# Stay on track

## Your stress-free guide for applying to college

### Junior year

#### September

**Have the “college” talk with your parents.**
Where do you want to go? What major? How much can you spend?

#### October

**Take the PSAT!**
It can give you an idea of where you fall in the college applicant pool. Plus, your scores may make you eligible for national scholarships.

#### November

**Consider how you’ll pay for college.**
Take a look at different types of loans and scholarships. From the exceptionally tall to the llama enthusiast, there’s a scholarship opportunity for everyone!

#### December

**Take the ACT/SAT.**
These tests are crucial to figuring out which schools are a good match for you. Be sure to take practice tests and even a prep course to ensure that you get your best score possible.

### Senior year

#### August

**Start your essays!**
With your top schools in mind, start drafting your work and be sure to leave yourself time for edits, edits, and more edits.

#### September

**Submit your FAFSA.**
Some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first-served basis so don’t wait too long to submit your FAFSA.

**Secure letters of recommendation.**
Reach out to teachers, coaches, and employers who would be happy to write you a glowing review. Don’t forget to send them a thank you note afterwards!

#### October

**Consider re-taking standardized tests.**
You can also re-take your SAT to try to raise your score.

**Stay on top of deadlines.**
Don’t let the date for early application sneak up on you. Many schools have different application deadlines; make sure you know when everything is due.

#### November

**Apps are due!**
January 1st is the universal deadline for most schools’ applications, so make sure yours are in. If you applied early action, you could get your decision letter any day.

#### December

**Make a file for each school.**
Check out college fairs and visit campuses. Then compare information about each school’s academics, financial aid, and campus life.

#### January

**Final to-do items.**
This is the time to attend orientation, register for your classes, and make sure the tuition bill is paid. It’s also the time to have fun—and have an amazing time!