

COLLEGE-ADMISSIONS TIMETABLE CHECKLIST

For most 'would be' freshmen, the college-admissions maze is a 20-month gauntlet of deadlines and decision points. Some milestones:

JUNIOR YEAR - FIRST SEMESTER

- _____ September- Attend college fairs. Chat with recruiters and collect brochures. Get ready for the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT, high scorers are eligible for National Merit Scholarships. Resolve to enrich your high school transcript via the following suggestions i.e... Peer tutor, community service etc...
- _____ October - Take Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Tests (PSAT).
- _____ November - Begin planning senior-year high school curriculum and setting up informal campus visits for spring.
- _____ December - Review PSAT results with high school counselor.
January

JUNIOR YEAR-SECOND SEMESTER

- _____ January - Narrow choices to 10 to 12 schools: write for catalogues and applications. Begin preparations for Scholastic Assessment Tests I & II and ACT conducted in April, May and June.
- _____ March - Early decision candidates must take the SAT I and SAT II before June.
- _____ April - Take the SAT or ACT. Visit college campuses. If possible, visit classes and talk with students about academic atmosphere, facilities, and if necessary, opportunities for part-time work.
- _____ May - Take SAT II (three achievement tests)

SUMMER:

Early decision candidates should schedule formal interviews, where required. Others should cultivate hobbies and non-scholastic interests (politics, volunteer work) to broaden extracurricular profile.

SENIOR YEAR - FIRST SEMESTER

- _____ September - Load up on top level courses, including advanced placement courses, if possible. Work on applications and outline essay topics. Line up recommendations from teachers and former employers. Resume SAT or ACT preparations (if you are retaking these tests) sign up for next available SAT or ACT date.
- _____ October - Complete campus visits. Early decision candidates should give three weeks notice to recommendation sources and prepare to meet November 1 early decision deadline.
- _____ November - Apply between November 1 - 30 to the Cal. State and University of California campuses.
- _____ December - Last chance to take SAT I and SAT II and ACT for fall freshman class candidates.

SENIOR YEAR - SECOND SEMESTER

- _____ January - File Financial Aid Form (FAFSA with CAL GRANT G.P.A. verification). Complete and send in applications. Early decision candidates should prepare thank you notes for recommendation sources.
- _____ February - Latecomer's application, essay and recommendations should be ready for mailing. Others should consider adding subsequent test scores, if significantly higher, to application folders.
- _____ April - Successful candidates are notified, must decide which school to attend. Wait list is compiled for backup candidates to fill unclaimed slots.