

# FINALLY, **IT'S** SENIOR YEAR!

You've almost made it through high school! Just one year left, and most of the hard work is front loaded in the first half of the year. Ready for it? If not, have no fear. This guide here will position you for a seamless application from college essays to scholarship applications.

## FALL PT I

# APPLICATION SEASON



### KEEP TRACK OF DEADLINES

Put these 2017 dates in your calendar now:

- Early Action & Decision - **November 11 & 15**
- Last SAT Test Date - **December 2**
- Last ACT Test Date - **December 9**
- Regular Decision - **January 1**
- FAFSA Opens - **October 1**

### GET FAMILIAR WITH THE APPLICATION

How are you supposed to fill out a college application if you've never seen one before? AdmitSee's database has over 60,000 **successful application files** for you to look at. Find out what you'll be asked to fill out and how you can craft the best possible application.

### FINALIZE THE SCHOOLS YOU'RE CONSIDERING

Applicants typically apply to 8-10 schools on average. We recommend you make a list like this:



SAFETY SCHOOLS	TARGET SCHOOLS	REACH SCHOOLS
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.



If you need help discovering which schools to apply to, you should check out our **data insights tool**. Simply enter a school you are definitely applying to, and we'll show you where other students have successfully applied as well as suggested reach schools.

### FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATIONS

By now, you should have a Common App or Coalition Account. Start with the simple questions about your background, legacy questions, high school performance and extracurriculars. These sections, though comprising basic info, can be tough to get polished and concise - so get it done early!

### CHOOSE WHETHER TO APPLY EARLY

If you want to apply EA/ED to any of the schools in your list above, you need to make a decision soon. Application deadlines are on **November 1st or 15th**.

Not sure if you should apply early? Here's a **blog post** that list the benefits and drawbacks.

# APPLICATION SEASON

## START OUTLINING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENTS

College application essays are different from the essays you typically write for school. Depending on your application, you may want to demonstrate your academic interest, your personality, your general intellectual curiosity or your leadership.

Here are the 2017-18 essay prompts for **Common App**, **UC Schools**, and **Coalition for Access**. If you need help or just some inspiration, check out our **packages** of successful application files we've curated for you grouped by school, essay topic and even student background.

## TAKE THOSE STANDARDIZED TESTS!

Once you've finalized your college list, check the testing requirements for your schools. Make sure you take the ACT/SAT in time for them to count!

### ANTICIPATED 2017 TEST DATES

SAT*	ACT
March 11 (SAT II not offered)	February 11 (none in NY)
May 6	April 8
June 3	June 10
August 26	September 9
October 7	October 28
November 4	December 9
December 2	

\*You may not take the SAT I and SAT II in one sitting

International students must take the TOEFL. [Learn more](#) about the exam.

## SUBMIT YOUR APPS ON TIME

If you decided to apply Early Action or Early Decision, you'll need to submit your apps in November. Regular Decision applications aren't usually due until early January. Be sure to check the dates for each institution.

## CHECK IN WITH YOUR COUNSELOR

Your counselor can help you stay on track with college apps. Submit your college list so they know where to send your score reports, letters of recommendation, and transcripts. Be clear about your timeline and let them know if you're applying early!

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Choosing your recommenders may not be as straightforward as you think. Look at your application holistically and choose 2 teachers that can either support the claims you make, or show a new side that's not shown by your GPA and extracurriculars.

- What does the teacher know about you?
- Have you worked closely with this teacher?
- What does the teacher know about you aside from your academic performance?
- How would they describe you?
- What did you demonstrate in their class?

## FINISH YOUR APPLICATIONS!

The Common App and the Coalition will give you a checklist of things you need to complete. These are the major items:

- General Information About You
- Academics
- Family Background
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurriculars
- Awards Won
- Disciplinary History
- Writing Supplements
- Personal Statement



## WINTER

# YOU'VE REACHED THE FINISH LINE

### SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

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Use sites like FastWeb, Scholarships.com, and Unigo to discover scholarships you're eligible for. Dedicate 1-2 hours every week to getting them done. We know you're tired of filling out applications, but it'll pay off later!

### ACT ON EA/ED RESULTS

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You'll get your results on December 15th. Use this fun **flow chart** to help you make a decision about what to do next. If you got deferred, watch our **free webinar** with College Admits who also experienced deferrals!

### KEEP CALM AND CLICK SUBMIT!

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Review your college application, including all the background info, extracurriculars, personal statement(s), and writing supplements you needed to fill out. If you still need help with supplements, we have the **resources**. When everything's done - hit SUBMIT!

Double check all materials needed to complete your application have been received, especially if you're not the submitter. You don't want your file to sit incomplete because it's missing a recommendation letter. It's your responsibility to stay on top of all moving pieces.

You'll hear back end of March or early April from most schools. Typically, you'll get an email notification first, and then you'll receive a package in the mail later on.

### SUBMIT FINANCIAL AID FORMS

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The FAFSA is open from October 1st of your senior year until June 30th of your freshman year at college. The best aid is often on a first come first served basis, so apply early!



## SPRING

# THE FUTURE IS YOURS

### COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

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College interviews are not mandatory. It often depends on the availability of alumni college interviewers where you live. You'll either be invited to interview or you can request one.

### TAKE YOUR AP/IB EXAMS

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You may have already gotten into college, but you still need to take these exams. Good scores earn you college credit, which will help you get ahead and save you money!

### COMPARE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

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Think long term if you're heavily dependent on aid. Contact the financial aid office of the college - you can negotiate better packages by asking schools to match your best offer!

### MAKE A FINAL DECISION

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Congratulations! Notify your college of choice by May 1st. Create your **free AdmitSee profile** to help future applicants by sharing your story. Plus, earn some cash while you're at it!