

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 1st.
 - 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 15th and November 15th).

Complete at least 1 application by November 1st.



Spring

- Compare financial aid packages (award letters).
- Attend “Admitted Student Day” activities for every school you are considering.
- May 1st: 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!

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 haven’t already.
- Continue to research scholarships.
- Keep hard copies of all of your applications.

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

Keep up to date

