

Freshmen Survival Skills for College Admissions

Skills and planning tips to prepare for the college admissions process.



Begin Preparing for College Now

- Start by talking to your family about your desire to go to college.
- Meet with your high school guidance counselor early and often.

Prepare Your Four Year Plan

- Select courses that meet college admission requirements.
- Get help from your counselor.



Maintain Good Grades in All Your Classes

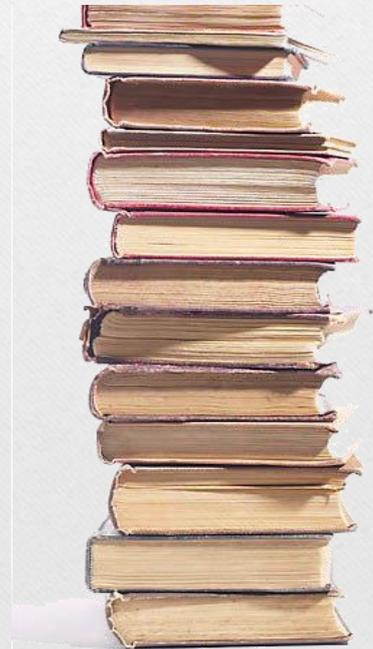
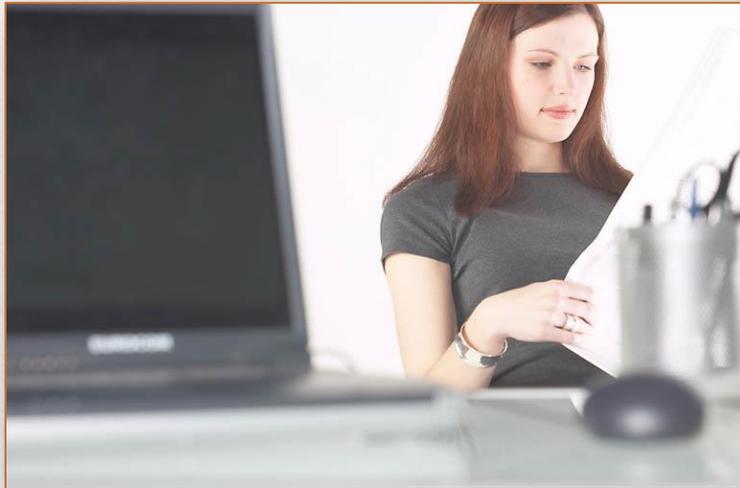
- College Admissions Offices review grades from *all* of your high school years.
- Not all grades are of equal value.
- If you take an AP class, take the AP examination when it is offered.
- Start to get to know your teachers.

Learn How to Compete Effectively for Scholarships

- Find out about scholarships awarded locally.
- Remember that many scholarships have qualifications beyond grades, such as extra-curricular activities, community involvement, and volunteerism.

Read. Read. Read

- Read. Not just assigned reading for your classes.
- Keep up with current events.



Create a “Pre-College” File

- Keep important information in your College File.
 - Copies of grade reports
 - List all honors and awards
 - List community and school activities
 - Include all activities, paid or volunteer
- Keep it current.
- Begin to collect information on the colleges that interest you.

Begin Now Learning How to Pay for College

- In addition to scholarships, investigate how to compete for the billions of dollars awarded annually through federal, state institutional, and private resources.
- Check out 529 Plans.



Financial Aid

General Information

- Financial aid is available from federal, state, and college sources.
- The FAFSA is the key in your application for most aid programs.
- It is very important to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st of your Senior year.

Eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid Programs

You must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Attend an eligible institution and enroll as a regular student.
- If male, register with the Selective Service System by your 18th birthday.

Note: A federal or state drug conviction, while receiving federal aid, can disqualify you for federal aid.

Financial Aid—Two Types

- Gift Aid—money that you receive that does not have to be repaid.
- Self-Help Aid—money that must be earned (work programs) or repaid (loan programs).



Federal Gift Aid

Eligibility is determined by completing a FAFSA form each year of college.

- Types of Aid
 - Pell Grant
 - Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG).

Self-Help Aid

Must be earned through work or repaid if a loan.

- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Federal Student Loans
 - Federal Direct Loans.
 - Subsidized Direct Loans
 - Un-subsidized Direct Loans
 - Parent Loans

Self-Help—Things to Remember

- Student loans must be repaid—the more you borrow, the higher the payments.
- Borrow conservatively—the least amount you need to cover the costs of your education. Do not over borrow to cover costs for items not necessary for your education.
- Continue to gather information on scholarships for which you might qualify. Remember all scholarships are gift aid and do not have to be repaid.

Useful Websites

□ <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com>

Supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

□ <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/>

Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation: Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

□ <https://www.texas tuition promise fund.com/>

College 529 savings plans. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

More Useful Websites

- <https://www.AIE.org>

Adventures in Education

- <https://going2college.org>

Powered by AIE

- <http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu>

Sponsored by the American Counsel on Education (ACE) and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Foundation

- For more information visit: www.pphef.org
- Click on the Student/Parent tab for helpful planning information.
- Click on the Windmill Scholarship tab for application terms and conditions

SCHOLARSHIP opens December 15 for Seniors.

