

Westminster 12th Grade College Application Timeline

All Year, but Especially Fall:

Select at least 2 colleges you are interested in applying to (3-10 colleges is ideal which includes Reach/Dream, Target and Likely/Safety schools). Think geographic, social, financial, as well as academic fit.

- Update Scoir (our college application app) with college choices.
- Visit colleges, meet college admissions officers, and get on their email lists.
- Attend college fairs in your area.
- Have a clear idea who you are, and which colleges offer what you are interested in.

TIP: Some colleges track demonstrated interest. Also, college admissions officers are your best source of information for what is required for admission, and they are your advocates for acceptance – get to know them!

TIP: If a student struggles with ADHD, a learning disability or does not perform well on standardized testing, this is a good time to get educational testing to see if test accommodations will help. Accommodations are available for [SATs](#), and [ACT](#), but could take up to 2 months to process.

June-July:

- Determine what colleges to apply
- Meet with college advisors to review high school transcript and discuss college plans
- Organize dates/deadlines on a calendar and research merit scholarships at college
- Reach out to admissions officers
- Study for ACT/SAT if you want to bring scores up
- Visit colleges (many are available virtually)

August:

- Senior year grades are important! Do well and ask for tutoring early on
- CommonApp, Scoir, and other college application portals open on August 1st
- Write personal and supplemental essays for Early Decision college choices
- Go over application and essays with College Advisor, teacher, or parent
- Westminster College Application Boot Camp – work on applications, resume, essays, using Scoir and the CommonApp, etc.
- Register for September 6th [ACT](#) by August 1st

September:

- Keep visiting colleges and stay in touch with college admissions officers
- Attend college fairs in local area
- Determine if any Early Decision or Early Action colleges
- Register for October 18th [ACT](#) by September 12th

TIP: More colleges are becoming Test Optional, meaning you do not need to report SAT/ACT scores. Pay attention to these admissions requirements and whether it affects your ability to get merit scholarships as well.

October:

- FAFSA and CSS Profile opens October 1st.
- Colleges (mostly private ones) require the CSS Profile to apply for non-federal financial aid.

Based on 2024 tax info.

- There will be a link to a FAFSA workshop available in the “How to Pay for College” powerpoint
- Attend College fairs (Christian College Fair at Westminster on October 30th)
- Early decision college applications due by October 15th or November 1st
- Research Scoir or other scholarship sites for [scholarship opportunities](#)

November:

- Early Decision and Early Action deadlines
- Meet with college advisors to review applications and complete by December 1st
- Sign up for AP exams by November 1st
- **No Pie ‘til You Apply** on Wednesday, November 19th
- Register for December 13th [ACT/SAT](#) by November 7th (last chance for most colleges)

December:

- If admitted to Early Decision – Congrats and check financial package, withdraw apps
- Maintain high grades – do well on midterms
- Start Scholarship Search/Applications (all kinds are available – college-sponsored categories, academic, leadership, sports, family background, intended major, interest-based, need-based, parent’s place of employment, local organization, etc.) See [scholarship tips presentation](#).
- College Housing applications open

January:

- Regular Decision applications soon due
- Check with colleges to see if they have all application materials
- Send appeal letters to waitlisted colleges (see College Advisor for assistance)
- Mid-year reports are available. Send to colleges

February:

- Finalize scholarship applications
- Negotiate or appeal financial aid packages

March/April:

- Check accepted college portals/emails for important information
- Finalize financial package
- Make college decision (visit colleges between January and April to make final decision)

May:

- May 1st – College Decision Day!
- Present Senior Thesis and celebrate!
- AP Statistics Exam on May 7th at 12 noon
- **Graduation on Saturday, May 9th, 2026**
- AP Calculus Exam on May 11th at 8am
- Request Final Transcript sent to college of choice (final transcripts sent after June 1st)