



Senior Year Action Plan

A Plan to Make Your College Dreams Come True
(adapted from College Board)

Fall

Confirming Your Credits

- Meet with your counselor early in the fall of your senior year to discuss your college plans. Make sure you will earn the credits needed to graduate by the end of your senior year.

Putting Your Applications Together

- Narrow your list of colleges to between 4 and 5, and review it with your counselor. Get application and financial aid information from each.
- Make a master calendar and note:
 - Test dates, fees, and deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid applications and their deadlines
 - Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials
 - Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript
- Ask for Letters of Recommendation. Give each person your resume, a stamped, addressed envelope, and any required forms.
- Write application essays, and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts and help you proofread.

Applying Early Action or Early Decision?

- For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT® scores at collegeboard.com.
- Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.

Get Financial Aid Info

- Attend PiCED's financial aid and college workshops.
- See our PiCED Student Coordinator for assistance in applying for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid: Pell Grant, Student Loans, or Work-Study Program).
- Use *Scholarship Search* at www.collegeboard.com, review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources.

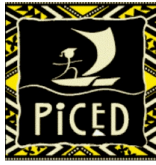
Winter

Application Details

- Most regular applications are due between January 1 and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
- At least a month before the application deadline, confirm that your colleges have received your Letters of Recommendation.
- Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.

Financial Aid: Apply Early. Apply Right.

- You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file early next year.
- Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Men 18 or older must register for the selective service to receive federal financial aid.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send.



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Spring

When the Letters Start Rolling In

- You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Use College Board's *Compare Your Aid Awards* to compare awards from different colleges. Questions? Talk to the colleges' financial aid officers. Not enough aid? Ask if other financing plans are available.
- If decision letters are not in by the beginning of April, contact the admissions office for an update.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.

May 1: Making Your Final Choice

- You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. If possible, make your decision before the deadline. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

Summer

Next Steps

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.
- Apply for last minute scholarships.
- Make a folder of all your important school documents so you can take them with you.
- Make copies of all your important financial documents that you may need for your financial aid, such as your parents' tax return and W2 forms.
- Start preparing for the year ahead.