

MEFA's Guide to College Admissions

There's a lot to keep track of when applying to college. MEFA is here to guide you in the process and help you stay organized. Follow this timeline as you plan for life after high school. And for more information on the college admissions process, visit us online at mefa.org/applying-to-college.

Spring/Summer Junior Year

- Register for an account on mefapathway.org, the dynamic and interactive college planning portal that includes a college application manager, scholarship search engine, career matching tool, and so much more
- Research colleges and begin to build the college list
- Attend college fairs and visit campuses
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take the SAT®/ACT®
- Brainstorm college essay topics and start writing

Fall Senior Year

- Finalize the college list
- Retake the SAT/ACT
- Secure letters of recommendation
- Write the college essay(s)
- Attend MEFA's *Financial Aid 101* webinar
- Start all admissions applications
- Begin to complete the FAFSA® and other required financial aid applications
- If applying Early Decision or Early Action, submit admissions and financial aid applications

Winter Senior Year

- Submit admissions applications
- Submit the FAFSA and other required financial aid applications
- Apply for private scholarships

Spring Senior Year

- Receive admissions and financial aid offers
- Attend MEFA's *Financial Aid Offers & the College Bill* webinar to learn how to compare financial aid awards and develop a strategy for paying the college bill
- Attend college open house programs
- Choose a college by May 1st

Visit mefa.org/applying-to-college for more information.

As you explore schools and build your college list, keep track of your details here. Remember that deadlines are critical when applying to college and requesting financial aid, so set yourself reminders to ensure you submit all applications on time. If you're applying to more than ten schools, make a copy of this chart.

School Name	Admissions Deadline*	Send SAT, ACT, or Neither	Required Financial Aid	Financial Aid Deadline*	Notes
1. Example University	November 1st	SAT	FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐	February 1st	• High school visit: Oct 1st • Strong nursing program • 4-hour drive away
2.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
3.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
4.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
5.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
6.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
7.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
8.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
9.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
10.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		
11.			FAFSA ☒ CSS Profile ☐ Other ☐		

*If you're applying Early Action or Early Decision to a school, your admissions and financial aid deadlines will be earlier than the standard admissions and financial aid deadlines. Make sure to note these earlier deadlines here if applicable.