

## Admissions Guide

### College Admissions Timeline

#### Junior Year

- Think about your college choice. Talk with your guidance counselor about your options.
- Use [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) to find money for college.
- Take the PSAT; consider the ACT/SAT in the spring.



#### Summer after Junior Year

- Visit college campuses; ask college friends for advice.
- Request applications and brochures from your top college choices and visit their Web sites.
- Practice application essays by writing sample drafts.



#### Senior Year: Fall

- Organize your applications by creating files for your target schools. List app. requirements and deadlines.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and community leaders early.
- Talk to your parents about college costs. How much can you afford? Explore your options for funding.
- Check [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) for new scholarships. Visit [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) to learn about financial aid.
- *November:* If you're applying through Early Action or Early Decision, submit your application this month.

**Customized search of  
over 1.3 million  
scholarships and over  
4,000 colleges  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)**

#### Senior Year: Winter

- Work on those college applications. Many applications are due in early January.
- *January:* File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid: (FAFSA: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) ASAP after January 1.
- Check with your prospective colleges about additional financial aid application forms and requirements.



#### Senior Year: Spring

- Check the mail for admissions letters and financial aid awards.
- Compare your admissions offers. Ask your guidance counselor to help you weigh your options.
- Time for a decision! Most schools ask that you choose your school by May 1.
- *May:* Don't forget to notify schools you have decided not to attend.
- Double check deadlines for housing, financial aid, etc.
- Send your final transcripts to your new school.

### Financial Aid Questions to Consider

What type of financial aid packages does the school offer?  
Are there a variety of options?

Are any tuition increases planned in the next few years?  
What has been the average tuition increase in years past?

What kind of work opportunities are available?

What are the deadlines for submitting financial aid forms?

How will outside scholarships affect my aid package?

Where can I find more sources of financial aid on campus?

Are there any departmental scholarships available?

What state financial aid programs do I qualify for?

What sort of alternative financial aid programs are available?  
Ask about installment plans or state tax credits.

### Early Decision (ED) vs. Early Action (EA)

ED and EA allow you to both apply and learn the college's decision earlier than regular admission.

**Early Decision** is binding. If accepted, you must attend that school and withdraw any applications sent to other schools. You won't be able to compare financial aid offers.

**Early Action** is not binding. If accepted, you may compare admissions and financial aid offers from other schools and wait to commit to the college until later in the year.

*\* Some schools now offer **Single-Choice Early Action**.*

*This option is similar to Early Action, except that you agree to not apply early to other colleges (though you may apply regular decision).*

Many ED or EA deadlines occur in the fall. Verify with the college whether you are allowed to apply early action to other schools. Speak to your guidance counselor and ask your prospective school for more information.