

Application Checklist- Senior Year

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AUGUST – START STRONG

- Aug 1:** Common App opens – create account, fill out basic info
 - Start building my College List and label each as Reach, Match, or Safety
 - Go to college visits at my school and college fairs. Touchpoints matter!
 - Start outlining/drafting my Common App personal essay
 - Ask teachers / counselors for letters of recommendation (early + kindly!)
 - Add all known deadlines to my Calendar
 - Start researching school-specific requirements
 - If you need to audition or submit a portfolio make sure you know the requirements and deadlines!
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SEPTEMBER – LOCK IT IN

- Sept 12:** Deadline to Register for October ACT
 - Sept 19:** Deadline to Register for October SAT
 - Finalize my college list and double-check deadlines
 - Begin writing supplemental essays
 - Send transcript request forms to my counselor
 - Set up application usernames & passwords
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OCTOBER – DEADLINES & AID

- Oct 1:** FAFSA & CSS Profile opens (double-check if delayed this year)
- Oct 15:** Some Early Action / Early Decision deadlines
- Confirm rec letters were submitted + write thank-you notes
- Confirm I've got:
 - Personal essay
 - Supplemental essays
 - Transcript
 - Recommendations

- Test scores (if submitting)
- Track my progress in the Application Tracker

☀️ **Power Move: Submit FAFSA early—some states run out of aid fast!**

NOVEMBER – EARLY BIRD ACTION

- Nov 1–15:** Early Action/Early Decision applications due
 - Submit FAFSA & financial aid forms for EA/ED schools
 - Log into each portal to check for missing items
 - Finalize and proofread any Regular Decision supplements
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DECEMBER – WRAP UP

- Mid-Dec: Look out for Early Decision results
 - Send final thank-you notes to teachers/counselors
 - Update colleges with new grades, awards, or achievements
 - Use winter break to:
 - Finalize Regular Decision apps
 - Submit transcript requests for Jan 1 schools
 - Complete scholarship apps (some due in Dec!)
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JANUARY – REGULAR DECISION

- Jan 1–15:** Regular Decision applications due
 - Submit any last-minute scholarship applications
 - Check financial aid portals for missing items
 - Track everything in my Application Tracker
 - Watch out for Common App maintenance window late Jan
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FEB – MAR – DECISIONS + \$\$\$

- March 1:** Many state FAFSA deadlines

- Send mid-year reports if required
 - Keep up with scholarship deadlines (some go into March!)
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APRIL – DECISIONS

- Attend admitted student days or virtual tours
- Accept or appeal financial aid as needed
- Make final college decision (some schools require before May 1)
- Submit housing deposit and sign up for orientation
- Send final transcript request to counselor

MAY – JUNE – DONE

- May 1:** College Decision Day!
- Notify schools I'm not attending
- June 30:** Final federal FAFSA deadline
- Watch email for orientation, summer programs, and registration
- Take AP/IB exams if applicable

CELEBRATE!

 **Application Checklist 2026-2027: Junior Year**