

FIND THE



My College Planner

Student Name

College Advisor

My College Planner At-A-Glance

Prepare to Apply

- **Take the tests.** Register and take the SAT, ACT, or the SAT subject tests if needed.
- **Know Your Story.** Make a resume of your activities and achievements.
- **Make a college list.** Use an online search tool to create a list of schools that are a good fit for you.
- **Compare *Fit Factors* across colleges.** Use the My College Search sheet to compare Fit Factors across colleges.
- **Get the facts about paying for college.** Use your SCOOP sheet to compare costs and outcomes across colleges. It may be cheaper than you think!
- **Apply for scholarships.** Use your Scholarships and Grants list as a starting point for searching and applying for as many scholarships as you can.

Apply to Four or More

- **Consider less familiar colleges.** Complete the Break Beyond the Familiar video activity to succeed in college.
- **Finalize your college list.** Choose four or more schools – include safety, match, and stretch schools.
- **Write your essays early.** Use your resume to start writing your personal statement and essays.
- **Retake the SAT and ACT if you need to.** Send your score reports to your four or more schools.
- **Request letters of recommendation and high school transcripts.** Remind recommenders of deadlines. Order your transcripts one month before each college's deadline.

- **Complete and submit your college applications.** Keep track of college requirements and deadlines, and use your fee waivers for your applications.

Find the Funding

- **Complete the FAFSA before March 15.** Submitting your FAFSA on time is the best way to make sure you get as much financial aid as you can. Check your state's deadline to make sure you don't miss it.
- **Continue to apply for scholarships.** Look for more scholarship opportunities and keep track of deadlines.

Choose the Best Fit

- **Discover campus support services.** Contact colleges to learn about available services to help you succeed.
- **Make College Affordable.** Review your financial aid award letters, then revisit a Net Cost Calculator and Income-Based Repayment Calculator to figure out how much each of your options will really cost.
- **Weigh all your *Fit Factors*.** Use your best judgment to choose the college that will be your best fit – academically, personally, and financially.

Cross the Finish Line!


- **Register for orientation and placement testing.** When you register, ask what you need to bring to orientation. Check if your college requires you to take an academic placement test.
- **Check your financial aid status and plan to pay your first term bill.** Check in with your college's financial aid office to review your financial aid award letter and to pay your first term bill.

Prepare to Apply

It's never too early to start thinking about college. Complete these tasks below to get ready for your senior year and to stay on track.



My August – September To-Do List

Check When Done	My Tasks	Target Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register to take the SAT or ACT.  SAT test date: _____ ACT test date: _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start my college list using an online college search tool.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the <i>My College Search</i> sheet to compare Fit Factors of colleges on my list.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use the <i>My SCOOP</i> sheet and Net Cost Calculator to estimate the real cost of attending the colleges on my list.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose at least four or more colleges where I want to apply – including at least 1 stretch, 2 match, and 1 safety school.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete my resume.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create an outline for my personal statement.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Search for scholarships and apply to as many as I can! Use the <i>Scholarships and Grants</i> list to jumpstart my search.	_____





Add to your electronic or paper calendar to make sure you stay on track.


Apply to Four or More

Now that you've finalized your college list, it's time to apply! Complete the following tasks between September and December to submit your applications to four or more colleges on time.



My October – December To-Do List

Check When Done	My Tasks	Target Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the <i>Break Beyond the Familiar</i> video activity.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finalize my personal statement and application essays. 	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make a list of all application due dates for each college on my list.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register to retake the SAT or ACT if I need to.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have two people review my personal statement and essays. Reviewer 1: Reviewer 2:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request letters of recommendation from teachers.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have my high school send transcripts to each of my colleges one month before the application due date.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finish my personal statement and essays based on my reviewers' feedback.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete and submit my college applications and use my <i>Fee Waivers</i> .	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start working on the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st. 	_____

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Find the Funding

You should never rule out a college because it looks too expensive. Complete the FAFSA and apply to scholarships to make college affordable. College can be cheaper than you think!



My January – March To-Do List

Check When Done	My Tasks	Target Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the FAFSA before March 15.	<hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue to apply for as many scholarships as I can!	<hr/>



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Choose the Best Fit

Congratulations on your acceptances! Review your acceptance and financial aid award letters, then follow these steps to compare your options and select the best college for you — academically, personally, and financially.



My April – May To-Do List

Check When Done	My Tasks	Target Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Call or email colleges using the <i>Discover Campus Support Services</i> sheet to learn about available services.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact the financial aid office at each college where I was accepted and ask about my financial aid status.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revisit the <i>My SCOOP</i> sheet and a Net Cost Calculator to compare the costs and outcomes of each college I was accepted to.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Look back at the <i>My College Search</i> sheet to compare other Fit Factors of each of my college choices.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose the college that will be the best fit for me – academically, personally, and financially.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notify the college I will accept admission for the fall!	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit my mid-year grades and required documentation to my best-fit college.	_____



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Cross the Finish Line!

Now that you've chosen which college is the best fit for you, there are still a few steps to secure your spot. Complete these tasks during the summer to make sure you are all ready to start school in the fall.



My June – August To-Do List

Check When Done	My Tasks	Target Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Log on to my college's website and make a list of all deadlines for enrollment.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register for orientation and ask my college what I need to bring with me.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact my college's financial aid office before the first term bill is due and ask for their help figuring out how to pay it.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Find out if I need to take any academic placement tests.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete housing forms if necessary.	_____



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