

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 activities, consider taking a leadership position to help build your resume and personal statement.
- Complete a draft of your personal statement. Ask your high school college counselor for guidance.
- Talk with people whose careers interest you to find out the educational requirements needed for that career as well as its pros and cons.
- Visit college websites and explore the estimated cost of attendance section to help calculate how much financial aid you may be eligible to receive.
- In the absence of extracurriculars, sports, or internships that may have been cancelled this year, consider starting a personal project or volunteering in your community to help you stand out to colleges and employers.

FALL SEMESTER



Get Informed

- Attend the NACAC virtual college fair or take a virtual campus tour to learn more about the schools you are interested in attending. Sign up at virtualcollegefairs.org and start exploring.
- Continue to research colleges and their costs.
- Attend a virtual financial aid information night held every Wednesdays in the month of September and October. Register at: tinyurl.com/Hlfinaidnights2020 or view a recording of the session at collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com/financial-aid-resources



Stay Organized

- Update your personal calendar with the dates of college and career events you plan to attend.
- 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 the schools you are interested in attending.



Take Action

- Register for the PSAT or PLAN tests if available. Find out more information about each test from your 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.
- If available, 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 Early College classes. It’s a program that allows high school students to take courses at community college and earn college credit while in high school. For more information see your counselor or visit the website: www.hawaii.edu/dualcredit.

SPRING SEMESTER



Get Informed

- Explore summer academic enrichment opportunities. Many application deadlines are in March or earlier.
- Attend the National College Fair to find out information about colleges: Sign up at virtualcollegefairs.org and start exploring.
- Look for summer jobs, internships or volunteer opportunities to continue to build your resume.



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.
- Keep any useful information or handouts from virtual College and Career events in an organized folder on your computer.



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.
- Reach out to current college students from your high school or community on social media or text and ask questions. 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.

Where to go for Help

- Go to **UH Foundation:** www.uhf.hawaii.edu, **Hawai'i Community Foundation:** www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and **Pauahi Foundation:** www.pauahi.org to research local scholarships.
- Virtual College Fairs: virtualcollegefairs.org.
- Begin to explore career options at **Hawai'i Career Explorer:** uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer
- For more college and career preparation information and resources go to: www.collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com.

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