**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