Applying to college can seem confusing, but if you plan ahead you will be successful. This road map is a guide to help you navigate the application process during your senior year. Post it in a convenient location so your entire family will know where you are in the process.

ROAD TO COLLEGE

START HERE

AUGUST

- Take (or re-take) the SAT or ACT, if the school(s) you are applying to require you to take either test for admissions. Register for tests at: www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org.
  - My test date is: __________________________
- Attend a virtual financial aid info night. Register at: tinyurl.com/HIfinaidnights2020
- Decide on your top three SAFETY, MATCH, and REACH schools and list them here.
  - SAFETY
    1. __________________________
    2. __________________________
    3. __________________________
  - MATCH
    1. __________________________
    2. __________________________
    3. __________________________
  - REACH
    1. __________________________
    2. __________________________
    3. __________________________

SEPTEMBER

- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for any errors. (If you don’t get your SAR within 3 weeks of filing the FAFSA, check online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.)
- Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Use the IRS data retrieval tool to pull in your 2018 tax information. Ask each college on your list if they require any additional financial aid forms (such as the College Board CSS Profile). Use the chart below to keep track of key financial aid deadlines.
  - Starting October 1, complete your FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Use the IRS data retrieval tool to pull in your 2018 tax information. Ask each college on your list if they require any additional financial aid forms (such as the College Board CSS Profile). Use the chart below to keep track of key financial aid deadlines.
  - You should start receiving acceptance and rejection letters during this time. Use the chart below to compare the offers you receive.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- Continue working on your college applications and make sure to turn them in before the deadline. Ask your counselor if you need an application fee waiver.
- Continue applying for scholarships.
- Talk to friends or family members who are currently in college and ask them what it’s like to go to school on the mainland.

FEBRUARY

- Turn in all remaining scholarship applications.
- Check your email for any notifications from colleges and financial aid providers you applied to.

MARCH

- You should start receiving acceptance and rejection letters during this time. Use the chart below to compare the offers you receive.

APRIL

- Attend a spring college weekend for prospective students.
- Create a budget for college needs.
- Determine if you need a student loan.
- Prepare for and take any placement exams for college classes.
- Get a physical and shots.

MAY

- Pick a college and notify their admissions office by the deadline (usually May 1).
  - My college choice is: __________________________
- Find a summer job (maybe related to your college major) to help with expenses.
- Apply now for work study jobs if you qualify.
- Attend new student orientation on your new campus.
- Register for classes ASAP.

SUMMER

- Make sure to turn in all necessary forms to secure your space.

For more college planning tips go to: www.CollegesWithinReachHawaii.com

Congratulations!
You’re on your way to college!