

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING TIPS - 12TH GRADE

TIPS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Continue to attend class and keep up your grades. Your final GPA may determine whether or not you graduate with Honors and may affect your eligibility for certain scholarships. Also, the knowledge and skills that you gain in your final semester can affect how well you do on your college placement exams which determine what classes you are qualified to take during your first semester in college.
- Meet with your counselor to help you stay on track and to get information about upcoming events and support programs available to you.

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 or visit a college campus to gather information and ask any additional questions that you may have.
- Review the admissions requirements and deadlines for all schools to which you will apply.
- Attend a Financial Aid Night at school or in your community.
- Find out which of your college friends will be home during winter break and talk to them about how to prepare for the first semester of college.

STAY ORGANIZED

- Write down important event dates and deadlines in your personal calendar. Take note that many scholarship deadlines are in February—Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, and University of Hawai'i Foundation.
- Register for an FSA ID and gather up your parents' tax forms and information so that you can fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting on January 1st.

TAKE ACTION

- Revise and refine your personal statement so that it is ready for all of your scholarship and college applications.
- If needed, apply for college application fee waivers directly through the colleges. All students who receive an SAT fee waiver are eligible for four application fee waivers from the College Board.
- Make a list of 3 or 4 people that you would like to review your college application materials. Be sure to give them enough time to review your application so that you can make changes before the deadline.
- Make a list of 3 or 4 people from whom you need recommendation letters. Be sure to ask for the letters at least three weeks before the due date(s). Give each recommender the required forms, your resume and a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Follow up with your school to ensure that they send your official transcript to the correct colleges.
- Register for the ACT, SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject exam. Send your exam scores to the colleges to which you applied. If you have been in the U.S. for less than 6 years you may need to take the TOEFL. Contact your counselor for more information.
- 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:

» Free application for Federal Student Aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov

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

» College Goal 808: www.collegegoal808.org

» Career Connections: http://careerconnections.hawaii.edu/career_connections/gallery.php



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SPRING SEMESTER

GET INFORMED

- If you have been accepted to a college, find out about any requirements you must fulfill before officially enrolling.
- Talk to financial aid officers if you have any questions about any financial aid award letters that you receive. If you haven't received enough aid, ask about other options that are available.
- If you have been waitlisted or not admitted to any of the colleges to which you've applied, meet with your counselor to discuss your options.

STAY ORGANIZED

- Write down important event dates and deadlines in your personal calendar. Take note that most admission decisions and financial aid award letters will arrive in April.

TAKE ACTION

- Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) after January 1st.
- Attend a College Goal 808 event in January to get free help completing the FAFSA.
- If you plan to attend community college in the fall, apply now.
- Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer opportunity. You can earn money to help pay for college or gain valuable experience in a career field that interests you.
- If you are enrolled in an AP course, prepare for the AP Exam held in the first two weeks of May.
- Follow up with your school to ensure they send your final transcript to the college that you plan to attend in the Fall.
- Notify all colleges of your acceptance or rejection of admissions or financial aid offers by May.
- Inform your counselor of the colleges to which you've been accepted, the name of the college you plan to attend and the total amount of scholarships you've received.
- Explore summer preparatory programs at the college you plan to attend. These programs offer opportunities to take courses for credit and provide skills and information for a successful start to college.
- Participate in a new student orientation at the college you plan to attend in order to get familiar with the campus and the support services that are available to you.