

# 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 Hawaii College and Career 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.
- Review the information you've gathered at the Hawaii College and Career Fair and the National College Fair for help. 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. 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 <http://www.hawaii.edu/runningstart/>.

## 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. Hawaii College and Career Fair: <http://hawaiiccfair.org/>

» National College Fair: <http://www.nacacnet.org/EVENTSTRaining/COLLEGEFAIRS/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).

» For more college and career preparation information and resources go to [www.stepuphawaii.org](http://www.stepuphawaii.org).

## 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 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 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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# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS VOCABULARY

**Academic Enrichment:** These opportunities reinforce and improve basic academic skills, prepare students for more challenging coursework, and provide academic experiences that go beyond those available through the normal school curriculum.

**ACT Exam:** A 3 ½ hour national college admissions exam that tests your knowledge in English, Math, Reading and Science. The ACT Plus Writing Exam includes a 30-minute Writing Test. Most colleges require that students take the ACT Exam or the SAT Reasoning Exam as a college entrance requirement.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** College-level courses in a variety of subject areas you can take while in high school. You can boost your high school GPA by doing well in AP courses because you will earn more grade points in AP classes. When completed, you have the option of taking the corresponding AP Exam and with a qualifying score, can potentially earn college credit.

**Best “Fit” School:** A college that best meets your academic, financial and social needs. Only you can determine which school will be right for you—be sure to weigh all of your options carefully.

**College Entrance Requirements:** These include completion of specific academic coursework, entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT, and a scholarship requirement (combination of GPA and standardized test scores). Required coursework and testing may vary at different colleges.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** The portion of your family's financial resources that should be available to pay for college which is based on a federal formula using the information provided on your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Activities that happen outside of the school day, including jobs (whether paid or unpaid), school-based activities (such as student government, service clubs, yearbook, etc.) or activities affiliated with a community organization or faith-based community.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** The form used by the government to determine the amount of money your family is expected to contribute towards your post-secondary educational expenses. The amount of aid you are eligible to receive in student grants, work study, and loan amounts will be based on the information that you provide on this form.

**Internship:** An opportunity to gain experience in a career field by working under the supervision of a professional. You can learn first-hand about the realities of working in particular job and can make connections with potential mentors, references or future employers. Take note that internship programs can be set up as either compensated (paid) or non-compensated (unpaid).

**Letter of Recommendation:** A letter that a teacher, counselor, mentor, coach or supervisor writes in support of your application for college, for a scholarship, internship or job. Letters should be written by someone who knows you well and has knowledge about your educational background, work or volunteer experience, skills and your awards and accomplishments.

**Match School:** A college where you have a good chance of being accepted since your grades, coursework and test scores are within the right range, yet you might not be at the top of the admittance list. May also be known as a “realistic” school.



Source: University of California, Early Academic Outreach Programs



**Personal Statement:** A student essay that is an important part of many college applications. Colleges use such essays to learn more about you. Give yourself ample time to write, revise and proofread your personal statements.

**Preliminary SAT (PSAT):** This test measures skills you have developed over the course of your education. You usually take the test in the eleventh grade, but benefit from taking the test in the tenth grade or sooner because you will receive personalized feedback on the academic skills needed for college. By taking the test early, you have more time to develop these skills and to begin the college-planning process. The PSAT is a good way to prepare for the SAT.

**Reach School:** A college that you're interested in attending, yet you don't quite meet the admission requirements.

**Resume:** A document that lists your work experience, educational background, knowledge and skills as well as your awards and accomplishments. You will often be required to submit this document with your application for a job or internship.

**Running Start:** It's a program that allows high school students to enroll in college classes and earn credit toward high school graduation and a college degree. For more information see your counselor or visit the website <http://www.hawaii.edu/runningstart>.

**Safe School:** A college to which you have a strong chance of being accepted since your grades, coursework and test scores meet or exceed the admissions requirements.

**SAT Reasoning Exam:** The SAT is a 3 ¾ hour test that measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning and writing skills. Most colleges require that you take this or the ACT as a college entrance requirement.

**SAT Subject Exams:** Many colleges require SAT Subject Exams. You should take the exam as soon as possible after completing the corresponding course.

**Student Aid Report (SAR):** It is a report that you will receive after completing the FAFSA. It's a summary of the information that you provided on the FAFSA. Review it, make any necessary changes and return.

**Target School:** A college in which you have interest in attending. This college has the characteristics you are looking for in terms of geographic location, campus size, support resources, student demographics and degrees offered, etc.

**Transcript:** An official record of your performance at a school including all of the courses you've taken, the grades you've earned in each course and the type of degree you were awarded.