

From Here to College in 14 Steps

College planning can be overwhelming and many families start too late. To help, we've simplified it to just the most essential steps to take during junior and senior years. Parents and guardians can use it to guide their students on their journey to college.

STEP 1  Meet with your school counselor and check in regularly.	STEP 2  Sign up for a collegeboard.org account to track college-planning milestones.	STEP 3  Take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of junior year.	STEP 4  Search for scholarships big and small on bigfuture.org .	STEP 5  Get a free, personalized SAT practice plan and start preparing at satpractice.org .
STEP 6  Take the SAT for the first time during spring of junior year.	STEP 7  Search for colleges at bigfuture.org .	STEP 8  Get the real cost of schools you're considering by calculating their "net price."	STEP 9  Visit the campus of a college you're interested in.	STEP 10  Complete the FAFSA during October of senior year.
STEP 11  Apply to at least six schools in the fall of senior year.	STEP 12  Send SAT scores to schools.	STEP 13  Review acceptance letters and awards.	STEP 14  Make a college decision.	Want more college planning advice? Search for colleges, compare costs, find scholarships, and more at cb.org/parents .