

College Preparation Timeline for Rising Seniors (2015)

June 1, 2014 — June 30, 2014

Ask for Recommendation Letters

Students who want recommendation letters from their junior year teachers should reach out to them before the school year ends.

July 1, 2014 — August 31, 2014

Start Test Prep

As you're putting your list of colleges together, you want to make sure you're making note of the different testing requirements at each school. Most schools accept either the ACT or SAT, but some institutions require additional testing or make standardized testing optional.

August 1, 2014 — August 31, 2014

Write Your College Essay

Application essays can be the most daunting part of the college application process, but students can get that part done during the summer prior to senior year. The Common Application has announced that essay prompts will remain the same for the 2014-2015 school year. The application will be available to students on August 1.

Go On A College Tour

Summer can be a great opportunity for students to see schools on their application list. Many schools have programs and students on campus during the summer, so prospective students can still get a feel for campus culture and life.

September 1, 2014 — October 30, 2014

Take the SAT or ACT

Fall is the best time to retake the SAT or ACT because it allows students to get their scores ahead of early decision application deadlines.

September 1, 2014 — December 31, 2014

Search for Scholarships

It's never too early to start searching for scholarships. Many national scholarships have fall deadlines, so if you haven't started your search already, now is a good time

September 1, 2014 — September 30, 2014

Create an Application Timeline

Heaton encourages students to map out their deadlines for the rest of the year. With school in session, managing time becomes more important, she says

January 1, 2015 — January 31, 2015

Fill Out the FAFSA

Everyone who is planning on attending school should fill out a FREE Application for Federal Student Aid at <https://fafsa.ed.gov> . The application is used to determine what loans students can receive and award applicants with need-based scholarships. Most schools will not award ANY money, including loans, if you don't fill out a FAFSA.

January 1, 2015 — March 3, 2015

Apply for Summer Jobs

A summer job is a great way to build your resume and assist with some of your college expenses. Many summer jobs and internships start accepting applications for summer jobs in the beginning of a new year. Try to have something secured by graduation

April 1, 2015 — May 1, 2015

Make Your College Decision

By now you've likely researched your top choices, gone on tours and analyzed your financial aid packages. The national response deadline for accepting a college is May 1.

May 1, 2015 — May 31, 2015

Apply for Late Admissions to Schools if Necessary

Students who haven't secured a spot at an institution still have hope. Some schools will still have places open after the May 1 national response date, but space is limited.

June 1, 2015 — August 31, 2015

Prepare for Freshman Year

From selecting dorms to negotiating financial aid, there's a lot more to do after you've been admitted. Stay up-to-date on all of your paperwork, enjoy the summer and prepare for the new school year.