

# Princeton Review 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<sup>®</sup>/ACT<sup>®</sup> and SAT Subject Tests<sup>™</sup>.

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.

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## 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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

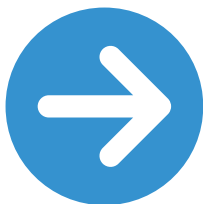
## **January:**

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.