

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING TIPS - 10TH GRADE . . .

TIPS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Participate in extra-curricular activities compatible with your interests. If you are already involved with extra-curricular activities, consider taking a leadership position to help build your resume and personal statement.
- Talk with people whose careers are of interest to you to find out the educational requirements for that career as well as its pros and cons.
- Talk to your parents about financing for college. Become familiar with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

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!

FALL SEMESTER

GET INFORMED

- Attend the Hawai'i National College Fair to learn more about local colleges and companies.
- Start to research colleges. To help focus your search, think about what characteristics of a college are most important to you such as the location, size, cost, and supports services available.
- Take a tour of a local college or university while classes are in session to get a feel for what the campus is like.
- Attend financial aid information nights at your school or in your community. Check with your counselor for event information.

STAY ORGANIZED

- Update your personal calendar with the dates of college and career events you plan to attend throughout the year.
- Update your college information folder with the handouts that you gathered at the Hawai'i National College Fair and financial aid nights.
- Set up a separate e-mail account to receive all college-related correspondence.

TAKE ACTION

- Register for the PSAT in October. Find out more information about the PSAT from your college and career counselor.
- After taking the PSAT, review your test score report. Determine which areas need improvement and explore ways to help you to achieve a stronger score next time.
- See your counselor to sign up for PLAN, if your school administers it. This test will let you know how college and career ready you are, help you to decide what courses to take and help you begin planning for life after high school.
- Review your four-year academic plan to help guide your course choices during class registration. Be sure to sign up for challenging courses in math, science and English. Talk to your counselor about signing up for Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors courses.

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.

» Go to <http://educationinhawaii.com> to get access to free testing and tutorials in reading and math.

» Go to the Manoa Online Learning Academy website www.manoa.hawaii.edu/olola to see if you qualify for free online math tutoring.

» 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.

SPRING SEMESTER

GET INFORMED

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

STAY ORGANIZED

- Don't toss out all of your papers during spring cleaning! Update your important document file with your report cards, honors and awards, community service activities, list of potential references, 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 will help you improve comprehension skills as well as build your vocabulary.
- Plan to talk to current college students who will be returning home for the summer. They can be a great resource to help you understand what to expect in college and what you can do now to better prepare.



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