

# YOUR STRESS-FREE GUIDE TO APPLYING TO COLLEGE

## JUNIOR YEAR

SEP

### Have the "college" talk with your parents.

Where do you want to go? What major? How much can you spend?

OCT

### Take the PSAT!

It can give you an idea of where you fall in the college applicant pool. Plus, your scores may make you eligible for national scholarships.

NOV

### Consider how you'll pay for college.

Take a look at different types of loans and scholarships. Don't think there's one out there for you? Think again! From the exceptionally tall to the llama enthusiast, there's one for everyone!

DEC

### Take the ACT/SAT.

These tests are crucial to figuring out which schools are a good match for you. Be sure to take practice tests and even a prep course to ensure that you get your best score possible.

MAR

### Make a list.

Once you have a list of possible schools, start planning your visits and go take a look. Experts recommend going on 5 initial visits. After 5 schools, you'll start to get a better idea of what you're looking for.

## BEFORE YOU GO

Applying to college is a busy time. With all the essays, forms, and deposits, it's easy to overlook some of the simple tasks. But don't worry. We made a short list of important to-do items to help you along. Don't forget to:

- ▶ See if your bank has branches and/or ATMs in your college's city. If not, consider opening a bank account at a local bank.
- ▶ Limit roaming charges by double checking your cell phone plan. Does your plan cover your college's location?
- ▶ Coordinate with your future roommate. Two TVs, two microwaves, and two futons are unnecessary in a college dorm.
- ▶ Get checked up! Visit the eye doctor, dentist, and physician before heading out. Once the semester starts, you'll wish you had taken care of it before leaving.
- ▶ Make a plan to keep in touch. A video chat with your best friend or an old school letter from your family can be a nice reminder of home.

## SENIOR YEAR

AUG

### Start your essays!

With your top schools in mind, start drafting your work and be sure to leave yourself time for edits, edits, and more edits.

OCT

### Secure letters of recommendation.

Reach out to teachers, coaches, and employers who would be happy to write you a glowing review. Don't forget to send them a thank you note afterwards!

NOV

### Stay on top of deadlines.

November 1st might seem like a long time away for early application, but the date might sneak up faster than you'd think. Many schools have different application deadlines; make sure you know when everything is due.

DEC

### Apps are due!

December 1<sup>st</sup> is the universal deadline for most school's applications, so make sure yours are in. And if you applied early action, you could get your decision letter any day.

JAN

### Submit your FAFSA.

Some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first-served basis. Waiting too long to submit your FAFSA can be costly.

APR

### Decision time!

After deciding where you'd like to go, make sure to stay on top of communications from your school. Deposits, forms, and housing applications are all due prior to leaving in the fall; keep a list of everything you need to do.

MAY

### Make a budget.

Talk with your parents to figure out how much you will expect to earn and pay while you're at school. Will you be working? Receiving money from your parents? Do you need to pay for groceries or rent? Having a budget will ensure that you begin your journey toward financial responsibility.

JUN

### Get advice and have fun!

The time is here and you're ready for school. Be sure to ask your friends and family for advice about freshman year. It is, after all, an amazing time.