

12th Grade College Planning Tip Sheet

GOAL

To apply — and be accepted to — affordable colleges you're excited to attend. [Road2College is here to guide you.](#)

1. If you haven't already, ask teachers for recommendations early in the school year. Many students ask the same teacher, so the earlier you start, the better your chances.
2. List all application due dates (Early Decision, Early Action, Early Decision II, Regular Decision, Rolling). If you're particularly interested in one school, you might want to try EA or ED.

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[How to Navigate College Application Deadlines](#)

3. Finalize college essays, including supplemental essays, if applying via the Common App.

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[How to Write a College Essay That Works](#)

4. Don't slough off on first-semester grades. Senior year can be stressful, but you must keep up your grades while simultaneously working on applications and essays.
5. If you're not happy with your test scores to date, plan for one more retake.
6. Meet with college representatives who visit your school. Also, attend local college fairs and visit campuses if possible. At each event, sign in so the college knows you attended.
7. Finalize your college list. Use our free [R2C Insights tool](#) to identify colleges that match your academic profile and financial situation. This can maximize your scholarship chances.

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[A Well-Thought-Out College List: How to Narrow Down Which Schools to Apply To](#)

8. If you're applying to a school that requires interviews, prepare a list of questions for interviewers and have practice interviews with your family and friends.
9. Request transcripts, test scores, and more as needed, with an eye toward deadlines, as they may be different for each school. Keep in mind that final transcripts will have to be sent to your college of choice at the end of the school year.
10. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply for scholarships as needed.