

# COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING TIPS - 11TH 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.
- Complete a draft of your personal statement. To get started, utilize your important document file as a source of inspiration. Look into workshops offered by college preparation programs at local colleges or see your English teacher for assistance.
- 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.
- Use online tools such as FAFSA Forecaster ([www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/)) to help calculate how much financial aid you will receive and to estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- Begin actively searching for scholarships and financial aid. See links on the right to get started.

*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.
- Continue to visit colleges while classes are in session.
- Continue to research colleges and their costs.
- Attend a Financial Aid Night at 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.
- Make a list of "target" colleges you are considering. Take into account geographic location, campus size, support resources, student demographics and degrees offered to ensure these colleges fit your needs.
- Become familiar with the entrance requirements for these schools.

### TAKE ACTION

- Register for the PSAT or PLAN tests. Find out more information about each test from your college and career counselor.
- Review your test score report. Determine which areas that need improvement and explore ways to help you to score well on the SAT and/or ACT test.
- Carefully schedule your SAT or ACT test to ensure that you get the testing date and location that you prefer. If needed, see your counselor about fee waivers for the SAT and ACT exams. Eligible students can receive up to two waivers.
- Set up a separate e-mail account to receive all college-related correspondence.
- Review your four-year academic plan with your counselor. Be sure to sign up for challenging courses in math, science and English as well as courses required by your "target" schools. Talk to your counselor about signing up for Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors courses.
- Sign up for Running Start or Early College classes. These programs allow high school students to take college-level courses at school or at a community college campus and earn both high school and college credits. For more information see your counselor.

### WHERE TO GO FOR HELP:

» Check out <http://educationinhawaii.com> for free SAT/ACT online test preparation courses. They also offer free tutoring in reading and math.

» Visit the Manoa Online Learning Academy website [www.manoa.hawaii.edu](http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu) to see if you qualify for free online math tutoring.

» Go to [www.uhf.hawaii.edu](http://www.uhf.hawaii.edu), [www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org](http://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org) and <http://www.ksbe.edu/finaid/> to research local scholarships.

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

» Begin to explore career options at [http://careerconnections.hawaii.edu/career\\_connections/gallery.php](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, internships or volunteer opportunities to continue to build your resume and personal statement.

### STAY ORGANIZED

- 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 you collect 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.
- If you are enrolled in an AP course, prepare for the AP Exam held in the first two weeks of May. A qualifying grade can earn college credit at many colleges.
- 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.
- If you plan to participate in Division I or Division II college sports and want to be recruited, register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse this summer.
- Narrow down the list of schools to which you want to apply. The list should include "safe," "match" and "reach" schools. Make a checklist of each school's admission requirements.



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