

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.

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](https://www.virtualcollegefairs.org) and start exploring.
- Strengthen your college list to make sure you have a balanced list of academic safety, fit and reach schools. Meet with your college counselor about your choices.
- Attend a free financial aid webinar in August, September and October. Register at [CollegelsWithinReachHawaii.com](https://www.CollegelsWithinReachHawaii.com)
- Talk to your college friends about their experiences.



Stay Organized

- Write down important deadline dates (applications, test dates, financial aid, scholarships) in your personal calendar. Note: many scholarship deadlines are in January and February such as Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, University of Hawai'i Foundation.
- Gather your parents' tax forms and information so you can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which will be available October 1.



Take Action

- Attend a college application event in October and November to learn more about the college application process. Your counselor can share additional information with you.
- Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov starting October 1.
- Complete your personal statement so it is ready for your scholarship and college applications.
- Ask a counselor to help you request a fee waived if you need assistance paying for application and test fees.
- Make a list of 3–4 people that can review your college application materials. Be sure to give them enough time to review so you can make changes before the deadline.
- Make a list of 3–4 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 if necessary.
- Finish your college applications to the schools you want to attend.
- Follow up with your high school to ensure that they send your official transcript to the correct colleges.
- If applicable, register for the ACT, SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject exam. Send your exam scores to the colleges to which you applied. Note: check to see if the colleges you are applying to are test-optional.
- Meet with your counselor to ensure that you are on track for graduation.

SPRING SEMESTER



Get Informed

- Once 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. Note: not all awards are the same, so it's important to choose the aid package that is best for you and your family. Be sure to note what you have to do to continue receiving financial aid from year to year, and how your aid might change in future years.
- 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

- If you plan to attend community college in the fall, apply now at apply.hawaii.edu.
- 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 post-high school 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.
- Send your deposit to one college only.
- 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.



**For more information
and resources go to:**

CollegesWithinReachHawaii.com



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