



Education  
**USA**

# Let's Get Started...

*Applying for Undergraduate Study*

## 12 to 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Obtain a valid [passport](#)
- Determine your top priorities
  - Use the [EducationUSA website](#) to begin your search
  - Complete an [EducationUSA Pre-Advising Survey](#)
    - Schedule 1:1 appointment with an advisor
  - Create a budget
    - Determine your family's contribution
    - Use a college cost [calculator](#)
  - Follow EducationUSA Canada on social media
    - Attend EducationUSA [Webinars](#)
    - Follow EducationUSA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
    - Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)
    - Read the [Study South of the Border](#) blog
  - Research and narrow your choices
    - Use college search engines (see purple box)
    - Consider universities with cross-border [tuition agreements](#) for Canadians
    - Attend an [education fair](#) near you
    - Explore college websites and take virtual campus tours
  - Schedule on campus tours (if possible)
- Work with your Guidance Counselor to ensure prerequisite requirements are met
- Prepare for standardized testing
  - Decide which tests to take ([SAT](#), [SAT Subject Tests](#), [ACT](#), [TOEFL](#), or [IELTS](#))
  - Decide how you will study
    - Take practice tests
    - Purchase a test prep book
    - Sign-up for free online resources (like [Khan Academy](#))
    - Purchase online resources
    - Enroll in a class
    - Hire a private tutor
- Register for an upcoming test date

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### College Search Tools

[Collegeboard.org](http://Collegeboard.org)  
[admitster.com](http://admitster.com)  
[petersons.com](http://petersons.com)  
[aacc.nche.edu](http://aacc.nche.edu)  
[cappex.com](http://cappex.com)  
[princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com)  
[hotcoursesabroad.com](http://hotcoursesabroad.com)



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## 12 to 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Perfect your resume
  - Take challenging, but achievable, coursework (AP, Honors, & IB classes)
  - Build relationships with adults who can write letters of reference
  - Take on leadership roles in clubs or sports
  - Develop work or volunteer experience
- Finance your studies
  - Identify types and sources of financial aid
    - University-provided aid: see university websites
    - Government of Canada [Loans](#) and [Scholarships](#)
    - Provincial Loans and Scholarships
  - Scholarship search engines (See purple box)
  - Special scholarships (Ex. Sports, Art, Cultural background)
  - [Work-study](#): Contact your university for specific details of program
  - On campus employment: International students can work up to 20 hours per week

### Funding your Studies

fundingsstudy.org  
yconic.com  
scholarshipscanada.com  
college-scholarships.com  
studentaidplus.com  
iefa.org  
internationalscholarships.com

## 6 to 12 MONTHS PROIR TO ENROLLMENT

- Complete your application
  - Transcripts
  - Standardized test scores
  - Admissions essays
  - Letter(s) of Recommendation
  - Proof of financial support
- Prepare for your departure
  - [Canadian citizens](#) do not need to apply for a student visa
  - Connect with your university's International Office
  - [Watch](#) or attend an EducationUSA Pre-Departure orientation
  - Confirm on-campus or off-campus housing
  - Consider cell phone plans or an international SIM card
  - Plan for banking; your Canadian bank may have a U.S. option
  - Determine how will you get around (bus pass, bike, scooter, car)
  - Secure health insurance

### Crossing the Border

Passport  
I-20 or DS-2019  
Proof of SEVIS payment  
Proof of funds  
Driver's License  
University contact info  
Your new address