**College & University Process: Timeline**

**Premiere**

*May*

Do you still need to take the SAT or ACT? Check for registration deadlines and upcoming test dates.

If you need to take an English proficiency exam, check the test dates and register. TOEFL and IELTS are the most common exams. Requirements for English language proficiency vary by university, and it’s important to check each college’s website to find out their requirement. Some universities say that if a student’s first/native language is not English, then he or she must submit test results that prove English proficiency (regardless of country of citizenship or location of the high school). Other universities (many in Canada) will waive the English proficiency requirement if a student is in OIB or Group 4 English. Check with each school to confirm requirements.

*June and July*

Visit different types of schools and see a variety of campuses.

Consider various [application essay](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=673A6F2E5D0F4C8FBF88FC3CB32B7B34&_z=z) topics. Most US colleges and universities require a general essay (usually one to two pages), with several options of prompts. Some schools also have “supplement” essays with topics ranging from the basic (“Tell us why you want to be a student at [University Name]”) to the obscure (“What was your favorite childhood book, and why?”). Research whether your colleges have supplement essays.

If you are considering UK universities, start drafting a personal statement. This statement should explain why you are well-suited for a chosen course. It should include a description of any experiences, skills, courses taken, or ambitions that are relevant to the course. <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/when-apply/writing-personal-statement>

Visit [scholarship search](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=92A366B742AB4755A405F79B5FA9DADB&_z=z) and [financial aid](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=6050BF9C756244008CFDCDEBD881F736&_z=z) websites with your parents, or review comparable library resources.

Some resources: <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>

<http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

<http://www.obrella.com/resources/insurance-scholarships/>

**Terminale**

*August*

Go over your strategy for the school year. Discuss plans and goals and review your [list of colleges](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=77A11532049B4189AB562726F2072D94&_z=z). If necessary, find a few more colleges.

The Common Application opens in early August. Common App is an application system used by over 600 US colleges and universities. Create an account now and start filling in information. Most essay prompts are also now available from Common Application and (for supplemental essays) from individual colleges and universities.

*September*

As soon as students have decided on colleges, submit a University List with payment to Ms. Bessaha (copies available from Ms. Parliman). This list is what informs us to start preparing transcripts/bulletins, counselor recommendation letters, and other documents to be sent to universities. Turn in this list at least one month before the earliest college deadline.

Discuss plans to attend college fairs and meet with any college reps who may be coming to the school. Go over which college sites have been visited and which ones haven't. Finalize plans for [college visits](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=555AC9BB3F4D43D99684FE6287191624&_z=z) (the fall break is a good time to visit universities).

If you haven’t already done so, start filling out their individual college applications. The UCAS system for UK applications opens September 1.

Request teacher recommendations now, if you haven’t already done so. Be respectful of teachers’ time—requests should be made at LEAST one month before the university deadline. Some teachers have been asked for letters by many students, and teachers need time to write all these letters.

Research whether your universities offer any scholarships that require separate applications. Although some universities will automatically consider all applicants for merit-based scholarships, others require separate applications. Example: Students interested in the University of Virginia can ask for a nomination to apply for the Jefferson Scholars program, which covers the entire cost of attendance for four years at the university.

*October*

Go over options for [early decision](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=CA29F0740DAE468AA243EABCAAFB2D0F&_z=z) and early action and determine if it's an option you want to pursue.

Start making college visits to the top schools on the list of colleges, and schedule any interviews that can be completed on campus or with college alumni. Attend college fairs and gather more information.

For need-based financial aid (available to US citizens and permanent residents), some colleges require a supplemental financial aid form called the [CSS/PROFILE](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=BFE1949FAAA64DCABFB2B129770924F0&_z=z). This form is available online through the College Board and has an earlier deadline than the [FAFSA](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/~/~/link.aspx?_id=31270447745542A98BB59539AC091E6C&_z=z). Check your universities’ websites to find out if you'll need to complete this form in addition to the FAFSA.

*November*

Be aware of early application deadlines, if applicable.

*January*

Talk to your parent or guarding about gathering tax information financial aid forms. If you have everything you need, file your income taxes and begin filling out financial aid forms, such as the FAFSA and CSS Profile. Finish these forms as soon as possible — and never late! Keep in mind that many schools list earlier FAFSA filing dates than that which is listed on the form itself.

Finish any remaining applications. Unless confirmations have arrived, check with your colleges by phone or online to check the status of your applications. Keep track of who you speak with and find out if there are any materials that still need to be sent in.