

Senior Year Timeline to College Readiness

Take or retake the ACT or SAT

While there is a cost associated with taking the ACT or SAT multiple times, a higher score can enhance your eligibility for academic scholarships. Some private scholarships may also require test scores.

File the FAFSA*

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The FAFSA is the #1 place to get financial aid for college. Even if you feel like you wouldn't be eligible, still apply, it's free!

**Many scholarships and some colleges require it to be completed.*

The FAFSA provides:

Grants: free money for eligible students.
Loans: borrowed money for all students.
Work-Study: funding for a campus-affiliated part-time job for eligible students.

Apply for scholarships

There are many different types of scholarships.

The best way to find them is to:

- Search scholarship websites
- Talk to your counselor about local scholarship opportunities
- Apply to college and department-specific scholarships

Start early and apply to as many as you can. Every scholarship helps.

What's next?

- **Choose your college**
- **Deferment**, if applicable. This is for those postponing college for religious service, military, humanitarian service, etc.
- **Attend new student orientation**
- **Meet with your academic advisor** at the college
- **Register** for classes

Beginning of senior year



Fall



All year



October

FAFSA

*** Social Security Numbers are required for students filing the FAFSA.**

Don't have an SSN? You may still qualify for in-state tuition, waivers, and private scholarships. Contact the scholarship, financial aid, or international offices at the colleges you're interested in to learn more. You can also talk to your school counselor to help explore your options.

November



All year



Spring



End of the school year



First day of college

Meet with your high school counselor

Meet with your high school counselor as soon as possible to discuss college admissions deadlines, the ACT/SAT, scholarships, and financial aid (FAFSA). Prepare a list of questions to bring with you, and take notes during your appointment.

Keep your GPA up all year

Your GPA plays a big role in scholarships and some college applications. Many colleges in Utah offer academic scholarships that take your GPA and/or ACT/SAT scores to determine an award amount. You can earn this scholarship just by applying to the college!

Research college deadlines & apply

Some colleges have priority application deadlines as early as November. Be sure to check the deadlines for the schools you're interested in and apply as soon as possible.

AdmitUtah.com makes it easy to apply to all of Utah's public colleges in one place.

Accept financial aid offers

If you filed the FAFSA and/or applied for scholarships, expect a financial aid offer by spring. This offer may include scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. Ask the college or your school counselor how to accept your offer.

**Some students may need to submit additional documents to the college to verify FAFSA info. Follow the college's instructions.*