

US College Application – General Timeline

Year 11 – Year 13

This document details the timeframe involved in applying to the USA. For those of you considering applying to the USA, it is an indication of the considerable time investment that is required to apply for college in the USA. Those of you who have made the decision to apply should refer to this document for planning and preparation.

Please note that we advise visiting colleges in the USA before applying. If you cannot visit in person, consider doing virtual visits instead.

During Sixth Form, you should also attend as many university representative visits as possible. Make sure you look at the Fulbright Commission's website for information on US College Day and useful resources for applying to the USA. Also look at individual colleges' websites as they may have events in London.

Y11 Student Milestones

- ☐ September: attend the US College Day organized by the Fulbright Commission
- ☐ December: prepare and attend the Higher Education presentation
- ☐ March: start SAT preparation
- ☐ April: consider using the holiday to visit colleges.

Y12 Student Milestones

- ☐ September: attend the US College Day organized by the Fulbright Commission
- ☐ October:
 - Start SAT course
 - Check college websites to see if/when they are holding events in London that you can attend
 - Consider using the holiday to visit colleges
- ☐ Winter Term: prepare and attend the Higher Education presentation

- ☐ December: make an appointment to meet with the college counsellor. Your parents should attend the first meeting if possible.
- ☐ September – December: read Harry Bauld's *On Writing the College Application Essay*
- ☐ January:
 - sign up for the May SAT test
 - request the Bragsheet from Sophie Geer and start filling it in
- ☐ February:
 - Work on your Bragsheet
- ☐ March-April:
 - Attend workshop on writing the College Essay and completing the Common Application
 - Discuss possible essay topic with your College Counselor
 - Hand in your Bragsheet by the deadline agreed
 - Consider using the holiday to visit colleges.
- ☐ May:
 - Take the SAT test
 - Ask two current teachers for letters of recommendation (ask S. Geer for protocol). Kindly ask teachers to submit their letters to the College Counselor before the summer.
- ☐ June:
 - Make sure you have a coherent preliminary list of universities you seek to apply to for admissions
 - Check with the College Counselor to ensure that your teachers have submitted their letters of recommendation
 - Hand in your College Essay final draft
 - Decide with College Counseling if you need to redo your SAT test. If so, register for the SAT test offered in August or October.
- ☐ Summer:
 - Take the TOEFL exam if needed
 - Retake SATs during August session if needed
 - Open your Common Application account and prepare your applications

Y13 Student Milestones

- ☐ September:
 - Make an appointment with the College counselor to be sure that your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record
 - Hand in to college counseling your final list of colleges in writing
 - For those applying ED/EA, ask College Board to send your SAT scores to the college you are applying to
- ☐ October:
 - Take SAT test if needed and have scores sent to the colleges on your list.
 - If applying Early Decision/ Early Action, send in application now.
 - Prepare applications for regular decision.
- ☐ November:
 - Have College Board send your SAT scores to all the colleges on your list.
 - If appropriate, obtain the Financial Aid Forms online: the CSS Profile for international and US students; the FAFSA for US citizens only.
- ☐ December:
 - If needed, take the SAT tests and have scores sent to the colleges on our list.
 - File your last college applications.
 - Check that all test scores have been sent to the appropriate schools.
 - If you applied for Early Decision/Early Action, you should have a decision by December 15th.
 - Thank all your teachers and keep them informed.
- ☐ January – April:
 - Keep your college counselor informed of any problem you may encounter.
 - Keep your college counselor informed of all admission results.
- ☐ May 1st deadline:
 - Most US colleges and universities have a May 1st decision deadline.
 - You need to accept their offer of admission by that date if you plan to attend. You may only deposit at one US institution.

US colleges and universities examine grades from Y10 to Y13: it is essential to keep your grades up.