

# Your Guide to Getting into College

We've made getting into college simple with this complete map of the admissions process.

## Sophomore Year

### September

- Pick challenging classes at your school and keep your grades up.
- Considering the ACT? Take a PLAN—a kind of pre-ACT.
- Reconnect with your guidance counselor and ask about taking the PSAT.

### December

- Review your PSAT scores to structure your preparation.
- Request info from schools you like—and get ready for lots of mail.

### April

- Discuss your course load for next year with your guidance counselor.
- Register for SAT Subject Tests that apply to you.

September

October

December

January

April

June-July-August

### October

- Take the PSAT for the first time.
- Take a more active role in your favorite extracurricular activities. Remember—schools want students with focused interests, not students who do everything.

### January

- Consider visiting local colleges during winter break.

### June-July-August

- Take advantage of your more flexible summer schedule to prep for the PSAT, SAT, or ACT\*.

## Junior Year

### September

- Make a strong start again this year. Admissions officers take a close look at your junior year grades.
- Take a leadership role in your favorite extracurricular activities. Now is your time to shine!
- Decide which entrance exam(s) to take and when to take them.

### November

- Research scholarship opportunities. Any extra money you secure opens doors to more schools.

### January

- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- Or if you're planning to take the spring SAT or ACT, start preparing now.

### February

- Take the ACT.
- Plan a college tour for spring break. If you can, try to visit while class is in session to get a better feel for campus life.

### April

- Take the SAT.
- Take the ACT.
- It's not too late to prep for the May or June SAT, or June ACT.

### June

- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- Take the ACT.
- Make sure you take any relevant Subject Tests while the subjects are still fresh.
- Find a summer job you enjoy or a summer program that interests you—and make sure to find time for some fun!

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

June

August

### October

- Take the PSAT to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.
- Develop a list of target colleges. Use your guidance counselor, the Internet, and alumni to help choose schools.
- If you haven't prepped for the SAT or ACT, now is the time to do it.

### December

- Visit local colleges and get a feel for what kind of campus you're looking for, such as an urban setting, rural life, or a college town.
- Review your PSAT scores and use your results to get ready for an upcoming SAT. For Juniors, one of the most popular test dates is May.

### March

- Meet with your guidance counselor to evaluate your target colleges. Make sure you have a good balance of dream schools, safety schools, and good matches in between.
- Plan to take the SAT or ACT and any relevant subject tests in April, May, or June.

### May

- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.

### August

- Start thinking about college application essay topics. It's your chance to show schools what you have to offer. If you get them out of the way early, you'll sail smoothly into your fall semester.

## Senior Year

### September

- Take the ACT.
- Work with your guidance counselor to finalize your list of schools and develop an Early Decision/Early Action plan. Make sure you have all of the applications you'll need.
- It seems early, but it's not. Line up your recommendations as soon as you can—your teachers will probably get a lot of requests. Best policy: leave 3 weeks before the application deadline.
- Last chance to prep for the October exam! The October test date is the most popular for Seniors.

### November

- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- Save your Thanksgiving and winter break for fun—keep working hard on those applications!

### May

- Congratulations—you've been accepted to college!

### January

- Don't forget about those all-important financial aid deadlines. Experts recommend sending in your information as soon after January 1 as possible.

September

October

November

December

January

April

May

### October

- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- Take the ACT.
- Start on your applications, especially the essay. We know: it's early. But you'll put out a much better product if you start now.

### December

- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- Take the ACT.
- Breathe a sigh of relief as you send off your final applications. Now all you have to do is wait!
- Write thank-you notes to everyone who wrote your recommendations.
- You'll hear back on Early Decision applications this month. If you end up on a waitlist, don't freak out. A Kaplan Admissions Consultant can help you with a waitlist strategy.

### April

- Take a look at your acceptances and financial aid packages. In most cases, you have until May 1 to decide, so do your homework. Visit your top choices, weigh the options, and send in that deposit!

## 4 Reasons to Choose Kaplan:

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Our strategies work. Our teachers know their stuff. And your score will go up—guaranteed.

### 2. Walk into Test Day feeling prepared and confident.

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### 3. Balance your busy life.

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### 4. Higher test scores guaranteed—or your money back.\*\*

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