

# College and Career Planning Tips - 10th 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.
- 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.
- Talk to your parents about financing for college. Become familiar with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

## FALL SEMESTER



### Get Informed

- Attend a Virtual College Fair to learn more about colleges and companies: Sign up at [virtualcollegefairs.org](https://virtualcollegefairs.org) and start exploring.
- Start to research colleges. To help focus your search, think about what characteristics of a college are most important to you such as the location, size, cost, supports services available, etc.
- Attend a virtual financial aid information night, held every Wednesdays in the month of September and October. Register at: [tinyurl.com/Hlfinaidnights2020](https://tinyurl.com/Hlfinaidnights2020) or view a recording of the session at [collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com/financial-aid-resources](https://collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com/financial-aid-resources)



### Stay Organized

- Update your personal calendar with the dates of college and career events you plan to attend throughout the year.
- Keep any useful information or handouts from virtual College and Career events in an organized folder on your computer.
- Set up a separate e-mail account to receive all college-related correspondence.



### Take Action

- Register for the PSAT in October if available. Find out more information about the PSAT from your college and career counselor.
- After taking the PSAT, review your test score report. Determine which areas need improvement and explore ways to help you to achieve a stronger score next time.
- See your counselor to sign up for PLAN, if your school administers it. This test will let you know how college and career ready you are, help you to decide what courses to take and help you begin planning for life after high school.
- Review your four-year academic plan to help guide your course choices during class registration. Be sure to sign up for challenging courses in math, science and English. Talk to your counselor about signing up for Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors courses.
- 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 expand your resume, add to your portfolio, or have additional experience to help you stand out to colleges and employers.

# 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. Sign up at [virtualcollegefairs.org](https://virtualcollegefairs.org).
- Look for summer jobs or internships. Consider those that develop leadership skills or explore a career pathway that interests you.



## Stay Organized

- Don't toss out all of your papers during spring cleaning! 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 that you collected at the National College Fair.



## Take Action

- Create a summer reading list. Ask teachers, counselors or your local library for recommendations. Reading will help you improve comprehension skills as well as build your vocabulary.
- 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.

## Where to go for Help

- Ask your counselor for information about educational outreach or college readiness programs such as Upward Bound or Educational Talent Search to see which programs are available at your school.
- Go to the Manoa Online Learning Academy website [www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ola](https://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ola) to see if you qualify for free online math tutoring.
- National College Fair: [virtualcollegefairs.org](https://virtualcollegefairs.org).
- Begin to explore career options at [Hawai'i Career Explorer: uhcc.hawaii.edu/career\\_explorer](https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/career_explorer)  
For more college and career preparation information and resources go to [www.collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com](https://www.collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com).

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