

ROAD TO COLLEGE

Applying to college can seem confusing, but if you plan ahead you can be successful. This road map is a guide to applying to college during your senior year. Post it in a convenient location so your entire family will know where you are in the college application process.

Start Here.

AUGUST

Take (or re-take) the SAT or ACT, if the school(s) you are applying to require you to take either test for admissions. Register for tests at: www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org. If English is not your first language you may be required to take the TOEFL. For more info, go to www.ets.org/toefl

My test date is: _____

Attend a financial aid night at your school or in your community.

| Location | Date |
|----------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |

Decide on your top three SAFETY, MATCH, and REACH schools and list them here.

| SAFETY | MATCH | REACH |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 1. _____ | 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 2. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 3. _____ | 3. _____ |

SEPTEMBER

Decide which colleges you will apply to and use the chart below to track application deadlines and how you are planning to apply.

| College | Deadline | Completed |
|----------|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Ask your counselor to submit your transcripts to selected colleges (if required).

Send test scores (SAT, ACT, or TOEFL) to selected colleges (if required).

Ask teachers for letters of recommendation.

Finish college application essays.

Research scholarships and start applying.

Apply "early" for your reach schools. Deadlines are usually Nov. 1 or 15.

Reach Schools: _____ Deadline _____ Completed

_____ Deadline _____ Completed

Gather materials needed to complete the FAFSA.

Register yourself and your parent for a FSA ID. You will need this in order to complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Starting October 1, complete your FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can estimate tax info and adjust the numbers later after filing taxes. Ask each college on your list if they require any additional financial aid forms (such as the College Board CSS Profile). Use the chart below to keep track of key financial aid deadlines.

| College | FAFSA | | CSS Profile | |
|----------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | Deadline | Completed | Deadline | Completed |
| 1. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Attend a FAFSA hands-on event in your community to get free help in completing the FAFSA. Check with your high school counselors for dates and locations.

Apply for as many scholarships as you can. These following sites are a good place to start: www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and www.uhfoundation.org. Use the chart below to track application deadlines for the scholarships you're eligible to apply for.

| Scholarship Organization | Deadline | Completed |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for any errors. (If you don't get your SAR within 3 weeks of filing the FAFSA, check online at www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Continue working on your college applications and make sure to turn them in before the deadline. Ask your counselor if you need an application fee waiver.

Apply for as many scholarships as you can find. These following sites are a good place to start: www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and www.uhfoundation.org. Use the chart below to track application deadlines.

Finish all remaining college applications.

FEBRUARY

Turn in all remaining scholarship applications.

Check your email for any notifications from colleges and financial aid providers you applied to.

MARCH

You should start receiving acceptance and rejection letters during this time. Use the chart below to compare the offers you receive.

| College | Accepted/ Waitlisted | Total Cost | Total Financial Aid Received | Actual Cost (Total Cost - Financial Aid) |
|----------|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ | | | | |
| 2. _____ | | | | |
| 3. _____ | | | | |
| 4. _____ | | | | |
| 5. _____ | | | | |
| 6. _____ | | | | |

If you receive rejection letters, consider applying to other colleges.

If you are waitlisted at your first choice school, send the admissions office a letter, making it clear that they are your first choice and that you would attend if they accept you.

If you decided on which college you will attend, send in intent to enroll forms and any other important info like housing deposits.

APRIL

Attend a spring college weekend for prospective students.

Create a budget for college needs.

Determine if you need a student loan.

Prep for and take any placement exams for college classes.

Get a physical and shots.

MAY

Pick a college and notify their admissions office by the deadline (usually May 1). My college choice is: _____

Make sure to turn in all necessary forms to secure your space.

SUMMER

Find a summer job (maybe related to your college major) to help with expenses.

Apply now for work study jobs if you qualify.

Attend summer orientation on your new campus.

Register for classes ASAP.

Pack (if you are moving away) and get ready to enjoy your new adventure!

Congratulations! You're on your way to college.

