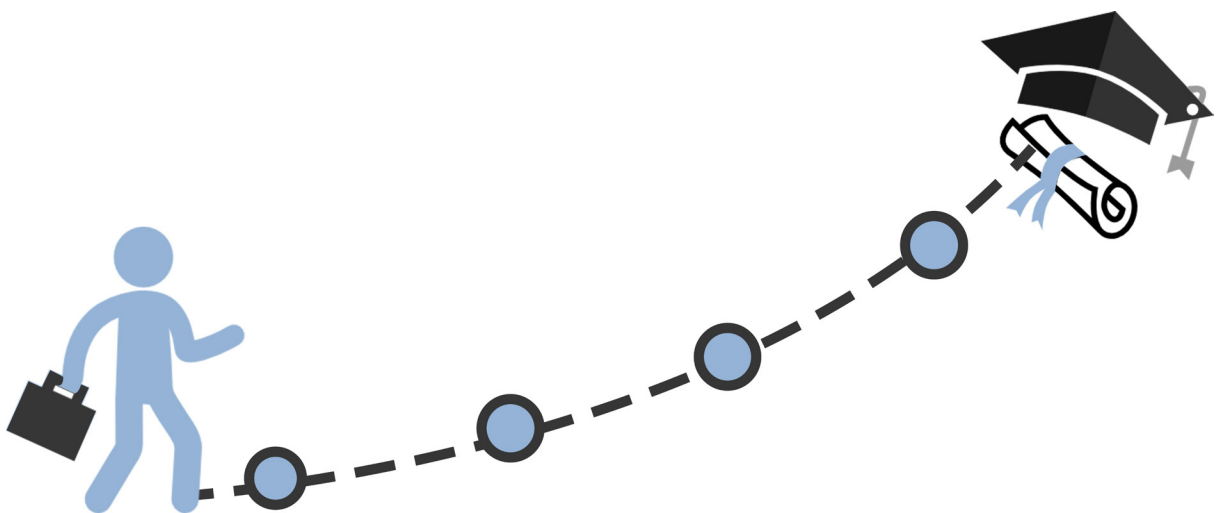
c. Get your recommendation letters from your teachers. If the letters are not yet ready, remind them about the deadline and make constant follow ups. Also, tell them what points they can make or what positive insights should they include in the letter.

4. Apply. As soon as you have all the required materials on hand, fill out the college application form completely and carefully. Make sure that all requirements are attached and you don't miss anything. Ask someone to double check your application to ensure that all information is correct.

5. Confirm and follow up. After submitting your application, it is best that you check with the colleges you applied to if they successfully received your application and all supplemental materials, as well as your academic records from your high school. A month from the date you submit your application, you may inquire or follow up about the notification of admitted students.

6. Submit financial aid forms and requirements. Many colleges require the submission of financial aid and/or scholarship application by February. If you are applying for it, it is better that you submit the form and requirements even before the deadline to get a higher chance of getting a financial aid.

7. Make the choice. If you got admitted to multiple colleges, you have to make an informed decision as to which school will you enroll. To help you decide, you may visit their campuses again, talk with alumni, and consult with people of authority. Once decided, make your college choice official by sending in your deposit.



College Application Requirements

The college application process can be a little overwhelming, especially if you don't know when and how to start. To help you gather all necessary materials that you will need to submit to your desired colleges, here is a comprehensive list of the college application requirements you need to prepare.

- Application form via the Common App
- Application fee
- Supplemental materials, which may include one or all of the following:
 - * *Essay(s)*
 - * *Statement of purpose*
 - * *Personal statement*
 - * *Art, music, or design portfolio*
- Official copy of high school transcript
- Standardized test results, which may include one or all of the following:
 - * *SAT*
 - * *ACT*
 - * *Subject Tests*
- Letters of recommendation from 2 or 3 people of authority such as teachers, guidance counselor, or high school principal
- Financial aid forms, if applicable, which may include one or all of the following:
 - * *FAFSA*
 - * *CSS*
 - * *Financial Aid PROFILE*
 - * *College aid form*
 - * *State aid form*
- Proof of English literacy for applicants whose first language is not English, which can be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - * *TOEFL test result*
 - * *IELTS test result*

College application requires significant time and effort. If you are serious about getting into a good college and pursuing a program you are interested in, be sure to follow the abovementioned guidelines and timeline, and prepare the necessary requirements. If you need help improving your application or a guidance for any part of the application process, contact any of our admissions experts at

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