



Rhodes College

The College Selection Journey

The key to unlocking the complexities of the admission process is **planning**. Below you will find a timeline that will help you plan for what should happen – and when – as you prepare to enroll in college.

Requirements

Liberal arts colleges of Rhodes' caliber typically require four years of English, three to four years of math, three to four years of science, at least two years of the same foreign language and two years of social studies. Students should also challenge themselves by taking plenty of the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or honors level courses the high school offers. This is especially true for those who want to be considered for competitive fellowships and scholarships.

Fall, Sophomore Year or Fall, Junior Year

With the taking of the PSAT or PLAN exam (precursors of the SAT I and the ACT), the college search process begins in earnest.

Students may check a box on the testing form to indicate they'd like to receive information from colleges and universities. The testing services then sell those names and addresses to colleges and universities.

Spring, Sophomore Year or Spring, Junior Year

Prospective students must take either the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I) or the American College Test (ACT) to be considered by Rhodes. If a student takes the SAT I or ACT more than once, Rhodes will consider the highest score in its evaluation. With respect to the SAT I, that means Rhodes will consider a student's highest critical reading score and his or her highest math score, even if those scores were earned on different test dates. With the ACT, Rhodes will consider the highest composite score. We do not average the highest sub-scores from multiple tests on the ACT.

Spring is a good time to attend college fairs held by local high schools and school systems. Colleges send counselors or alumni to represent the institution and answer prospective students' questions.

Summer before Senior Year

Summer is a convenient time for travel, and we will welcome you to our beautiful campus. Life is uncharacteristically tranquil on campuses in the summer so you should plan to visit again the ones that interest you.

Fall, Senior Year

Autumn is most popular for campus visits. Whereas a campus visit no longer counts for much at many large institutions, Rhodes still recommends the practice. For academically borderline students and those who wish

to compete for competitive fellowships and scholarships, participating in an interview is a positive indicator of a student's interest in Rhodes. In addition to two half-day open houses hosted by Rhodes each fall, students may visit individually. Visits may include a tour of the campus, an interview or information session with an admissions officer, sitting in on a class, spending the night in a residence hall, and informal discussions with faculty or coaches.

November-December, Senior Year

There are two deadlines for applying early decision (if a student is sure Rhodes is the school for them). The deadline for Early Decision I is November 1 and the deadline for Early Decision II is January 1. Those who apply early decision are notified by December 1 (for ED I) or February 1 (for ED II). December is also the final deadline for taking the SAT I or ACT.

January 15, Senior Year

Calling all procrastinators. For those students who work best under pressure, this is the last day for submitting an application on time. Applications must be postmarked by January 15.

January 15-March 1, Senior Year

Each of the 3,900 or so applications Rhodes receives is evaluated, read and considered for admission and fellowship/scholarship by at least two admissions counselors. Many are discussed at length by the entire admissions committee. Collectively Rhodes' staff spends at least 30 minutes reviewing each application.

March, Senior Year

Students seeking need-based financial aid should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS PROFILE by March 1.

Late March, Senior Year

Say "so-long" to nail-biting and mailbox monitoring. Rhodes notifies by letter all students who applied by the January 15 deadline, telling them of our admission decision. The notification of need-based aid and competitive scholarships goes out a week or two later.

Late April, Senior Year

For accepted students and parents who want "one last look" before making the big college decision, Rhodes' College Preview Program offers an afternoon-long glimpse at campus and extracurricular life.

May 1, Senior Year

The tables have turned. Now that Rhodes has made its choice, it's the students' turn to choose. Today, commonly known as the "Candidate's Reply Date," is the deadline for accepted students to commit to Rhodes or another college of choice...or to decline the offer of admission.

May 2, Senior Year

Years of hard work and months of research more than pay off. The countdown to college decision making may be over, but the fun is just beginning.