

# ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

## 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 any 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 2005 pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file in early 2006.
- 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.