

Congratulations! You're almost finished with high school. If you plan to wait until after graduation to start thinking about college, you'd better think again. There are many important steps to take now if you plan to begin college next fall.

#### Take the ACT or SAT

##### Take the ACT or SAT at least once.

To register for the next available test, visit:

[ACTStudent.org](https://actstudent.org) or  
[SAT.CollegeBoard.org](https://sat.collegeboard.org).

#### Choose a school

##### Narrow down your school choices.

Can't decide? Compare colleges at:

[OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) or  
[NCES.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator](https://nces.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator)

#### Find free money

##### Apply for grants and scholarships.

Many scholarship deadlines occur in January and February, so now is the best time to research scholarships.

Remember to apply for scholarships each year you're in college. Eligibility criteria change and new programs are added every year.

Click the *Find Scholarships* button at [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) to search for scholarships by category or by application due date.

For some great application tips and a list of free scholarship search websites, check out the *Scholarship Success Guide* in the student section at [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org).

#### Finish the FAFSA

##### Submit your FAFSA.

Go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You should complete your first FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1 of your senior year of high school and every year you need financial aid for college. Visit [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) to find helpful FAFSA completion tools and resources.

Your time is planned out by others.

You manage your own time.

Parents and teachers help you set priorities.

You set your own priorities.

You're often told what to do and corrected if you get out of line.

You're responsible for your actions and the consequences of your actions.

Classes usually have no more than 35 students.

Some classes may have hundreds of students.

You may study very little and cram just before a test.

For each hour of class time, you may need twice as much study time.

You read shorter assignments that are discussed and enforced in class.

You'll have large reading assignments, many of which won't be discussed in class.

Teachers provide information you missed when you were absent.

Professors expect you to get notes from your classmates when you're absent.

Teachers help you understand what's in the textbook.

Professors may not follow the textbook, and often lecture on other related topics.

Teachers write information on the board for you to copy into your notes.

Professors may only lecture. It's important to take accurate, organized notes.

You're reminded of assignments and due dates.

It's important to check each course syllabus for due dates and test dates.

You take several tests that cover small amounts of material.

You take fewer tests that cover large amounts of material.

You learn facts and skills, and you solve problems similar to those in your textbook.

You learn concepts. You're expected to apply what you've learned to new situations and solve new problems.

IN HIGH SCHOOL...

IN COLLEGE...

How is college different from high school?

