

OFF AND RUNNING!

It's application time—finally, time to stop preparing and start doing!

FILL OUT ADMISSION APPLICATIONS

You'll be able to fill out most of your applications online by registering on each college's website. Plan to apply to more than one college and work with your counselor to find the right number for you. You can work on your applications online, then save them until you're ready to apply. Remember that the application isn't just filling out a form. Include an essay, letters of recommendation, your transcript, and other required forms that show why you want to attend that college.

- Ask the campus admissions office or your school counselor for more information about **waivers** to help you cover the cost of application fees.
- Write your **admissions essays**, which are your chance to tell the college things about you that make you unique.
- Ask for **letters of recommendation** from adults who know you well—send them the completed Letter of Recommendation Worksheet (mygreatlakes.org/letterofrecommendation) and a pre-addressed, stamped envelope so they can meet your application deadline.
- Find out college **application deadlines** and make sure you meet them.
- Ask your high school to send **official transcripts** to your list of colleges—don't forget to tell them the application deadline.
- Make copies of your applications, then **mail them in**.
- **Follow up** with each college to make sure they received your application.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are free money that doesn't need to be repaid. You should search and apply for as many as you can. Search websites such as zinch.com, cappex.com, and bigfuture.org. Often, local sources are some of the best sources for scholarships. Check with local churches, civic organizations, businesses, or employers. Look at your colleges too! Fill out an application for each scholarship, paying attention to the deadlines—some applications may be due the fall of your senior year.

Fastweb.com

FINAL PLANS IN PLACE—CHECK!

FINALIZE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

After you know your list of colleges, make sure you meet all of the admission requirements before you start applying.

Review your high school class plan.

- Take the most difficult classes you can handle and do well in to make sure you're prepared for college. If you can, sign up for classes that will earn you college credit.
- Make sure you meet all of your graduation requirements.

Prepare for standardized tests.

- Take the PSAT and/or the PLAN in the fall of eleventh grade to prepare for the SAT and/or the ACT and identify the areas where you need to improve.
- Study!
- Take practice tests using the free online test prep tools at collegeboard.org, actstudent.org, and number2.com.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT a month before you plan to take the test.

Take standardized tests—the higher you score on your standardized tests, the better chance you have of getting into the college of your choice.

- Take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring of eleventh grade to give yourself time to retake them if you want to try to improve your score.
- If you're taking an Advanced Placement test, take it in the spring of the year you're taking the AP class.

Take college placement tests—the Accuplacer and Compass tests are college placement tests that evaluate your skills in reading, writing, math, and English.

- The tests help you and your advisor determine which courses are appropriate for your skill level.
- Placement tests are sometimes given during freshman orientation, but you can also make an appointment for testing with your advisor.
- See collegeboard.org/student/testing/accuplacer and act.org/compass/student/index.html for more information.

Register Now

Register online at:

SAT and AP: collegeboard.org

3 ACT: actstudent.org