# SAGE Scholars' High School Timeline for College Preparation

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## **Senior Year**

### Fall

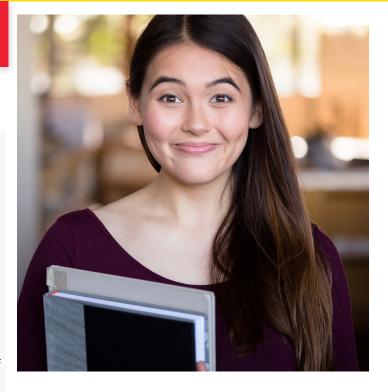
- □ STUDY STUDY STUDY-KEEP YOUR GRADES UP.
- ☐ Finalize your transcript with your counselor.
- ☐ Generate a list of SAGE Scholars member colleges that fit your criteria and that you would attend. The list should include reach, target, and safety colleges.

Reach colleges: dream colleges; perhaps your GPA or test scores are below the school's averages.

Target colleges: colleges you want to attend; your GPA and test scores match what the school is looking for.

Safety colleges: colleges where you can be confident of acceptance. Your GPA and test scores will blow away the admissions committee.

- □ Don't let list price discourage you from exploring what a college has to offer—actual cost is often different when a financial aid package is completed.
- ☐ Meet with your counselor to review your list, clarify the high school's application process, and discuss your counselor letter of recommendation.
- ☐ Develop a master calendar which includes:
  - ALL college application deadlines.
  - · ALL college financial aid deadlines.
  - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) deadlines. You may file starting October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Scholarship deadlines.
  - ACT/SAT/SAT Subject Test dates. NOTE: For early action and early decision, your deadlines are in October/November. Check with the colleges where you're applying.
  - ALL of your high school's college application deadlines.
  - Any special interest deadlines (auditions, portfolios).



- ALL NCAA athletic deadlines.
- Personal deadlines for completing essays, resumes, supplemental applications; check with recommenders about your letters of recommendation.
- Local college fairs.
- Dates that college representatives will be visiting your school.
- Dates you plan to visit your schools of interest.
- ☐ Check with your recommenders about the status of their letters. Share with them your deadlines. If you haven't asked your teachers for letters of recommendation, do so now.
- □ Complete your college essay and all supplemental essays.
- □ Complete early decision, early action, and rolling applications. Check deadlines with each college (they're generally between October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>).
- □ Complete at least 1 application by November 1st.



### Winter

- □ STUDY STUDY STUDY. Colleges want to see that you're maintaining your grades.
- ☐ Request that your school send mid-year reports to all of your colleges.
- ☐ If accepted early decision, withdraw your applications from all other colleges.
- ☐ Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if you have't already.
- ☐ Continue to research scholarships.
- ☐ Keep hard copies of all of your applications.

# **Spring**

- □ Compare financial aid packages (award letters).
- ☐ Attend "Admitted Student Day" activities for every school you are considering.
- ☐ May 1<sup>st</sup>: time to commit to one and only one college.
- ☐ Send deposit to your selected college.
- □ Notify the remaining colleges that you won't be attending.
- ☐ If waitlisted, respond to the college with your decision about staying on or leaving the waitlist.
- ☐ Complete financial aid requirements.
- ☐ Review master calendar to ensure everything is complete.
- ☐ Take AP exams.
- ☐ Request that your high school submit your final transcript to the college that you're going to attend.
- ☐ Send thank-you notes to all of your recommenders.
- ☐ GRADUATE!

Congratulations, you've made it!
Hard work pays off. We know you have a bright future ahead of you and we wish you the best.
Sincerely,
SAGE Scholars





