**January**

* + Identify characteristics you want in a college
	+ Attend college fairs and financial aid nights
	+ Clear up the financial aid myths about paying for college (managingcollegecosts.com)
	+ Let your parents know that the IRS could save them money through education tax deductions and credits
	+ Research specific college entrance requirements

**February**

* + Start searching for scholarships (studentscholarshipsearch.com, fastweb.com, naviance.com)
	+ Register and study for the SAT and/or ACT. All Juniors will take the test in April.
	+ Select senior year classes - check with your counselor to ensure your courses meet necessary college requirements

**March**

* + Plan campus visits
	+ Narrow your college list to a reasonable number
	+ Contact the financial aid office for each college on your list to discuss payment options
	+ Keep up college discussions with your family and counselors
	+ Get answers to your "going-to-college" questions
	+ Estimate how much various colleges will cost

**April–May**

* + Decide when to register for any necessary entrance exams.
	+ Download College Answer's Campus Visit Checklist (pdf) and start visiting colleges
	+ Take the SAT and/or ACT, if necessary.
	+ Take Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if necessary
	+ Get a summer job to save extra money
	+ Considering a military academy or an ROTC scholarship? Meet with your high school counselor

**Summer after Junior Year**

* + Improve your reading and vocabulary skills
	+ Continue searching for scholarships and ways to pay
	+ Combine vacation plans with campus visits
	+ Start working on your college application essays
	+ Talk to people in interesting careers
	+ Decide who you’ll ask to write letters of recommendation
	+ Talk with college friends home for summer