

## College Application Timeline

For parents wanting more information on the college selection and application process, browse:

- “The College Search and Application Process”  
(<https://www.hsllda.org/highschool/Newsletters/2017/September-The-College-Search-and-Application-Process.asp>)
- “College Here We Come: The College Application Process”  
(<https://www.hsllda.org/elert/archive/elertarchive.aspx?7177> )

### Before applying:

1. Update the high school transcript  
(<https://www.hsllda.org/highschool/Newsletters/2016/november.asp>) with all courses (homeschool, co-op, online, outside, or dual enrollment) that count towards high school graduation.
  - a. Calculate cumulative GPA for 9th through 11th grades.
  - b. List all 12th-grade courses, plus credits that students plan to take during the senior year. Place *IP* (in progress) or *SP* (spring) in grade column.
2. Update the student’s extracurricular activity sheet  
(<https://www.hsllda.org/highschool/beyondacademics.asp#EA>).
3. Complete course descriptions (<http://www.hsllda.org/highschool/academics.asp#CD>) for all academic 9th- through 12th-grade courses for your records.
4. Search for scholarship opportunities  
(<https://www.hsllda.org/highschool/Newsletters/2017/april.asp>) and make selections. List requirements, documentation, and deadlines.
5. Research and determine the final list of colleges for applications  
(<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application>).

### August/September:

1. If necessary, register for ACT, SAT, or CLT exam online  
(<http://www.hsllda.org/highschool/college.asp#testing>).
2. Ask teen to request letters of recommendation from teachers who can attest to the student’s academic and leadership abilities  
(<http://www.hsllda.org/elert/archive/2012/09/20120906092819.asp>).
3. Begin scholarship application process  
(<https://www.hsllda.org/highschool/beyondacademics.asp#competitions>).

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### October:

1. Research financial aid information (<https://www.hslda.org/highschool/Newsletters/2017/april.asp>).
2. Begin to complete individual college applications or the Common Application (<http://www.commonapp.org/>) online. Students benefit by using their extracurricular activity sheets ([https://www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/Extracurricular\\_Activities\\_Sheet\\_Example.pdf](https://www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/Extracurricular_Activities_Sheet_Example.pdf)) to fill in application information.
3. Make a list of deadlines to ensure on-time submission of applications.
4. Send an official transcript (sign and date) to each college per the application instructions.
5. If needed, take a final ACT, SAT, or CLT exam.
6. Complete the FAFSA form to determine eligibility for financial aid (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>).
7. If needed, work on college essays.

### November:

1. Check application status on college website.
2. Send thank-you letters to recommenders.
3. Continue with scholarship applications.