



Keep track throughout the year and take the stress out of planning for college.



Getting ready for college doesn't have to be stressful.

Just map it out with our handy [College Planning Timeline](#).

College AVE

Find more helpful advice and tips.
CollegeAve.com

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A Better Way to Pay for College.

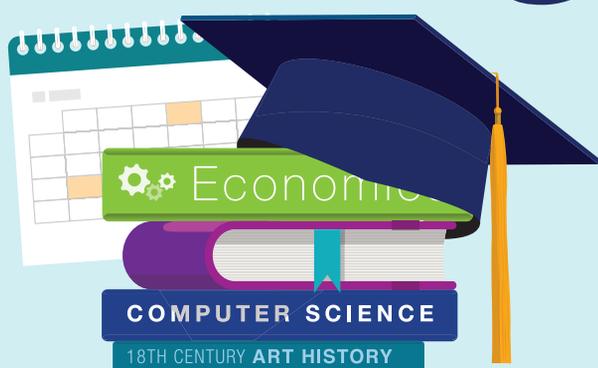
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College Planning Timeline

THE STUDENT & PARENT



College Planning Timeline



Getting ready for college doesn't have to be stressful. Follow our College Planning Timeline to stay on track throughout the year.

Fall Senior Year

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- Meet With Your High School Counselor**
Get their advice on staying on track during this all-important senior year.
- Do Your College Research**
Visit in person and research online to learn more about schools you're interested in.
- Complete The FAFSA And Other Financial Aid Forms**
The US Department of Education offers free resources to help you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Write Your Admissions Essay**
Ask your parents, teacher, or high school counselor to proofread it before you submit it.
- Know Your Deadlines**
Check each college's admissions and financial aid deadlines.
- Finish Your Applications**
Pay attention to deadlines. Early decision and early action applications are usually due between October 1 and November 15.

10 Common Fafsa Errors To Avoid

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Winter Senior Year

- Pay Attention To Your Grades**
Have your high school counselor send your midyear grades to the schools you applied to.
- Have Your Test Scores Sent To The Schools You're Applying To**
Fill out a request form at the College Board or ACT if your college requires test scores.

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When finalizing your list of colleges, make sure to consider all factors. View a list of factors to think about at

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Spring Senior Year

- Review your Student Aid Report**
The Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the information you provided on the FAFSA and is important for getting financial aid. Check for accuracy.
- Consider Acceptance Letters And Financial Aid Awards**
Use a comparison tool to keep track of your financial aid offers.
- Research Student Loans If Needed**
Carefully review the terms, such as repayment lengths, repayment options, and interest rates. You can use College Ave's student loan calculator to see your loan options before applying.
- Formally Commit to a School and Send in your Deposit!**
Notify your chosen school of your intention to enroll and submit your enrollment deposit.

Summer Senior Year

- Make A College Budget**
You'll find many free college budgeting templates online.
- Apply For Student Loans If Needed**
Once you apply, keep copies of your applications and use a spreadsheet to track responses.
- Keep Tabs On College Bills**
Bills for tuition and other fees will start rolling in by mid-June and usually are due in July or August.
- Attend Orientation**
Many universities offer in-person orientation sessions, as well as online sessions for those who can't visit campus before classes start.
- Pick Your Fall Classes**
Popular classes may fill up quickly. Register for classes as early as possible so you can get into your top choices.

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Find out how to make sense of your financial aid award letter.

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We've made it our business to reduce the stress of student loans by making the process smarter and more transparent. So we created a blog that lives by those same rules. From research tips to savings strategies to reminders of key dates, keep coming back for more helpful content.

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