

Quick Guide

Countdown to US University Study

16 months prior to completing Year 12:

- View “[Your 5 Steps to US Study](https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study)” at educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study.
- View “[Applying to US Universities](https://coursera.org/learn/study-in-usa)” at coursera.org/learn/study-in-usa.
- Attend college fairs/tertiary career nights. Talk to your parents.
- Attend a free Group Information Session held by EducationUSA during the school holidays.
- Research universities using search engines and websites. Try collegeboard.org/bigfuture or collegeview.com. More websites are listed on the *Quick Guide: Useful Websites*.
- If needed, register to sit the US standardized admissions tests (ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests) at the end of Year 11 or beginning of Year 12. Register at: sat.collegeboard.org/home; actstudent.org/regist/outside.
- Prepare for the SAT or ACT by doing past exams. Free test prep for SAT available at: khanacademy.org/sat and ACT at actstudent.org/sampletest.

12 months prior to completing Year 12:

- Optional: Register to sit the SAT or ACT again in May if you are not satisfied with your first results.
- Optional: Register to sit for the SAT Subject Tests in May if your target colleges require them. *Remember, in some cases the ACT may be taken in place of SAT Subject Tests. Please check with the university.*
- Research universities in more detail; visit their websites to get information on tuition, housing and possible scholarship opportunities.
- Take a virtual tour online of the colleges that interest you.

6 months prior to completing Year 12:

- Speak with your Year 12 Careers Adviser to ensure your transcript from Years 9-12 will be ready to send to all the colleges you are applying to.
- Approach two teachers for letters of recommendation.
- Start to draft your personal essay.
- Identify the 6-8 Colleges you will apply to.
- Download the Common Application (available early August) at commonapp.org or look into Coalition Application <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>.
- Check-in with your teachers to ensure that the letters of recommendation are ready.

1 month prior to application deadlines:

- Complete all financial aid application forms.
- Complete all of your college applications.
- Ensure all documentation required from your high school has been submitted.
- Submit your applications BEFORE the deadline.

Following Year:

- Students notified of offers April 1 (Regular Decision)
- Acceptance of offer and deposit by May 1