

We've simplified the college application process with this complete getting-into-college guide.

Sophomore Year				
<p>August-September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick challenging classes and make a plan to keep your grades up! • Talk to your guidance counselor about taking the PSAT. 	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the PSAT for the first time. • Take an active role in extra-curricular activities. Focus on your interests. Remember, you don't have to do everything. 	<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review your PSAT scores and begin to research prep options. • Request info from schools you like—and get ready for lots of mail! 	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss next year's course load with your guidance counselor. • Register for June SAT Subject Tests if you're completing the highest level of that subject in school this year. 	<p>June-July-August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider preparing for the PSAT over the summer. A good PSAT score could make you eligible for a National Merit Scholarship.
Junior Year CONTINUES ON BACK ▶				
<p>August-September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a strong academic start! Admissions officers take a close look at this year's grades. • Sign up for AP courses when they're available. • Choose your favorite extracurricular activities and participate with an eye towards leadership. • Check with your guidance counselor to make sure you're registered for the PSAT. 	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the PSAT. • Consider which admissions test you want to take: the SAT or ACT ... or both! Sign up for a free practice test to help decide. 	<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research scholarship opportunities. Any extra money you secure opens doors to more schools. • Start to make a list of colleges and look at what's on their applications. Find out if any of your target schools require SAT Subject Tests. 	<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide how you will prepare for the SAT and/or ACT. Use your PSAT scores to help with your prep decisions. 	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First chance to take the SAT in the new year. • If you're planning to take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring, start preparing now.

Sign up for FREE practice tests, SAT or ACT QuizBank, college search tools, and more.

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Junior Year CONTINUED

February

- First chance to take the ACT this year.
- Make sure your SAT and/or ACT prep is scheduled for spring and keep prepping!
- Spring break is coming—plan some college tours!

March

- Another chance to take the SAT. If you're not taking it this time, keep prepping for the other spring dates.
- Make sure you have multiple options on your target school list, including at least one school that's clearly a slam dunk.

April

- Another chance to take the ACT.
- Keep preparing for the May or June SAT or June ACT. There's still time!
- Register for June SAT Subject Tests if your target schools require them. It's best to take them after completing the highest level of that subject in school.

May

- The most popular time to take the SAT for juniors.
- Take AP Exams to earn college credit.
- Start thinking about teachers to write your recommendations and also about possible essay topics for your applications.

June

- Last chance to take the SAT and/or ACT during your junior year.
- Take the SAT Subject Tests while the material is still fresh in your mind.
- Enjoy your summer with an interesting job or school program. Make time to have fun!

Senior Year

August

- Finalize your list of colleges and review it with your guidance counselor.
- Decide if you want to apply early decision or early action to any school.
- Continue your SAT and/or ACT prep if you plan to re-take them.

September

- First chance to take the ACT in your senior year.
- Start your applications, including essays. Make sure you have a clear understanding of application requirements such as fees, test scores, essays, and deadlines.
- Line up your teacher recommendations as soon as you can. Best policy: Give teachers at least 3 weeks before they're due.

October

- First chance to take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- The most popular time in your senior year to take the ACT.
- Research scholarship opportunities and financial aid.
- Stay focused on your grades!

November

- Second chance to take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- Continue working on your applications.
- Make sure you've requested all your recommendations.

December

- Last chance to take the ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests.
- Complete your final applications ... and submit them!
- Write thank you notes to everyone who wrote recommendations for you.

January

- Remember the all-important financial aid deadlines. Send your FAFSA application as soon as possible after January 1st.

April

- Take a look at your acceptances and financial aid packages. In most cases, you have until May 1st to decide, so do your homework. Visit your top choices, weigh your options, and send in your deposit.

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