

ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS (WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG)

➤ **FALL : PULLING YOUR APPLICATIONS TOGETHER**

- ✓ Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10 and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible.
- Make a master calendar and note:
 - Test dates, fees, and deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid applications and their deadlines
 - Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials
 - Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript
- Ask for recommendations. Give each person your resume, a stamped, addressed envelope, and required forms.
- Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.
- ✓ **Applying Early Action or Early Decision?**
- ✓ November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT ® scores at collegeboard.com.
- Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility
- **Get Financial Aid Info**
- Attend financial aid info events in your area.
- Talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® and learn about it with Completing the PROFILE.
- Use Scholarship Search at collegeboard.com, review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources.
- **WINTER: APPLICATION DETAILS**
- ✓ Most regular applications are due between January 1 and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
- Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.
- ✓ **Financial Aid: Apply Early. Apply Right.**
- ✓ You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file early next year.

- Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Men 18 or older must register for the selective service to receive federal financial aid.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send.

➤ **SPRING : WHEN THE LETTERS START ROLLING IN**

- ✓ You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Use Compare Your Aid Awards to compare awards from different colleges. Questions? Talk to financial aid officers.
- Not enough aid? Ask if other financing plans are available.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.
- ✓ **May 1: Making Your Final Choice**

- You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted

➤ **SUMMER: NEXT STEPS**

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.
- Start preparing for the year ahead.