

# ✓ Checklist For College Planning

WHEN TO BEGIN	WHAT TO DO	HOW TO DO IT
<input type="checkbox"/> Freshman and sophomore years	Become familiar with college entrance requirements and continue career exploration activities. Which courses in your high school curriculum satisfy college requirements? Do you have a plan for extracurricular involvement?	Work with parents, teachers, and counselors to create a four-year high school curriculum plan to satisfy your goals. Try job shadowing. Get involved at school and in your community.
<input type="checkbox"/> September-March of junior year	Think about your reasons for going to college. What are your goals? What learning opportunities are most important? Do your college plans include career plans?	Talk with your parents, counselors, teachers, and friends. Investigate possible career options and degree level required.
<input type="checkbox"/> January-March of junior Year	Identify important factors in choosing a college. Two-year or four-year? Location? Cost? Kind of atmosphere? Variety of study programs available? Entrance test requirement?	Focus on your goals and career interests. Consult college guidebooks. Explore colleges on the Internet. Prepare for your college admission test.
<input type="checkbox"/> March-August of junior Year	List colleges you are considering and collect information. Have you included all possible choices? What information do you need? How can you get it?	Attend college fairs and college night programs. Prepare for and visit colleges. Take appropriate college admission test.
<input type="checkbox"/> August-December of senior year	Compare the colleges on your list. Have you weighed pros and cons carefully? Which colleges will meet your needs?	Continue visiting colleges. Organize information into detailed, useful comparisons.
<input type="checkbox"/> September-December of senior year	Apply to your "choice" colleges. Do you have all the necessary forms? Are you sure of the application deadlines?	Obtain application forms. Observe deadlines. Submit transcript and test scores (retest if necessary).
<input type="checkbox"/> January-February of senior year	Apply for financial aid. Have you investigated all possible sources of aid? When should you apply?	Consult financial aid office. Secure forms and note deadlines. Complete the FAFSA after January 1.
<input type="checkbox"/> November-May of senior year	Make some final decisions. What additional preparation might be helpful? Should you consider summer school? Do you feel comfortable with your final choice?	Confer with parents and counselors. Confirm your decision, and decline other admission offers. Show initiative.

## Resources to Help You Explore and Prepare

**College Search and Application** – Log on to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and check under Quick Tools! The College Search, College Application, and Financial Aid Estimator buttons will lead you to a wealth of information. You will find data on virtually every postsecondary institution in the country, a free financial aid estimator, and electronic admissions applications for over 500 colleges and universities.

**ACT Test Preparation** – Do your best on the ACT Assessment by preparing early! Consider using ACTIVE Prep®, the only "official" electronic ACT test preparation program. You can order this CD-ROM software through ACT's website ([www.act.org/activeprep/](http://www.act.org/activeprep/)), call ACT Customer Services at 319-337-1429, or request it when you register for the ACT.

