



## HANDOUT 26

### Quotations about Moving On in My Life

For every one of us that succeeds, it's because there's somebody there to show you the way out. The light doesn't necessarily have to be in your family; for me it was teachers and school.

*Oprah Winfrey*

If you don't know where you're going to, you will end up somewhere else.

*Lewis Carroll; Alice in Wonderland*

That's the risk you take if you change: that people you've been involved with won't like the new you. But other people who do will come along.

*Lisa Alther*

Every exit is an entry somewhere.

*Tom Stoppard*

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

*Anatole France*

"No" can be one of the most positive words in the world. No, I will not be defeated. No, I will not give up.

*Martha Williamson*

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.

*Langston Hughes*

If Plan A isn't working, I have Plan B, Plan C, and even Plan D.

*Serena Williams*

Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well.

*Josh Billings*

Live out of your imagination, not your history.

*Stephen Covey*

You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.

*Maya Angelou*

How defeated and restless the child that is not doing something in which it sees a purpose, a meaning! It is by its self-directed activity that the child, as years pass, finds its work, the thing it wants to do and for which it finally is willing to deny itself pleasure, ease, even sleep and comfort.

*Ida M. Tarbell*

Failure is an event, not a person.

*William D. Brown*

Failure is more interesting than success.

*Max Beerbohm*

Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself.

*Harvey Fierstein*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity: Imagining the Future

Imagine what your life would be like if you traveled in a time machine ten years into the future. If you're happy where you landed, what did you do to get there? If you're unhappy where you landed, what can you do now to change course?

### One year from now:

I won't see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Instead, I'll probably see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be living \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be dissatisfied with \_\_\_\_\_

I'll be very happy because \_\_\_\_\_

### Five years from now:

I won't see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Instead, I'll probably see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be living \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be dissatisfied with \_\_\_\_\_

I'll be very happy because \_\_\_\_\_

Ten years from now:

I won't see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Instead, I'll probably see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be living \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be dissatisfied with \_\_\_\_\_

I'll be very happy because \_\_\_\_\_

Fifteen years from now:

I won't see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Instead, I'll probably see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be living \_\_\_\_\_

I'll probably be dissatisfied with \_\_\_\_\_

I'll be very happy because \_\_\_\_\_

Make two predictions about things you will do in the next three months that set you on a course to a positive future.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

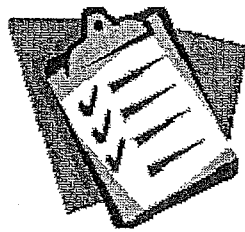
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2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

JUNIOR YEAR



COLLEGE CALENDER  
and  
RESOURCE GUIDE FOR  
STUDENTS

## August

- Review your high school coursework and activity plans.
- Keep in mind colleges are looking for the following:
  - Challenging coursework
  - GPA and rank in class
  - How you spend your free time- your involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, church or community.
- Make Sure you have a social security number
- READ

## September

- Identify the sources of college and career information in our school.
- Collect information about colleges you are interested in attending. Consider:
  - Location, size and facilities
  - Cost
  - Majors and requirements
- Put together a list of 10 colleges that you would like to attend. This list may change over the coming year. Keep your initial options open.
- Make it a habit to read what's on the Guidance Bulletin Board and read or pick up the Senior Newsletter (available in guidance or on the school's web site)
- Talk to your parents and guidance counselor about where you want to go to school.
- Get information about and register to take the PSAT.
- Obtain dates and locations of college fairs in the area and attend college information night at TMHS.
- READ

## October

- Take the PSAT. Sign up for the free student search service when you take the PSAT/NMSQT to receive information from colleges.
- When taking the PSAT, understand you will be getting your own test booklet back with your test scores. You may use your test booklet to make notations for yourself that can help you prepare for SAT's in the spring.
- READ

## November

- First quarter grades are out. Are these where you want your grades to be? What improvements can you make? Colleges look especially close at junior year grades.
- Start a general search on scholarships and loans. Keep an ongoing file of information.
- Start limiting your list of colleges. Check their catalogs and websites for general or specific information.
- If you have not already done so, make an appointment to start or update your TMHS portfolio. Take an interest inventory or start a file on your college interests; update your resume.
- READ



## December

- Your PSAT score report should be arriving. Use their guide and your test booklet to critically review your test results.
- Go to [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart) to access a free personalized planning kit based on your test results.
- You may start receiving information from the college search service. Continue to revise your list of colleges.
- Obtain SAT/ACT testing dates and registration deadlines. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org) . Check entrance requirements of your colleges to find out about specific tests you will need to take.
- Attend financial aid information night.
- READ

## January

- Focus on you high school courses and start preparing early for midterm & final exams
- Continue preparing for the SAT's
- Begin planning visits to some of the schools on your list.
- Give enough notice so that during our college visits, you can meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid officer to find out what kind of aid is available. At your request, schools can also arrange to have you observe some classes or spend an overnight.
- READ

## February

- Mid year grades are out. Is this where you want your grades to be? What can you do to improve them?
- Make an appointment in the guidance office to look into local job shadowing possibilities.
- Make an appointment with your councilor to review courses for senior year. Are you going to meet admission requirements for colleges on your list?
- Look into registering for SAT I and/or II. Consider ACT. Collegeboard.com Act.org. Check your college's requirements for testing.
  - Typically students take the SAT twice, one in May or June of their junior year and again in October or November of the senior year. Look carefully at the best choices for you. Get feedback from your counselor. You must register directly through the College Board at least 6 weeks in advance. Registration materials and practice test are in the Guidance Office.
- READ

## March

- Continue investigating outside funding sources. A list of various financial institutions and websites are available in the Guidance Office. Free scholarship searches are also available through websites.
  
- Register for the SAT on [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com). Take practice tests on various websites.
  
- READ

## April

- File service academy and ROTC scholarship applications if your college search has led you in this direction.
- April vacation may be an opportune time to visit colleges.
- Practice your writing skills and start preparing for college admission and scholarship essays.
- READ

## May

- Take the SAT exam/or register for the June Exam. Register for the ACT exam test in June.
- If applicable, take the AP exams.
- Attend the spring college fair at the Hartford Civic Center. Hint: Bring labels with your name and address to request information.
- Continue to revise and update your college search file. Start limiting your list to a reasonable number of schools.
- Check out the local scholarships as they become available to seniors. Make notes about those you could apply for and include this information in your scholarship file. Note special requirements such as community service, GPA, and intended major.
- READ

## June

- Take the SAT/ACT if you didn't take it in May, or the SAT II. Make sure you know testing requirements for your colleges.
- Start preparing for your final exams.
- Obtain a summer job, or volunteer time in an area related to your career interests.
- Consider college visits over the summer.
- Start writing your drafts for college essays.
- READ

## TMHS Guidance Office

### Computers – for student use

Update activity sheet

Take an interest survey/personality profile

Research careers

Research post graduate options

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

[www.echoices.com](http://www.echoices.com)

### Books

Index of Majors – colleges categorized by major

College Handbook – colleges listed alphabetical

College Catalogs – individual college catalogs that including:

- Required high school course
- Admissions requirements
- Specific courses by major
- Campus opportunities
  - athletics
  - extracurricular
  - campus life

### PSAT, SAT, and ACT information

Registration packets/Sample tests

### Financial Aid

FAFSA applications- available starting in December for all seniors applying for financial aid.

Local scholarships on file as they become available.

- Listen to announcements/ check the bulletin board.

College representatives – In the fall college reps visit our school to hear about you and discuss their programs.

- Listen to announcements/ check the bulletin board.



## Questions to ask college representatives

College reps, as well as college students, admissions counselors, and faculty, genuinely enjoy talking to high school students. They like to share their ideas about their college, and they all appreciate students who have thought about the college and want to know more than is in the course catalog, in the viewbook, or on the Web site. They like thoughtful questions, and their answers can help you make a good college match. Ask questions of interest to you in the following categories:

### Students

- How would you characterize the majority of students?
- From what economic background are the majority of students?
- Are there clubs, activities, or housing that are minority related?
- What do students like most about the college? Like least?
- Has the student government made any real contribution to the school? How do you get into student government?
- What political, social, or academic issues concerned students last year? How did the administration react? What was the resolution?

### Social life and campus activities

- What do students do for fun?
- What is the role of fraternities and sororities on campus? If I didn't want to join, could I have a satisfactory social life?
- What are the dominant social groups on campus? Do the groups get along with one another? Have there been any problems?
- What role do team sports play in the social life of the college? What happens on football or basketball weekends? If I didn't want to join in, would I find kindred spirits?
- Is there a good balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- What were the social or cultural highlights last year?
- What is the role of the campus newspaper?
- Is there an alcohol problem and, if so, how is the college handling it? What is the incidence of binge drinking? Do students feel safe on campus?

### Campus facilities

#### *Housing and dining*

- Is there something I should know about housing that would help me in my choice?
- What are the types of food plans? All you can eat? Vegetarian? Kosher?

# Questions to ask college representatives

## (page 2)

### *Activity centers and athletic and recreational facilities*

- What kinds of facilities does the student center have? Is it a magnet for student activities? Are there other hangouts?
- Do you think the college pays attention to its appearance?
- How would you rate the fitness center?

### *Health, career counseling, special student services, and security*

- Is there a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or career counselor on campus? What is the waiting period for appointments?
- Is the office for special services adequate to the demand?
- How good is the security on campus?

### *Library*

- What have been students' experiences with the library? Have there been complaints?
- Is the library well equipped with computers and copy machines?

### **The community off campus**

- What is there to do in town? How would I get there?

### **Academics and faculty**

- What is distinctive about education here? What is the educational philosophy of the college? Has it changed much in recent years?
- Is the honor code working? How widespread is cheating?
- What is the most popular major on campus? Why?
- Do you think that students are generally enthusiastic about their classes? Do people talk about their courses outside of class?
- How would you characterize the academic pressure and workload?
- Are there research possibilities with the faculty? In what areas?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the advising system?
- What is the quality of student and faculty relationships? Is the faculty interested in and accessible to students after class? Do faculty members participate in student activities?
- Are curriculum changes in the works? How will that affect my college years?
- Are any departments being cut back or discontinued? If so, why?
- Are any new programs scheduled for the next four years?

**Source:** Adapted from *Campus Visits & College Interviews* by Zola Dincin Schneider (College Board, 2002). This book has many more questions you might ask of college representatives, plus chapters on every aspect of the interview and campus visit.

## How to get the most out of a college fair: Tips for students from the Associated Colleges of the Midwest

### Going to a college fair

- Take along a pen and a small notebook.
- Take a bag to carry the brochures you pick up.
- Print out some address labels with your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, high school, and year of graduation. Spend your time at the college tables asking questions, not filling out contact cards!
- When you arrive, check out the floor plan and find out where the tables for your top-choice colleges are located so you can go directly to them.
- Write your most important questions down in advance so you don't forget them.
- Check on whether any information sessions, such as financial aid, are being offered. Interested? Budget your time accordingly.
- Jot down notes about a college while your memory is fresh, such as right after visiting the table.
- Pick up the business cards of any representatives you talk to, so you can contact them if you have any more questions.

### After you get home

- Make a point of going through the materials and your notes within one week after the fair. You'll probably remember more about your conversations with college representatives while the memories from the fair are still fresh.
- Follow up with any college that interests you by contacting the admissions office to ask further questions, and, if possible, plan a visit to the campus.

*Source: Associated Colleges of the Midwest ([www.acm.edu](http://www.acm.edu))*

## Should you apply under an Early Decision program?

### What is Early Decision?

Some colleges have an Early Decision (ED) plan. Under this plan, a student submits his or her credentials early (usually by November 1 or November 15) and signs a statement (binding) that he or she will accept the college's offer of admission.

### Who should apply for Early Decision?

Ideal candidates for ED should fit both of these profiles:

- You have researched colleges extensively (visited at least three or four) and are absolutely sure that College X is your first choice. If you are accepted under an Early Decision program, you have committed yourself to attending that college and must withdraw all other applications.
- You meet or exceed the admissions profile of students at College X (i.e., your SAT<sup>®</sup> scores, GPA, and class rank should be comparable to students at College X). You should have completed one round of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests<sup>™</sup> by October of your senior year. Some colleges, however, will accept November test scores if the scores are rushed to the admissions office. You have an academic record that has been consistently solid over time.

If you know that your senior-year grades will be much better than your grades in previous years, you may wish to apply under the regular admissions program and allow the college to evaluate your improvement.

### What are the advantages of Early Decision programs?

Your application is reviewed early and you receive notification of your admissions status by December 15. If you are accepted, you avoid having to complete other applications. Your application is reviewed against a smaller applicant pool. (However, it is usually a much stronger pool than the group of candidates for regular admissions.)

### What are the disadvantages of Early Decision programs?

Obviously, you could be rejected early. And next April, when other students receive their acceptances, you may end up wondering, "Could I have been accepted to Y University?" You might change your mind, but you are bound by contract to attend College X.

# Should you apply under an Early Decision program? (page 2)

**What are some of the mistakes students make in choosing to apply for Early Decision?**

- applying to a college for ED when they have not researched/visited any other colleges
- applying early to a college just to avoid the paperwork and stress
- applying early because a friend is doing so

**What about financial aid?**

When applying under an ED program, you fill out a preliminary financial aid form from the college. (Some colleges use the CSS Financial Aid/PROFILE® form available on the Internet at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).) You will be notified of your financial aid package at the time of your acceptance. The package will be determined by the college based on an assessment of your family's economic needs.

If financial aid is an essential factor for you in selecting a college, you may not wish to apply under an Early Decision program because you will not be able to compare your aid package with financial aid offers from other colleges.

## **Questions**

Direct your questions about Early Decision programs to your college of choice. Institutions can and do vary in their implementation of early programs. There are also numerous Early Action programs, which are nonbinding. Contact the colleges about the regulations of each program, as they can vary widely.

*Source: Carlene Riccelli, Amherst Regional High School, Massachusetts*

## College resources for students and families

### General Web sites

**ACT, Inc.** The Web site for information on the ACT, including registration, test dates, etc. [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

**Campus Tours: Virtual College Tours.** Virtual tours with still pictures and descriptions, webcams, campus maps, and videos of hundreds of colleges throughout the United States. Provides a first look at colleges. [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com).

**The College Board.** A complete site, with college and scholarship searches, information about the SAT® and SAT Subject Tests™, and other material pertaining to the college search and application process. Easy-to-use college search feature. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**Collegiate Choice Walking Tours Videos.** A site run by a group of independent counselors in New Jersey who offer videos of walking tours of more than 350 colleges, providing “an unedited recording of an actual student-guided campus tour offered at that college.” [www.collegiatechoice.com](http://www.collegiatechoice.com).

**eCampusTours.com.** Virtual tours of colleges. Useful for its 360-degree views of dorm rooms and other buildings. [www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com).

**NCAA Eligibility Center.** Official NCAA Web site that gives details of student-eligibility requirements to play NCAA sports. Watch this site for changes in eligibility; students can print the “Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.” [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

**Peterson’s Education Portal.** An all-purpose site including a college search, as well as information about summer programs, summer camps, and jobs. The site asks you to register before using some of the search engines and other resources, but there is no registration fee. There is a charge for some of the services provided. [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com).

**U.S. Department of Education.** The federal government’s Web site is easy to use and an excellent source of information on financial aid, much of it in Spanish as well as English. [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

### Financial aid Web sites

**The College Board.** Has a scholarship search, a loan calculator, and an online application form for the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® form, which is required by some colleges. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**FAFSA on the Web.** The Web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year (after January 1 and by June 30) for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically at this site. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**FastWeb.** Extensive information on merit- and need-based scholarships and aid. [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

**FinAid!** Good site for information about types of financial aid and applying for financial aid. [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

## College resources for students and families (page 2)

### Books

#### Comprehensive objective directories

*Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*. New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Updated every two years.

*The College Board College Handbook*. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

*Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

*Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges*. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

#### Subjective guides

Fiske, Edward, and Robert Logue (contributor). *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*. Illinois: Sourcebooks Trade. Updated annually.

Greene, Howard, and Matthew W. Greene. *Greene's Guide to Educational Planning: The Public Ivies*. HarperCollins, 2001.

Greene, Howard R., and Matthew W. Greene. *The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.

Pope, Loren. *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Staff of *Yale Daily News*. *The Insider's Guide to the Colleges*. New York: St. Martin's Press. Updated annually.

#### Specialized topics

Aaron, Scott. *Jewish U: A Contemporary Guide for the Jewish College Student*. Urj Press, 2002

*College Board Book of Majors*. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Detailed descriptions, written by professors, of more than 180 popular majors, plus lists of 900 majors and the colleges that offer them.

*Getting Financial Aid*. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Mathews, Jay. *Harvard Schmarvard: Getting Beyond the Ivy League to the College That Is Best For You*. New York: Prima Publishing, 2003. Good insights on the college choice process from the education columnist for the *Washington Post*.

Nelson Reference. *Nelson's Complete Guide to Colleges & Universities for Christians*. 2002.

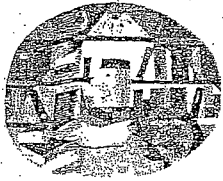
Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *The Hillel Guide to Jewish Life on Campus*. 14th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 1999.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. 8th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 2005.

Schoem, David. *College Knowledge: 101 Tips for the College-Bound Student*. University of Michigan Press, 2005. Practical advice on how to become engaged in college intellectual and cultural life.

Windmeyer, Shane L. *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students*. Boston: Alyson Publications, 2006.

Strichart, Stephen S., and Charles T. Mangrum, II (eds.). *Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder*. 7th ed. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides, 2003.



## SAT Practice Websites

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"Practice makes perfect, especially when it comes to those pesty standardized tests."

### NUMBER2

<http://www.number2.com>

You can take a practice test for free at Number2.com, a test-prep site designed by university professors and graduate students. Online tutorials are free but users are required to sign up. Practice tests are available for the SAT, ACT, and the GRE (for graduate school). The site contains tutorials, practice sessions that dynamically adapt to each user's ability level, and a vocabulary builder with over 2000 words. Designed for students in grades 9-12, Number2.com also offers a "coach" feature that allows teachers and/or parents to mentor students and monitor their progress throughout the test prep process.

### EMBAK ONLINE TEST PREP

<http://www.embark.com/locker/testprep.asp>

Embark asks you to register using your e-mail address and zip code, but once you're in you have access to 3 complete SAT practice tests. You will receive an immediate score for your efforts and recommendations for how to sharpen your performance before you actually go in to take the real deal. There's also an SAT Tutorial available on the same page and links to ACT practice tests too!

### COLLEGEBOARD'S SAT PREP CENTER

<http://apps.collegeboard.com/satprep/index.jsp>

Links to a download for a free application used to simulate the SAT. The program allows users to Take a 68-question timed Mini-SAT with real questions, get feedback on how they did, a predicted score, and a personal study plan.

### DO YOUR MATH

[http://www.doyourmath.com/all\\_tests.asp](http://www.doyourmath.com/all_tests.asp)

Do Your Math offers practice tests for PSAT and SAT math items, and they're quick loading and browser-friendly. Each test has several dozen questions and your score is tallied on the 800 point SAT scale upon your completion. Do these problems give you trouble? Then go to GoMath <http://www.gomath.com/> where they offer interactive, animated demonstrations of all kinds of Math principles and concepts!

### TESTU'S SAT "CRUNCH" COURSE

[http://www.testu.com/products/aolsat/enroll/aol\\_home.asp](http://www.testu.com/products/aolsat/enroll/aol_home.asp)

A customized online preparation course based on each student's strengths and weaknesses. Four weeks of interactive test preparation, including a diagnostic test, a personalized curriculum, learning units practice tests, and a full length proctored SAT exam.

### 4TESTS.COM

<http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=6>

This site lives up to what other sites promise: an actual abbreviated practice test that allows students to check their proficiency in the Math and Verbal categories. There's over 100 questions here, and once you're done taking the test you can have it graded as a whole and then analyzed item by item if you wish. This site is nicely formatted and not too much of a strain on older browsers. There are similar tests offered here for the GED, ACT and TOEFL.

### FREE VOCABULARY

<http://www.freevocabulary.com/>

Here's a site that offers 5000 definitions to words commonly found on standardized tests like the SAT. It's a grocery list folks, best saved to your hard drive so you can use your browser's Find function to quickly sort through words later. There's also a link to Texas Instruments where they have created Study Cards that run on the TI-73 and TI-83 Plus covering vocabulary, literature, math science, social studies, the arts and much, much more!

### POWERPREP

<http://powerprep.com/satstrat.htm>

Powerprep offers four free downloadable SAT practice programs in return for a free registration: the Diagnostic Test, Digital Reader, Online Strategies and VocabMaster Lite. Each file is 1 meg or less for quick downloading. There's also free classes and tutorials. Be careful to examine each practice opportunity carefully, though, as the company also markets full versions of their software.



## Countdown to college

WELLS  
FARGO

Plan your path to education success with these month-by-month calendars, a resource from the CollegeSTEPS® Program.

### July

- Review your high school courses and activities. Colleges look for challenging course work, strong grades, and extracurricular activities.

### August

- Browse college catalogs and guidebooks, and surf the Web for information.
- List 10 colleges you would like to attend.
- Talk to your parents and high school guidance counselor about that list to narrow it down.
- Register and study for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- Plan to attend college fairs and parents' nights in your area.

### October

- Take the PSAT.
- Research Advanced Placement (AP) or college courses you might take.
- Continue researching organizations that award scholarships to graduating seniors. You may need to apply for them the summer after your junior year.

### November

- Learn about eligibility requirements for federal and private student loans.
- Talk as a family about how much you can afford to spend for your education.

### January

- Plan for the next round of tests: the SAT and the ACT.
- Attend financial aid nights in your area.

### February

- Investigate private scholarships and other aid programs. Check with your parents' employers, local membership organizations, or programs related to your intended course of study.
- Make the most of spring break with a weeklong college tour.
- Register for the SAT and ACT. Take an exam prep course to help you succeed.

### March

- Visit the three to six schools on your final list. Schedule an admissions interview and an overnight stay. Take time at each school's financial aid office to collect information.
- Begin preparing essays for admission and scholarship applications.
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Mark your calendar with the dates for future tests.

### May

- Take the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Mark your calendar with the dates for future tests.

### June

- Continue researching organizations that award scholarships to graduating seniors. You may need to apply for them the summer after your junior year.

### Want more?

Get even more help planning for college with our CollegeSTEPS™ Resource Connection. You'll get a list of questions to ask on campus visits, a step-by-step guide to financial aid, links to our blog about financing education, and more at [wellsfargo.com/collegeplanning](http://wellsfargo.com/collegeplanning).