

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING TIPS - 9TH GRADE

TIPS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Explore extra-curricular activities at school or in your community. Joining a club, team sport or other group is a great way to meet new people and to learn more about your college and career interests.
- Talk to your parents about your academic strengths and weaknesses. Look into tutoring options at school or in the community for extra help.
- Start talking about the importance of college. Ask friends, family, counselors and teachers about the benefits of getting a higher education.
- Meet with your counselor to begin exploring different careers. Ask about the tools and resources available to you such as skill and interest inventories, career shadowing, career fairs and online programs, etc.

FALL SEMESTER

GET INFORMED

- Meet with your high school counselor to learn your school's graduation requirements.
- Attend the Hawai'i National College Fair to learn more about local colleges and companies.

STAY ORGANIZED

- Write down important activities and dates into your personal calendar as a reminder. Check your school's website for upcoming events and testing dates.
- Start a college information folder or binder for materials on college-related topics. Include handouts and brochures that you collect at college fairs and financial aid information nights.
- Set up a separate e-mail account to receive all college-related correspondence.

TAKE ACTION

- Work with your counselor to develop a four-year class schedule that includes challenging courses in math, science and English. Colleges look at more than just your grades, they also look at the level of difficulty of the courses that you take.
- If your school administers EXPLORE, sign up to take it. The test will let you know how college and career ready you are, help you to decide what courses to take in high school and can help you to begin planning for life after high school.

SPRING SEMESTER

GET INFORMED

- Explore summer academic enrichment opportunities. Many application deadlines are in March or earlier.
- Look for summer jobs or internships. Consider those that develop leadership skills or explore a career pathway that interests you.
- Attend the Hawai'i National College Fair to find out information about colleges nationwide.

STAY ORGANIZED

- Don't toss out all of your papers during spring cleaning! Create a file to hold your important documents including report cards, awards, community service log, etc. These documents will be helpful when you need to apply for a job, for scholarships and for college.
- Update your college information folder with the handouts that you collected at the Hawai'i National College Fair.

TAKE ACTION

- Create a summer reading list. Ask teachers, counselors or your local library for recommendations. Reading can help you to continue to improve comprehension skills as well as build your vocabulary.

It's never too early to start preparing for college and career. Early planning and preparation will help you feel more informed and in control of the bright future ahead!

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP:

» Ask your counselor for information about educational outreach or college readiness programs such as Upward Bound or Educational Talent Search to see which programs are available at your school.

» Access free testing and tutorials in reading and math at <http://educationinhawaii.com>.

» Visit a public library near you. It's a quiet place to study and may also have free internet access, teen nights, teen job fairs and more.

» Visit college fairs in your community. Hawai'i National College Fair: www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/Pages/default.aspx

» Begin to explore career options at http://careerconnections.hawaii.edu/career_connections/gallery.php.



HAWAII P-20
Partnerships for Education
Spark. Transform. Excel.