

# The Complete Guide to College Planning

by **Magoosh**

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Summer Before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose an organizer and study schedule</li> <li>Meet guidance counselor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the SAT and ACT</li> <li>Spend four full days researching scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study for and take an SAT subject exam</li> <li>Start studying for ACT or SAT</li> <li>Visit college campuses</li> <li>Dedicate eight days to scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study for and take an SAT subject exam(s)</li> <li>If needed, study again for ACT or SAT</li> <li>Create master timeline, set up applications</li> <li>Dedicate eight days to scholarships</li> </ul>
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a range of extracurricular activities</li> <li>Start resume and list of scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose 1-2 extracurricular activities</li> <li>Consider taking the PSAT in October</li> <li>Research study abroad options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commit to keeping grades up</li> <li>Register for AP exams</li> <li>Take the PSAT</li> <li>Continue studying for the ACT or SAT</li> <li>Dedicate four days to scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If needed, retake the ACT or SAT</li> <li>Register for AP exams</li> <li>Write essays</li> <li>Ask for birthday and holiday gifts that will support college</li> <li>Prep for interviews</li> <li>Submit applications</li> <li>Dedicate four days to scholarships</li> </ul>
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess executive functioning</li> <li>Sign up for 1-4 AP or honors courses</li> <li>Examine foreign language trajectory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map out next year's AP courses and test dates</li> <li>Sign up for 1-4 AP courses for next year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the ACT or SAT</li> <li>Approach teachers about writing letters of recommendation</li> <li>Dedicate four days to scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAFSA</li> <li>Arrange college visits and email current students</li> <li>Update financial plan</li> <li>Dedicate eight days to scholarships</li> </ul>
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career exploration</li> <li>Shadow, volunteer, or intern</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start researching colleges</li> <li>Set up a financial plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study for and take one or more AP exams</li> <li>Look into CLEP exams</li> <li>Narrow in on 10-15 colleges</li> <li>Four days to scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send deposit to college of choice</li> <li>Keep grades up</li> <li>Take one or more AP exams</li> <li>Think carefully about student loans</li> <li>Celebrate</li> </ul>