

## Spring of Junior Year

- **Go on college visits.** You can look at college websites all day long, but until you take the time to visit a campus and experience firsthand what it's like to be a student, you won't know if that college is the right choice for you. Read the [Campus Visit eBook](#) and print the [Campus Visit Worksheet](#) to get the most out of your visits.
- **Identify your support network.** [Getting help from the right people](#) can help you better navigate the college admissions process. Talk to your family members, school counselor, and mentors about your future goals. This is also a great time to start [asking for references and letters of recommendation](#).
- **Consider taking the SAT/ACT.** If you haven't taken the SAT/ACT yet, this is the time to do it. At this point in your high school experience, you should have completed all the coursework covered on the test.

## Summer after Junior Year

- **Retest.** This may be a great time for you to spend a few weeks doing test prep before taking the SAT/ACT again. [View the infographic](#). Read more about [reasons to retest](#).
- **Start the application process.** Begin brainstorming essay ideas, contact potential references, and identify people you want to ask for a written recommendation. Use the [Ultimate Guide to Applying for College eBook](#) as a guide.
- **Research admissions deadlines.** Your senior year is going to go fast. It's important you understand [how college admissions deadlines work](#) before you miss an opportunity.

## Fall of Senior Year

- **Achieve your best score.** Increasing your SAT/ACT score could close the gap between your application and an acceptance letter. Improving your score could also help you qualify for more scholarship money.
- **Apply for financial aid.** Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Research and apply for scholarships and grants. Review the financial aid eBook for more tips.
- **Compare the colleges on your list.** Continue visiting colleges and college websites. Organize your college choices into a detailed pro/con list.
- **Complete application essays.** Application essays are an effective way for you to communicate unique strengths to admissions officials.
- **Finalize your application resume.** If you have kept an ongoing list of your accomplishments, this should be simple. Follow this step by step guide to [crafting an application resume that stands out](#).
- **Apply to college.** Review the [Ultimate Guide to Applying for College eBook](#) and submit your applications to your top-choice colleges.

## Winter of Senior Year

- **Finalize your financial aid plan.** Review your financial aid package from the schools you applied to, determine the net cost of attendance, and use this information as you make your final decisions.
- **Say thank you.** Write handwritten notes to everybody that helped you with your applications.
- **Avoid the senior slide.** Remember, colleges determine admission based on your class rank, GPA, test scores, school involvement, and your coursework (it's important to take challenging classes throughout your senior year).

## Spring of Senior Year

- **Make your final decisions.** Check with parents, counselors, and mentors and ask them to help confirm your decision. Then contact your chosen college to confirm.
- **Notify colleges.** Once you've made a final decision and your acceptance has been confirmed by your college choice, be sure to notify all other colleges to which you've applied that you won't be attending.

**Congratulations, graduate!** Use the summer to prepare for your next step!

[Taken from www.act.org](http://www.act.org)