



Semester-Level College Planning Action Plan TEMPLATE with Recommended Timing

Fall

Spring

Summer

<p>Freshman Fall Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit the ground running on grades • Athletes: Create your recruiting engine profile & keep it updated 	<p>Freshman Spring Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule and take your first official college campus visits • Online college research to learn about recommended high-school courses based on the field of study you may be interested in 	<p>Summer Before Sophomore Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College campus visits • Athletes: update recruiting engine profile • Athletes: camps and clinics at schools of interest • Create your college budget as a family, as well as “who pays for what and when”
<p>Sophomore Fall Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College campus visits • Research colleges online • Begin your College Search on your own or with expert help • Athletes: Reach out via email and phone to college coaches at your schools of interest 	<p>Sophomore Spring Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a practice ACT or SAT exam • Official college campus visits • Begin to outline your Needs/Wants/Don't Needs/Don't Wants for your University of You™ (your ideal college experience) 	<p>Summer Before Junior Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick the date when you will plan to take your first official ACT/SAT exam • Online research to get a solid sense of what college costs at the schools you're interested in
<p>Junior Fall Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep for and take your first official ACT/SAT • More college campus visits 	<p>Junior Spring Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-mandated ACT/SAT exam (public high-school students in most states) • More college campus visits 	<p>Summer Before Senior Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete college essays • Gather materials for college applications (letters of recommendation, GPA and courses, activities and interests, etc.) • Create a Common App account • Make note of upcoming college application deadlines in the fall
<p>Senior Fall Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Applications • Fill out the FAFSA starting October 1 • Early Action Deadlines early November 	<p>Senior Spring Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Application Regular Decision deadlines • Financial and merit aid award info arrives • May 1 = “National Decision Day” for most seniors 	<p>Summer After Graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send final transcripts to your college • Freshman orientation



Semester-Level College Planning Action Plan
Student Name: _____

Fall

Spring

Summer

Freshman Fall Semester	Freshman Spring Semester	Summer Before Sophomore Year
Sophomore Fall Semester	Sophomore Spring Semester	Summer Before Junior Year
Junior Fall Semester	Junior Spring Semester	Summer Before Senior Year
Senior Fall Semester	Senior Spring Semester	Summer After Graduation



Semester-Level College Planning Action Plan Guidelines & Instructions

Instructions: We've included recommended action items and timing based on our experience working with thousands of high-school students and families over the past decade. But this is YOUR semester-level action plan, and YOU GET TO DECIDE when you'll tackle various college planning tasks.

The key is to HAVE A PLAN. Most families won't do this. You can choose to be proactive. You can choose to take back control of your college planning journey. It starts here with this semester-level action plan. Review the following list of suggested actions to PLACE on your family's college planning action plan, plus add your own. Email support@collegeboundconfidence.com with questions.

Suggested Actions/Tasks for your Semester-Level Action Plan & Timing Considerations

Task/Action	Suggested Timing	Considerations
Commit to strong academic performance	Day 1 Freshman Year	The cumulative GPA you will submit on college applications starts day 1 of freshman year
Athletes: create an online recruiting engine profile	Fall semester freshman year	Specific to your sport, create and then regularly maintain your profile
First official college campus visit	Spring semester freshman year	Can even choose a college close by just to get a feel for what "college" is like.
Research college websites for recommended high school course work based on your field of interest (if known)	Summer before sophomore year	Your specific major will likely be unknown to you, but you can research recommended course work for general fields you have interest in
College campus visits	Fall semester sophomore year and multiple semesters	You can schedule college campus tours based on what works best for your family. Visit early and often!
Athletes: College coach outreach	Starts sophomore year (or freshman year)	One-way communication/outreach to college coaches at schools you're interested in. Email/phone.
Begin your College Search process	Fall or spring semester sophomore year	Based on college campus visits, begin to define the "University of You™" –the things you Need/Want/Don't Need/Don't Want in the ideal college experience.
Take a practice ACT/SAT	Spring semester sophomore year	Can take one at home, with the help of an ACT/SAT Test Prep coach. Your school may offer one. Or you can register and take an official ACT/SAT "cold" just for practice. (Do NOT submit scores to schools.)
Pick your ACT/SAT exam date to plan, prep and take your first official exam.	Summer before junior year	There are exam dates throughout the year. Pick the one that works best for your schedule, plan, prep and do your best.
Prep for and take ACT/SAT	Fall junior year	Ideally before winter break, junior year, take your first official ACT/SAT.
State-mandated ACT/SAT	Spring junior year	In most states, usually for public high-school students only.
College campus visits	Spring junior year	Schedule early and often, based on your family's schedule.
College essays, applications	Summer before senior year	You'll submit applications in the fall, but summer's great for prep.
Submit college applications	Fall senior year	Deadlines (Early Action, Early Decision, etc. vary by school)
Regular Decision college applications	Early spring senior year	Deadlines vary by school.
Financial/merit aid award announcements	Spring senior year	Varies by school, but commonly spring semester senior year
Decision Day (for many students)	May 1, senior year	May be earlier for recruited athletes, other students. Varies by school, situation.