August:
____ Determine your possible career interests.
____ Decide which kind of college best suits you-large or small, public or private, etc.
____ Write to colleges you are interested in. Obtain information on admissions, housing, financial aid, scholarships, student life, tuition and fees, etc.

September:
____ Make plans to register for the SAT/ACT exams if you have not taken one or both.
____ Begin the application process using the Texas Common Application. Complete the process by the end of the month.
____ Start writing essays for your admissions applications, if necessary.
____ Check with your high school counselor to find out when your high school will be having a college fair.
____ Begin asking your teachers, administrators, community leaders, former employers, or other professionals to write letters of recommendation for your admission and scholarship applications.
____ Visit with your Retention Specialist or your high school counselor about application deadlines for specific scholarship or grants.
____ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

October:
____ Take the SAT/ACT test again or for the first time.
____ If you did not attend the college tour, select two colleges at which to make an on-campus visit.
____ Call the admissions office for an appointment or contact your Retention Specialist or your HS counselor to help you with the process.
____ Find out from different colleges which financial aid applications are required and when they are due.
____ Check to see if there are any special application procedures required by that college.
____ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

November:
____ Narrow your college choices
____ Begin preparing your application to these colleges.
____ Get information on housing options: fees, deposits, on campus or off campus housing, etc.
____ Create an organized file folder for each college of your choice. Make copies of all forms submitted.
____ Obtain financial aid forms from the colleges if different from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
____ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.
____ Start applying for your FAFSA Pin Number so that you may submit your financial aid electronically.

December:
____ Pick up a copy of the FAFSA from your Retention Specialist or your high school counselor. This is the most common form used to determine financial aid eligibility. Begin working on it, but DO NOT SUBMIT BEFORE JANUARY 1st.
____ Continue finalizing on any outside grants and scholarship applications.
____ Stay focused both at the high school and at STC! Grades in your senior year can affect your admittance to the college of your choice and your scholarship eligibility.
____ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

January:
____ PARENTS: Get your federal income tax returns prepared early. Your income tax forms will help completing the FAFSA and schools must request them to prove eligibility for financial aid or for verification purposes.
____ Check priority deadlines for submitting the FAFSA with the schools of your choice.
____ Submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st.
____ Remember! Continue keeping copies of all forms you submit to colleges and agencies.
____ Request your first semester high school transcript to be sent to the colleges to which you have applied.
____ Request your STC transcript to be sent as well.
____ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.
February:
______ Check to see if your transcripts have been sent to the colleges to which you have applied.
______ Make sure your FAFSA has been mailed or processed electronically.
______ Begin making plans for a summer job.
______ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

March:
______ Watch for the results of the FAFSA you filed. You will be getting a Student Aid Report (SAR). If you do not receive it within four weeks, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665.
______ Contact the financial aid offices at each of the colleges you listed on your FAFSA to see if they have received your financial aid information.
______ Be prepared to submit a copy of your latest tax forms to the colleges of your choice.
______ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

April:
______ Watch the mail for letters of acceptance from the colleges to which you applied.
______ Compare the finalized aid packages from the colleges to which you have been accepted. **DO NOT FORGET TO CHECK THE COST FOR TUITION AND FEES FOR THOSE COLLEGES AS WELL.**
______ Make a final decision about the college of your choice and send in the required deposit(s), sign and return financial aid award letters. Please note other college deadlines.
______ Notify the other colleges to which you applied that you will not be attending.
______ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

May:
______ If you need further financial aid help beyond what the college is able to provide, you might be eligible for a Federal Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, Parent or other loan. Please contact your Retention Specialist or your high school counselor for those resources. **Note: Some colleges include these types of loans in their packages.**
______ Take any AP or CLEP exams for which you qualify.
______ Finalize summer job or school plans.
______ GRADUATION! Pat yourself on the back for an excellent job!
______ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

June:
______ Make sure to notify the college about any outside scholarships that you have been awarded.
______ Ask your high school and STC to send a final grade transcript to the college you have chosen.
______ Save money from your summer jobs! You will be glad that you did!
______ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.

July:
______ Be sure to attend any orientation sessions your college offers. This is a great opportunity to meet people and get familiar with the campus.
______ Check your scholarship databases for any scholarships you might be eligible for and apply for them.