



This planning calendar will provide you with a suggested timeline of activities and deadlines to help you stay organized as you plan for continuing your education after high school.

## SEPTEMBER

- Prepare for and take the Preliminary SAT /National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This is the only time that the test scores will be considered for the National Merit Scholarship competition.

## OCTOBER

- Make a list of colleges or universities you may want to attend and discuss them with your parents and counselor. Discuss your financial plans.

## DECEMBER

Keep looking for scholarships and financial aid sources (or get started now, if you haven't already)

- **FastWeb** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- **SRN Express** [www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)
- **College Board's Scholarship Search** [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## JANUARY

- Send letters or emails requesting information to the colleges on your list. Start evaluating these schools.

## FEBRUARY

- Plan visits with your parents to the schools that interest you. If possible, arrange to be on campus while classes are in session. Contact each school's admissions and financial aid office(s) before visiting that school. If you can't get to the actual schools, attend local or regional college fairs.
- Sign up for and prepare for the ACT and SAT on the last test dates of this academic year. You should take both tests. The colleges you're considering must use the better score.

## MARCH

- Begin to narrow your list of college and career choices. If you intend to apply for an ROTC scholarship, begin this process now.

## MAY

- Update your list of activities and awards. Consider taking a course at the local community college this summer. Look for a summer job or volunteer activity.

## JUNE

- Begin writing your resume, and start assembling writing samples, portfolios, audition tapes, or any other information that you may use in your college application.

## JULY

- Try to narrow your school choices – three to five schools is recommended.

## AUGUST

- If you're planning to attend a school that has an early decision deadline, start the admission, scholarship, and financial aid application processes. Keep copies of everything you send and the dates you sent them. Be aware of deadlines for admission, scholarship, and financial aid— each date will probably be different at each school.

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# Junior



**This planning calendar will provide you with a suggested timeline of activities and deadlines to help you stay organized as you plan for continuing your education after high school.**

## SEPTEMBER

- Meet with your counselor to review and evaluate your college plans in light of your ACT and SAT test scores and high school grades thus far.
- Sign up to take or retake the ACT and SAT tests, if needed.
- Register for the SAT.
- Register for the ACT assessment.
- Make sure that your high school transcript is correct and current.
- Ask an adult who knows you well (usually not a family member) to write a general letter of recommendation for you that can be copied and signed each time you need it.
- Make sure that you've completed all required steps in the admission, scholarship, and financial aid processes at each school you want to attend.

## OCTOBER

- Attend local or regional college fairs and financial aid fairs with your parents.

## NOVEMBER

- If you've applied at an early decision school, make sure that everything is finalized.

## DECEMBER

- Watch for a response to your application for a military academy appointment or to an ROTC scholarship program or an early decision school, if you haven't already received one.

## JANUARY

- If you plan to go to a community college or technical college, ask about admission, scholarships, and financial aid processes and deadlines.
- Pick up the new Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) from your high school counselor, or find it online [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Encourage your parents to complete their income tax forms as quickly as possible. Have them help you complete the FAFSA. You can either complete the FAFSA online or fill out and mail in the actual form.
- Check on the status of your admission and financial aid applications as needed.

## FEBRUARY

- Complete the FAFSA if you haven't already done so.
- Continue to monitor all applications.

## MARCH

- Watch your mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR). When you receive the SAR, make sure all of the information is correct.
- Contact the financial aid office of each school that you listed on the FAFSA and ask for a status report on your request for financial aid. Ask them when you should expect an award letter.
- Begin applying for local scholarships.

## APRIL

- Decide which school you want to attend.

## MAY

- Finalize details with your parents on paying room deposits, tuition deposits, and other immediate expenses.
- Make sure that your high school counselor sends your final transcript to the school you're going to attend.

## JUNE

- Let your college financial aid office know about any outside scholarships, grants, or other kinds of student aid from private sources that you'll receive.
- Review your financial aid award letter with your parents. Follow the directions completely, sign it, and return it to the financial aid office. If you have questions or concerns, call the school's financial aid office right away.
- If you accepted a Federal Work-Study award in your aid package, it may be your responsibility to find an appropriate job. Check with the financial aid office.

## AUGUST

- Pack for college and look forward to arriving on campus.

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# Senior