

College Application Timeline

When it comes to getting into the college of one's choice, a student gains the biggest advantage by **applying early**. Some colleges start accepting applications August 1 of a student's senior year. All colleges have their applications available by September 1 of the senior year. Because MCA seniors have extra responsibilities and some have a heavier course load, we highly recommend doing most of the work required for college applications during the junior year or the summer before the senior year. We also recommend submitting optional documents with the application such as an academic resume, letters of recommendation and writing the optional essays.

Here is a suggested timeline for students applying to selective colleges and universities.* For colleges with later deadlines, students could extend the timeline into the senior year.

MCA JUNIOR YEAR:

August: Register for the SAT or ACT. Take the tests multiple times during the junior year and at least one more time in the senior year.

September: ACT test available.

October: Begin your research of colleges and majors. All colleges have extensive websites. Take note of admission requirements, application deadlines and scholarship deadlines. Plan visits to the campuses you are most interested in.
SAT and ACT tests available.

November: Plan possible Mastery with Honor projects. MH projects may be listed as awards on the resume and application.
Plan or start community service.

December: SAT and ACT tests available.

January: Work on Mastery with Honor projects.
SAT test available.

February – March: Visit college campuses and departments of interest.
ACT test available in Feb.
SAT available in March.

March – May: Begin work on academic resume (extra-curricular activities, service, awards and work experience). See form.
ACT test available in April.
SAT test available in May.

SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR:

June: SAT and ACT tests available.

Update your MCA transcript.
Finish the academic resume.
Request 2 letters of recommendation.
Students applying for the Midland College Legacy Scholarship may perform the required community service this summer.
Research and begin applying for outside scholarships.

July: Write the required and optional essays. This takes longer than you expect.
Get multiple copies of your letters of recommendation.
Set up your ApplyTexas account.

MCA SENIOR YEAR:

August – September: Complete applications and submit. Many schools include their scholarship application with the admissions application.
Ask MCA to mail your official school transcript, school profile and Certification of Recommended H S Curriculum **after** you have submitted your application.
Mail in the optional documents like resumes, letters of recommendation, etc.

September: ACT test available

October: Apply for scholarships. SAT and ACT tests available.

November: Visit preferred colleges and departments if you have not done so already.
SAT test available

December: Call the Admissions Departments to check on your application status.
SAT and ACT tests available.

January: SAT test available.
Turn in the Legacy Scholarship Application with the community service hours if attending Midland College is a possibility.

February – March: Apply for the Permian Basin Foundation Scholarships. Most of these are due at the end of March.

May: If you have been accepted, many colleges require that you commit to attend or turn them down by May 1. Sign up to register for fall classes.

*Applications to Ivy League Colleges or the U.S. Military Academies would need to start earlier. Check their websites for deadlines and requirements.