

College Planning Timeline

August

- 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 admissions representatives' visits
- 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

November

- Follow up to ensure that letters of recommendation are submitted
- Complete essays and applications Submit applications for early decision/early action programs
- If you plan to apply for an ROTC scholarship, remember that your application is due by December 1

December

- Contact the college's financial aid office to see if student aid programs exist on a state or campus level
 - These programs may involve forms and deadlines that exist independently 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

- Obtain a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from your school counselor or through the U.S. Department of Education (USDE)
 - To complete the FAFSA, you will need your family's income tax information for the year (if necessary, you can have your parents estimate their tax information)
 - Your parents should complete taxes early to help in filling out the FAFSA. Keep a copy of this information, as some officials may request to see it later
- Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or fill out, photocopy, and submit paper FAFSA by mail

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

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
- Watch the mail for the Student Aid Report (SAR)
 - The SAR is the USDE's reply to your submitted FAFSA and summarizes your financial aid eligibility for any federal programs.
 - Your SAR will be electronic if you filed your FAFSA online or provided an email address on a paper FAFSA.

April

- Receive admission notification(s)
- Compare your student aid awards to the cost of school attendance
- Make a final enrollment decision and if required, submit the enrollment deposit
- Notify any school to which you've been accepted that you will not be attending
- Sign and return student aid forms for the school you will 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 Advanced Placement (AP) exams
- Send final academic transcript and student loan application(s) to your chosen college
- Contact the college's financial aid office to check your student aid package status

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 is August 1 for first-time students at business, trade, technical and nursing schools as well as two-year terminal (non-transferable two-year degree) at a community, junior or four-year college



PHEAA.org or 800.692.7392.
1200 North Seventh Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1444