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<td>Have the “college” talk with your parents</td>
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<td>Start your essays</td>
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<td><strong>November</strong></td>
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- **Have the “college” talk with your parents**
  - Where do you want to go? What major? How much can you spend?

- **Start your essays**
  - With your top schools in mind, start drafting your essays and be sure to leave yourself time for edits, edits, and more edits.

- **Take the PSAT**
  - It can give you an idea of where you fall in the college applicant pool. Plus, your scores may make you eligible for national scholarships.

- **Secure letters of recommendation**
  - Reach out to teachers, coaches, and employers who would be happy to write you a glowing review. Don’t forget to send them a thank you note afterwards!

- **Submitt your FAFSA**
  - Some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first-served basis so don’t wait too long to submit your FAFSA.

- **Stay on top of deadlines**
  - Don’t let the date for early application sneak up on you. Many schools have different application deadlines; make sure you know when everything is due.

- **Make a list**
  - Keep a focused list of schools you’re interested in. Start planning campus visits for the spring and summer.

- **Apps are due**
  - January 1st is the universal deadline for most schools’ applications, so make sure yours are in. If you applied for early action, you could get your decision letter any day.

- **Final to-do items**
  - You can choose to attend orientation, register for your classes, and make sure your tuition bill is paid. Don’t forget, it’s also the time to have fun!
With all the essays, forms, and deposits, it’s easy to overlook some of the simple tasks. Don’t forget to check these off your list:

• See if your bank has branches and/or ATMs in your college’s city. If not, consider opening a bank account at a local bank.

• Limit roaming charges by double checking your cell phone plan. Does your plan cover your college’s location?

• Coordinate with your future roommate. Two TVs, two microwaves, and two futons are too much in a dorm.

• Get checked up! Visit the eye doctor, dentist, and physician before heading out.

• Make a plan to keep in touch. A video chat with your best friend or a letter from your family can be a nice reminder of home.