

# HAVEN'T STARTED YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS YET? HERE'S WHAT TO DO.



## TALK TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Be proactive. As soon as possible, schedule a meeting with your counselor.
- Come prepared with any college application materials you have ready to review together.

## FILL OUT THE FAFSA®

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even if you don't think you'll qualify for aid. Some school aid, state aid, and scholarships are based on a completed FAFSA.

## FINALIZE YOUR COLLEGE LIST

Include 6–10 schools that break down as follows:

- 1–2 reach schools
- 3–5 target schools
- 2–3 safety schools

## GET ORGANIZED

- Use a free tool, like the College Planning Calendar at [collegecovered.com/planning-calendar](https://collegecovered.com/planning-calendar), to guide your process.
- Create a spreadsheet that outlines all deadlines and tracks your progress.
- Share your timeline with helpful adults like your parents or counselor.

## SIGN UP FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

- Enroll for the SAT® or ACT® if you plan to submit test scores with your applications.
- Check enrollment deadlines, which are typically 1 month before the actual test date.

## ORDER TRANSCRIPTS

- Request transcripts now to allow time for processing.
- Double-check your high school's deadlines for transcript requests to make sure they will arrive at colleges in time.

## REQUEST RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Ask teachers and other mentors who know you well for letters of recommendation. Most applications require 1 to 2.

## WRITE THOSE ESSAYS

Consider writing 1 essay that can be repurposed for several college and scholarship applications to save time.

## FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATIONS

Start with the applications that have the earliest due dates.

## DON'T PANIC

You've got this!