Sophomore Survival Skills for College Admissions

Skills and planning tips to prepare for the college admissions process.
Review Your Course Plan

• Meet with your guidance counselor.
• Compare your course plan to the admission requirements of your preferred colleges.
• Add dual credit (concurrent credit) courses to your course plan.
• Consider taking Pre-AP Courses.
Check into Admission Tests

- Explore the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT [https://www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org)
- Look for information about the ACT test at [https://act.org/](https://act.org/)
- Another ACT website with great information on college planning, financial aid, test prep, and practice test questions is [https://www.actstudent.org/](https://www.actstudent.org/)
Continue to Work Hard in Your Classes

- Grades do matter. Admission offices look at the whole high school transcript. Also remember that not all grades are considered equally.
- Don’t procrastinate.
Use a “To Do” List or a Daily Planning Calendar

- Track your assignments and due dates.
- Allocate your time.
- Follow a daily schedule that includes time for homework, every day.
- If you need help—ASK!
- Keep your “College File” up to date with lists of your activities and honors.
Read. Read. Read.

- In your daily schedule set aside time to read.
- Stay on top of world events and news.
Research Colleges and Majors

- Identify colleges and majors that interest you.
- Start to narrow your list of colleges.
- A wealth of information is available on the internet at websites like:
  
  http://www.collegeforalltexans.com - supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Scholarships

• Don’t forget to look locally—Civic clubs, high school booster clubs and non-profit organizations.
• Do some leg work! The extra effort will pay off!
• Take advantage of free scholarships searches. Never pay for scholarship searches or financial aid advice.
• Search free at:
  • Adventures in Education https://www.aie.org
  • College Board
    https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships
Web Resources

- **Adventures in Education**, Trellis supported site—[https://www.AIE.org](https://www.AIE.org)—FAFSA information, calculators, financial aid calendar, email weekly newsletter, **FREE** scholarship search, web resources, state resources, check lists, and planning guides.

- Also powered by **AIE**—[https://going2college.org](https://going2college.org)-contains excellent information on college planning, career information, finding a college, and paying for college.
Web Resources

- **Know How 2 Go**—[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org) - sponsored by the American Counsel on Education (ACE) and the Lumina Foundation for Education—site provides planning tips for college by grade level.

Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Foundation

- For more information visit: www.pphef.org
- Click on the student or parent tab for helpful planning information.