



# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

Recommended college prep activities

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## **FALL: SELECT COLLEGES, EXAMS, APPLICATIONS, FAFSA**

- Narrow down your college list to those you would like to attend.
- Continue to visit colleges if your list is not complete.
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
  - Tests you need to take and dates
  - College application due dates
  - Required financial aid forms and deadlines
  - Miscellaneous materials you will need (recommendation letters, etc.)
- Apply for a fee waiver if you can't afford application fees (income based).
- Continue your scholarship search.
- Take the SAT or ACT one more time if needed.
- Make sure to have SAT or ACT scores sent to colleges to which you are applying.
- Complete the FAFSA (some colleges also require the CSS Profile).
- Request teacher recommendation letters.
- Write first draft of essay(s), have reviewed and prepare revised essay(s).
- Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving. Make plans to finish all of them.
- Request that high school sends transcripts to colleges.

Note: If you are an Early Decision (ED) applicant, your application is due by early November. If you are accepted ED, you **MUST** attend as long as the financial aid package is acceptable.

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## **WINTER: COLLEGE APPLICATIONS, FINANCIAL AID FORMS**

- Complete your college applications.
- Submit any financial aid forms you have not completed.
- STUDY, STUDY, STUDY AND KEEP THOSE GRADES UP!** Colleges will still look at your grades.

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## **SPRING: DECISIONS, FINANCIAL AID AND ACCEPTANCE!**

- Watch your mail for notification from colleges. You should receive a regular admissions decisions by March or April. Notification of financial aid awards should arrive by the end of April.
- Check for colleges that have late or rolling application deadlines if you are looking for more options.
- Compare financial aid offers carefully. Contact the financial aid office of the college with questions.
- Accept an offer by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Once you have accepted, you should receive info from college about course scheduling, orientation, etc. Complete all paperwork by appropriate deadlines.