

College Application Prep: Week-by-Week Calendar

April through July (16 Weeks)

Be fully prepared to start submitting applications when they open on August 1

APRIL

* Week 1: Get Organized

- Create a college binder or digital folder
- Set up a spreadsheet to track colleges, deadlines, and requirements

* Week 2: Build or Finalize Your College List

- Research schools (aim for 8-12: reach, match, safety)
- Take notes on majors, size, cost, and vibe

* Week 3: Request Letters of Recommendation

- Ask 1-2 junior year teachers
- Provide a brag sheet or resume
- Send a thank-you note

* Week 4: Standardized Testing Strategy

- Take a practice SAT or ACT
- Register for a summer test date
- Plan a study schedule

MAY

* Week 5: Draft Your Activities List

- List extracurriculars, jobs, and leadership roles
- Start writing short, strong descriptions

* Week 6: Brainstorm Essay Topics

- Read Common App prompts
- Reflect on meaningful personal experiences
- Free-write 2-3 topic ideas

* Week 7: Write First Essay Draft

- Choose your favorite topic
- Write a full (imperfect) draft
- Ask a teacher or counselor for early feedback

*** Week 8: Start Resume or Brag Sheet**

- Organize your academics, activities, and honors
- Useful for applications, scholarships, and recommenders

JUNE

*** Week 9: Visit Colleges (In-Person or Virtual)**

- Tour campuses if possible
- Take notes on likes/dislikes
- Connect with admissions or current students

*** Week 10: Explore Scholarships & Financial Aid**

- Use Net Price Calculators on college websites
- Start a list of scholarship deadlines
- Talk to your family about FAFSA info (opens Oct 1)

*** Week 11: Update Your Academic Records**

- Request unofficial transcript
- Check GPA, courses, and awards
- Add to resume and applications list

*** Week 12: Continue Essay Revisions**

- Tighten the structure and language
- Focus on clarity, voice, and authenticity

JULY

*** Week 13: Prepare Supplemental Essay Outlines**

- Research 'Why us?' or major-specific prompts for your schools
- Make outlines or write rough drafts

*** Week 14: Double-Check Application Requirements**

- Note deadlines (Early Action, Early Decision, Regular)
- Check if schools require test scores, interviews, portfolios, etc.

*** Week 15: Organize Application Accounts**

- Create your Common App and/or Coalition App account
- Start entering basic info (demographics, courses, etc.)

*** Week 16: Final Review & Relax!**

- Finalize your personal essay
- Organize your documents
- Take a breath-you're ready