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## FRESHMAN YEAR

- ☐ Learn how your school calculates your GPA
- ☐ Maintain good grades
- ☐ Get involved in meaningful extracurricular activities
- ☐ Search for scholarships: Start with Niche's How to Pay for College video for tips

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## SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to go over your class schedule and future goals
- ☐ Keep up those good grades!
- ☐ Stay involved in your extracurriculars
- ☐ Create a Niche account to start researching colleges
- ☐ Take The Niche College Quiz for personalized recommendations
- ☐ Research potential majors
- ☐ Take the PSAT if your school offers it
- ☐ Continue scholarship search

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## JUNIOR YEAR

### September thru February

- ☐ Begin test prep and take the PSAT to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program
- ☐ Attend college fairs
- ☐ Build your college list on Niche by adding 5-10 schools
- ☐ Find out which colleges on your list are test-optional and create a testing plan
- ☐ Register for SAT/ACT (if necessary)

  
*YOU CAN DO IT*

### February thru June

- ☐ Sign up for campus visits and/or virtual tours
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to review your college list and senior year schedule
- ☐ Research majors and related careers
- ☐ Take the SAT/ACT and retest (if necessary)
- ☐ Keep your grades up!
- ☐ Request recommendation letters

### July

- ☐ Continue scholarship search
- ☐ Read student/alumni reviews on Niche to see what the colleges on your list are really like
- ☐ Narrow down your college list
- ☐ Get summer experience through volunteer work, job shadowing, etc.
- ☐ Make an activities/honors list
- ☐ Brainstorm personal essay ideas
- ☐ Start planning out your finances

### August

- ☐ Many application portals open Aug. 1st!
- ☐ Finalize your college list
- ☐ Create application account(s)
- ☐ Review applications to note requirements, essays, deadlines, etc.
- ☐ Get your materials together (resume, unofficial transcript, etc.)
- ☐ Draft your personal essay

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## SENIOR YEAR

### September

- ☐ Follow up with your recommenders
- ☐ Begin online portion of applications
- ☐ Retake SAT/ACT (if necessary)
- ☐ Complete CSS profile for non-federal financial aid

### October thru November

- ☐ Tell your school counselor you'll need your transcript and/or a recommendation letter for EA/ED/Priority deadlines (if necessary)
- ☐ Review all application materials for errors or missing pieces
- ☐ Submit EA/ED/Priority applications and send any supplemental documents (transcripts, letters, test scores) required
- ☐ Set up your account for each college's portal to ensure your materials have been received and you've completed the application
- ☐ Create an FSA ID

### December

- ☐ Tell your school counselor you'll need your transcript and/or a recommendation letter for regular deadlines (if necessary)
- ☐ Complete and submit FAFSA
- ☐ Review EA/ED acceptances
- ☐ Submit regular deadline applications and send any supplemental documents (transcripts, letters, test scores) required
- ☐ Set up your account for each college's portal to ensure your materials have been received and you've completed the application

### January thru February

- ☐ Submit mid-year grade reports (if necessary)
- ☐ Apply for scholarships
- ☐ Prep for any interviews you may have
- ☐ Review EA/ED/Priority acceptances

### March thru April

- ☐ Review acceptance letters and financial aid packages
- ☐ Decide on your top schools
- ☐ Keep applying for scholarships

### May

- ☐ Make your final decision by May 1 — and celebrate!
- ☐ Submit your deposit and housing application
- ☐ Sign up for orientation
- ☐ Send your final transcript
- ☐ Thank your supporters for all of their help

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 **KEEP IT UP** 