



# ROAD TO COLLEGE

SEP 28, 2025

## Newsletter

Dear Students & Families,

Early Action and Early Decision deadlines are almost here! Many colleges close applications on **Nov. 1** or **Nov. 15**. This week, we'll go over what applying early means, your final checklist, and tips to polish your essays before hitting submit.



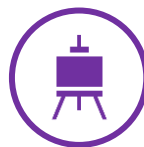
### TO DO LIST

Aim for straight A's. GPA starts now and top colleges want to see consistent academic strength. Pay attention to HW deadlines.

Choose 1–2 clubs/sports to commit to deeply (**quality over quantity**).

Brainstorm passion project ideas

Talk to your counselor about the application process. Ask about if you can get application fee waivers.



### REMINDERS and DEADLINES

**SAT:** Oct. 4, 2025.

**Registration deadline:** Sept. 19, 2025

**Early Action & Early Decision deadlines** begin as soon as Nov 1. Draft essays early. Start drafting your Common App essay

Talk to your teachers about the letters of recommendation.



**College Prep Tip:** Before submitting your early applications, **triple-check** your portals and deadlines. Staying organized now avoids last-minute panic and ensures nothing gets lost before the Nov. 1 deadline!

## Apply Application:

- Higher acceptance rates at many selective schools
- Earlier decisions (you'll hear back by December instead of spring)
- Access to more scholarships at some colleges
- Shows colleges you are serious and committed

Remember: Early Decision (ED) is binding. If accepted, you must attend.  
Early Action (EA) is non-binding. You can apply early but still compare offers later.

## Final Application Checklist for Early Deadlines

- Common App/Coalition/ApplyTexas account complete
- Personal essay finalized & proofread
- All supplemental essays written & reviewed
- Teacher recommendations requested & submitted
- Counselor recommendation & transcript submitted
- SAT/ACT/AP scores sent (if required)
- FAFSA opened (Oct 1) & CSS Profile submitted (if required)
- Double-check each college portal for missing items

## College Essays

### Common App Essay Prompts (2025–26)

- Identity, interest, or talent story
- Challenge, setback, or failure
- Time you questioned a belief/idea
- Gratitude experience
- Accomplishment or realization that sparked growth
- Topic or idea that fascinates you
- Essay on a topic of your choice

### Real Supplemental Essay Prompts by College

#### Why Us?

- **NYU:** "What motivated you to apply to NYU, and specifically to the school or program you have applied for?"
- **Michigan:** "Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School..."
- **Duke:** "What is your sense of Duke as a university and a community, and why do you consider it a good match?"

## Community & Identity

- **MIT:** "Describe one way in which you have contributed to your community."
- **Stanford:** "Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you."
- **Brown:** "Tell us about a place or community you call home."

## Academic Interests

- **Cornell:** "Describe two or three of your intellectual interests and why you are excited to pursue them."
- **USC:** "Describe how you plan to pursue your academic interests at USC."
- **Carnegie Mellon:** "What passion or inspiration led you to choose this area of study?"

## Creative & Quirky

- **UChicago:** "What advice would a wisdom tooth have?"
- **Wake Forest:** "If you could create a new course at Wake Forest, what would it be and why?"
- **Tufts:** "'Let your life speak.' Describe the environment in which you were raised..."

## PSAT Reminder (Sophomores & Juniors)

**Test Date:** Mid-October (confirm with your school)

Why it matters:

- Prepares you for the SAT
- Juniors may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship
- Highlights strengths & weaknesses

How to prepare:

- Use the **Bluebook** App for practice tests
- Link results to **Khan Academy** for a personalized plan

## Resource of the Week

- **PSAT Info:** <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>
- **Common App Essay Guide:** <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>
- **College Essay Guy (Free Tools):** <https://www.collegeessayguy.com>