



SENIOR YEAR

Your College Prep Timeline



A photograph of two young men sitting together, looking down at an open notebook. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a grey sweater. The man on the right is wearing glasses, a red and blue plaid shirt, and blue jeans. The notebook is open to a blank page. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a library or study area.

Senior Year—

you did it! You have made it to that pivotal time, when the steps you take now matter more than ever toward achieving your goals. The Princeton Review's step-by-step timeline will walk you through the **when, what and how of senior year** so you can be confident that you are doing all the right things at the right time for your future.

Senior Year Checklist



Think about what you want in your prospective college.

Talk to your counselors and find out what tools your high school has for researching your best options. We offer resources to help you, such as the books *The Best 381 Colleges* and *Colleges That Pay You Back* and interactive college search on [PrincetonReview.com](https://www.princetonreview.com). For personalized guidance, work with one of our expert Admission Counselors. We'll help you polish your application, make a list of target schools and more. Learn more at [PrincetonReview.com/Admissions](https://www.princetonreview.com/Admissions).



Sign up for the SAT[®]/ACT[®] and SAT Subject Tests[™].

If you're thinking of applying for early decision acceptance and you're not happy with your previous scores, you should take the September ACT or October SAT. To take a free practice SAT or ACT, visit [PrincetonReview.com/FreePracticeTest](https://www.princetonreview.com/FreePracticeTest).



Write your college application essay.

Have a good time with the essay. Avoid formulas. Don't be afraid to demonstrate your individuality. And proofread it once, twice, three times before sending. If you need help, our college admissions counselors are available every step of the way. Our expert Admission Counselors can help perfect your essay and make it stand out from your peers'.



Ask for recommendations.

Most colleges require that you get letters of recommendation from teachers or other adults in your life. Ask for letters early and provide your resume with all of your accomplishments. Don't forget instructions on where to send the recommendation.



Apply for early decision acceptance.

If you're confident that you have found your dream school, consider applying early decision or early action. You'll know where you'll be next year and can breathe a deep sigh of relief by mid-December. Of course, with early decision acceptance comes commitment to that school, and you can only apply to one. (Early action applications aren't as stringent, but fewer colleges offer this option.)



Apply to your top-choice schools.

Many schools use the Common App, which you can fill out and submit online. Or you can print it out and submit by snail mail.



Don't put rolling admissions on the back burner.

Some colleges admit applicants on a continuous basis. At these schools, the earlier you apply, the more spaces there are available.



Schedule interviews at your chosen schools.

Though interviews are optional, they're a good opportunity to have additional discussions with your selected school(s). The earlier you can schedule your interviews, the better.

Senior Year Checklist



Fill out a FAFSA® to get financial aid.

You can find and fill out this form online at [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). Go to the Financial Center at PrincetonReview.com/CollegeFinance to learn how to complete this form and maximize your funding. You can start filling out the FAFSA on its new, earlier opening date of October 1.



Keep on deadline.

Applicants can ruin their chances for admission by sending materials in late. Let your recommenders know your deadlines and make sure you've given your counselor everything he or she needs to send along with your transcripts.



On the waiting list? Don't give up hope.

Let the college know immediately that you're still excited and ready to attend. Send updated grades and activities to boost your chances.



You're accepted—what now?

Compare aid packages. If you need help, check out PrincetonReview.com/CollegeFinance. Be sure to let the colleges know right away of any changes to your family's income, such as a parent making a job or career change—it could affect your aid package. Return your signed acceptance letter and student/parent loan applications to your college. You'll also probably need to place a deposit now. Don't forget to thank the people who recommended you and tell them where you'll be attending.



Tip for Seniors

Don't let your grades slip. Colleges will be keeping an eye on your GPA even after you've been accepted.

For more information, call 800-2Review or visit PrincetonReview.com.

Senior Year Testing Timeline

Senior year goes by fast. If you need to retake the SAT or ACT, make sure you leave time to prep and take the test before your dream school's admission deadline. If you need help boosting your scores, try a prep course or a private tutor.



October:

Take the SAT or ACT. You can begin applying for financial aid on October 1.

November:

Take SAT Subject Tests, if needed.



December:

Final chance to take the SAT or ACT.

January:

All your applications should be in.



March/April:

Congratulations! All of your hard work is about to pay off. Keep an eye out for your acceptance letters and financial aid packages.



Go to [PrincetonReview.com/Admissions](https://www.PrincetonReview.com/Admissions) to connect an Admission Counselor and perfect your application.

Answers to Your **FAQs**

When is my last chance to take the ACT or SAT?

Fall of your senior year is your last chance to get scores before college applications are due. Visit [PrincetonReview.com/TestDates](https://www.princetonreview.com/testdates) to see when the SAT and ACT are held.

When are my college applications due?

Early decision and early action are usually due in November. Regular applications are usually due January 1. Deadlines might vary by school, so make sure you check your top college picks' websites.

Will my ACT/SAT scores automatically be sent to colleges?

This one is a little more complicated than just yes or no. When you register for the test, you have the option to pick schools and have your scores sent to them automatically. If you don't select schools during registration, you can send your scores for a fee after you've seen your results.

For the ACT, you pick which test dates' scores you want to send. For the SAT, colleges will see all of your scores unless you use ScoreChoice™, which lets you pick which test dates' scores to send. Some schools will also let you Superscore, which lets you submit the highest scores for each section, even if they're from different test dates.

What else do I need to do?

Visit the colleges you're interested in and make the most of your senior year, but don't get senioritis. Colleges keep an eye on your grades and activities even after you're accepted.

How can The Princeton Review help me right now?

Our ACT and SAT prep courses and private tutors will help you get ready for the exam by teaching you the content and strategies you need, but our expertise doesn't end there. If you need help maintaining your GPA, an expert tutor is only a click away with our 24/7 Homework Help service. Get started at [PrincetonReview.com/HomeworkHelp](https://www.princetonreview.com/homeworkhelp).



Tip for **Seniors**

Trying to decide how many schools to apply to? There's no hard and fast rule, but we recommend 5 to 8 schools. Make sure you include a mix of safety, match and reach schools.



The Princeton Review

Can Help You Reach Your Goals

For more than 30 years, students and their families have trusted The Princeton Review to help them get into their dream schools.

We help students succeed in high school and beyond by giving them resources for better grades, better test scores and stronger college applications. Our proven methodology gives you test-taking strategies and a guaranteed better score.* With a range of options, including one-on-one private tutoring, semi-private and traditional classes, and online prep, The Princeton Review offers the flexibility to fit your schedule and learning style.



Test Prep Courses



Private Tutoring



On-Demand Homework Help



Admission Counseling



Best-Fit College



Visit PrincetonReview.com or call **800-2Review (800-273-8439)** to learn more or find a course.

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