

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

August of your SENIOR YEAR

- Request applications and information from colleges.
- Visit school campuses throughout the fall to help narrow your choices.
- Look into overnight or weekend college visitation programs.

September

- Mark your calendar for college fairs and visits from admissions representatives.
- Consider meeting with the school counselor to develop a college admissions plan.
- EducationPlanner.org offers free test prep and practice exams for the SAT, PSAT and ACT.
- Register for the SAT or the ACT.
- Consider early decision/early action programs.

October

- Create a schedule of admission and student aid deadlines.
- Begin completing college applications and essays.
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Explore college or scholarship information or apply to colleges online. Some campuses may charge an extra fee; however, some campuses waive fees, since online applications speed up processing.

November

- Follow-up to ensure that letters of recommendation are submitted.
- Complete and submit essays and applications for early decision/early action programs.
- If you plan to apply for a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship, remember that your application is due by December 1.

December

- Contact the college's financial aid office to see what student aid programs exist on a state or campus level. These programs may involve forms and deadlines that are separate from federal programs and may require additional applications or information from you or your parents.
- Complete, photocopy and submit college applications.
- Obtain any other financial aid forms that may be required by your target schools.

January

- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** This is required to be considered for federal and most other types of student aid, including state and college aid. The FAFSA serves as the application for the Pennsylvania State Grant Program.
- You can access the FAFSA online at **[PHEAA.ORG/FAFSA](https://phea.org/FAFSA)**. NOTE: To complete the FAFSA, you will need your family's federal income tax information for the previous year (if necessary, you and your parent(s) may estimate your tax information since you do not have to file your tax return before you send your FAFSA). You and your parent(s) should complete your tax returns early to help in filling out the FAFSA. Keep a copy of this information, as school officials may request to see it later.

February

- Submit all the necessary paperwork or applications for any private or outside scholarships you may have identified.
- Be sure that you have submitted all required forms: the college admissions application, the FAFSA, any private scholarship applications, and any state or campus forms required for student aid programs.
- Watch your email for your Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR is the U.S. Department of Education's reply to your submitted FAFSA and summarizes your financial aid eligibility for federal programs.

March

- Ask your high school counselor about Advanced Placement (AP) exams offered for college credit and about the cost of the exams. Contact the registrar's office at the college or school you plan to attend to find out what score is necessary to receive the college credit. If you will be taking an AP exam, consider starting an AP preparation course for the tests which are given in May.

April

- Receive admission notification(s).
- Compare your student aid awards to the cost of school attendance.
- Make a final enrollment decision and submit the enrollment deposit, if requested.
- Sign and return student aid forms for the school you will be attending.
- Notify any school which accepted you that you will not be attending.

May

- **DEADLINE FOR PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANT (FAFSA APPLICATION) IS MAY 1** for students attending colleges, universities, college-transferable programs and all renewal students.
- Take any applicable AP exams.
- Send final high school transcript to your chosen school.
- Select a lender and complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) to obtain a Federal Stafford or PLUS Loan.
- Contact the college's financial aid office to check the status of your student aid.

June

- Complete any remaining student aid forms.
- Plan for college orientation, transportation and housing.

July

- Finalize college transportation and housing for the fall.

August

- **DEADLINE FOR PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANT (FAFSA APPLICATION) IS AUGUST 1** for first-time students at business, trade or technical schools, hospital schools of nursing or two-year, non-transferable degree programs at a community, junior or four-year college.

PHEAA/AES is one of many Guarantors participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). A student or parent borrower may obtain a FFELP loan from a lender that uses PHEAA/AES as the Guarantor or any other participating lender.

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