



Where your  
child goes  
to college  
matters.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We know that searching for and applying to colleges can be a stressful time for many students.

Your child will receive some materials over the next year to explore colleges and find a good fit. These materials were developed to help Upward Bound students explore colleges and *Find the Fit*.

These materials will help your child:

- ✓ **Explore factors of fit** to help them find the right college.
- ✓ **Follow a plan** to manage their college search and application process.
- ✓ **Think about cost and what they can afford** with the help of scholarships, grants, and loans — good colleges may be less expensive than they think!
- ✓ **Expand their college options** to help them achieve their goals.
- ✓ **Apply to four or more schools.**
- ✓ **Meet key application deadlines.**

We all want to see your child Find the Fit to succeed in college and beyond!

# College Application Timeline Reminders



## August-September: PREPARE TO APPLY

- Take the SAT and ACT.
- Know your story – make a resume of your activities and achievements.
- Make a college list and use your **7 My College Search** sheet to compare the Fit Factors.
- Review your personalized **5 My SCOOP Sheet** to see how costs and outcomes may vary across colleges.
- Look for scholarship opportunities using the **6 Scholarships and Grants List** and apply for as many as you can.

Start of  
Senior  
Year

## October-December: APPLY TO FOUR OR MORE

- Consider colleges that might not be on your initial list. Complete the **8 Break Beyond the Familiar** video activity.
- Choose at least four colleges where you plan to apply – including at least 1 stretch, 2 match and 1 safety college.
- Write your application essays early.
- Retake the SAT and ACT if you need to – colleges will accept your best scores.
- Request letters of recommendation and send colleges your high school transcripts.
- Write down all of your application due dates and use your **4 My College Planner** to stay on track.
- Complete and submit your applications and use your **13 Fee Waivers!**

Fall  
Senior  
Year

## January-March: FIND THE FUNDING

- You can file the FAFSA as early as October 1st. Complete the FAFSA before March 15th.
- Check your state's current student aid deadline at the following website:  
<https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>
- Continue to apply for scholarships and grants.

Winter  
Senior  
Year

## April-May: CHOOSE THE BEST FIT

- Contact the colleges you are considering to **9 Discover Campus Support Services**.
- Compare the financial aid, net costs, and loans you would need for each of your college options.
- Consider the **2 Four Factors of Fit** and choose the best fit for you – academically, personally, and financially.

Spring  
Senior  
Year

## June-August: CROSS THE FINISH LINE!

- Register for your college's orientation.
- Find out if you need to take any placement tests before school starts.
- Contact your college's financial aid office to figure out how to pay your first term bill.

Summer  
After  
Senior Year