

STEP 3: COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

So you successfully narrowed down your college options—what's next? Here's a typical college admissions timeline. Remember that deadlines at U.S. universities vary per institution so keep tabs on your dream university by checking their website!

Time Frame	College Prep Activity/Requirement	Check the box below if completed!
12 to 18 months prior to your application deadline	Attend college fairs, visit U.S. campuses, participate in in-person and online programs offered by EducationUSA Philippines or other parties.	
	Begin narrowing down your college options and looking for scholarships for international students at the same time. This search engine is a good place to start: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/ .	
	Prepare for standardized tests and ask for the help of your counselor in identifying review centers or signing up for prep sessions.	
10 to 12 months prior to your application deadline	Use our fact sheet on Researching your Options to find what types of universities or colleges to include on your list of schools.	
	Make a list of schools of your choice and put them on a spreadsheet with all relevant information you need to remember so you do not have to check each university website all the time.	
8 to 10 months prior to your application deadline	Complete your school list and share it with your counselor and education adviser to receive feedback.	
	Start filling out the application (Common App, Coalition, etc.).	



5 to 7 months prior to your application deadline	Gather necessary documents such as bank statements, transcripts, and official records.	
	Start to draft your essays and apply for financial aid (if applicable).	
	Ask for recommendation letters and share with your counselors some of the things you'd like them to highlight on your application.	
	Take English Language Proficiency tests if your university does not waive this requirement.	
2 to 5 months prior to your application deadline	Follow up on receipt of final recommendation letters.	
	Ask your counselor and EducationUSA adviser for feedback on your essays and other requirements.	
	Search for housing options and check deadlines for on-campus housing (some schools have mandatory first-year housing policies).	
1 to 2 months prior to your application deadline	Finalize your essays.	
	Complete all college applications and financial aid application forms.	
	Submit everything and keep track of your achievements while waiting for results—it can be useful if you are waitlisted!	

To learn more about **Completing Your Application**, visit <https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study/complete-your-application>.

