

Step-by-Step Guide to College Applications

Step 1: Build Your College List

Identify reach, match, and safety schools. Use online tools to research and compare. Aim for 6-10 schools.

Step 2: Create a Testing Plan (If Required)

Decide whether to take the SAT or ACT. Register early and plan to test by fall of senior year.

Step 3: Start Your Common App (or other platforms)

Create an account and begin filling out sections like your profile, education, and activities.

Step 4: Write a Standout Personal Essay

Choose a meaningful topic. Focus on personal growth. Revise often and keep your voice authentic.

Step 5: Request Letters of Recommendation

Ask teachers early. Provide a brag sheet or resume. Choose teachers who know you well.

Step 6: Complete the Activities & Honors Sections

Highlight your most meaningful extracurriculars. Use action verbs and quantify achievements.

Step 7: Submit Applications & Pay Attention to Deadlines

Know each school's deadlines. Submit early and check for fee waivers if needed.

Step 8: Apply for Financial Aid

Submit the FAFSA and CSS Profile if required. Look for scholarships.

Step 9: Check Portals & Follow Up

Monitor each college's portal. Check for missing materials and updates.

Step 10: Celebrate & Stay Calm

Relax and wait for decisions. Your worth is not defined by a college acceptance.