

SUMMER COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

CLASS OF 2027



Participate in or organize a summer volunteer or civic engagement opportunity event.

- Many scholarship organizations look for students to be connected to their community.
- Gain valuable experience and potentially use this experience for letters of recommendation.
- Volunteer for an activity that interests you before your senior year in high school.

Have a conversation with your parents about college and your school selections.

- College planning as a family helps to discuss opportunity and barriers.
- Help identify barriers and create a plan as a family to overcome it.
- Use these questions to start the conversation: How do I want to make a difference? What do we need to do to get there? What may be stopping us? What resources do I have / do I need to overcome these barriers?

Create your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) Account and help a parent create their FSA ID Account.

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your first step toward paying for college.
- The FAFSA makes you eligible for state, federal, and private sources of funding.
- The FAFSA officially opens on Oct. 01, 2026.

Prioritize your college choices into a list.

- Compiling a list helps you make a decision; include your *safety* colleges, your *target* colleges, and your *reach* colleges.
- A list allows you to research a college's early decision, early action, or regular decision programs.
- Contact these colleges for up-to-date program, admissions, and financial aid requirements.

Draft, edit, and share your personal statement essay with friends and family.

- Personal statement essays have many uses including college admission essays and scholarship applications.
- Sharing your essay allows you to edit and add extracurricular activities and academic achievement.
- Use these drafts to complete the different admissions, institutional, and national scholarship applications.



Research your college practice tests, know your scores, and register for exams for college admission.

- Colleges and universities use different standardized tests like SAT or ACT.
- Understanding your test scores and compiling your results in one place can help you with eligibility and the application process.
- If your scores are not where you need them, consider retaking these tests and check with your colleges to ensure you meet requirements.

Visit a college or university campus for a tour or take an online, virtual campus tour.

- Get a feel for college campuses by evaluating their facilities, classrooms, libraries, and student spaces.
- Experience for yourself what each campus can offer and learn about individual student programs and student life activities.
- Keep a list of what you liked about each college. If you cannot travel for an in-person visit, consider taking an online, virtual tour.

Research and prepare for scholarships and grants.

- Scholarship applications can change from year-to-year but identifying needed materials can keep you organized.
- Preparing for scholarship applications allows you to compile a list of potential recommenders ensuring you have at least three (3) references.
- Create organization files for your applications. Start researching locally in Hawai'i, then research nationally through national search engines.



Email: FAFSA@Hawaii.edu

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