



Tips For Students

Road to success by grade level

9th Grade

You are a freshman; college is still four years away. What steps can you begin taking now?

1. Achieve and maintain a high G.P.A. While grades shouldn't matter as much as they do, the fact of the matter is that they are one of the preeminent data points colleges look at. Don't be discouraged if you're not there yet; keep working on it. Colleges look for improvement over four years of high school.
2. Extracurricular activities. Already involved? Excellent! If not, take time thinking about what you are interested in. Volunteer, play sports, start or join clubs. Show colleges that you are not only intellectual, but a well-rounded individual while also improving the world and yourself. One college's admission office said they look for 3-4 activities that students partake in. Though it is important to note that schools are looking for deep involvement, not a multitude of activities you rarely do.
3. Write down your goals. Start thinking about what is important to you and what you might enjoy learning about. Don't feel worried if you don't know what you want to do; you have your life in front of you, and God will guide you toward what He has planned for you.
4. Over the summer, do something productive and worthwhile. Get a job and start working to pay for college, volunteer with a cause that means something to you, or do an internship.
5. Be in discussion with your parents, teachers, and mentors. Their input is invaluable because they know you so well and they have life experience to add.
6. Pray. Ask the Lord for guidance in your search; ask that you will be open to whatever direction He requires of you.

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."

Psalm 37:23-24



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10th Grade

You're now a sophomore, reflect back on what worked last year and what you can improve upon. What steps do you take this year?

1. Maintain a high G.P.A. Keep those grades up and do the work expected for each class.
2. Find out what activities you really enjoy and go deep with them. Volunteer, do community service, or find a cause in the community that you care about and get involved. Take on leadership roles or start a club showing your dedication and drive.
3. Be in discussion with your parents, teachers, and mentors. Their input is invaluable because they know you so well and they have their own life experience to add.
4. Register for the PSAT.
5. Start attending college fairs. This will give you an idea of what you are looking for or what you might like in colleges. Is there a location that you are looking for, a region of the country? Be aware of the costs of the schools and what sorts of scholarships they offer.
6. Use your summer wisely. Have fun, but also do something productive.
7. Pray! Ask the Lord for guidance in your search; ask that you will be open to whatever direction He requires of you.

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11th Grade

This is the year. You should begin really thinking about colleges and what you may value. What steps should you take.

1. Register for the PSAT.
2. Be in discussion with your parents, teachers, and mentors. Their input is invaluable because they know you so well and they have life experience to add.
3. Explore colleges – go to college fairs, explore websites, visit colleges. See what you value in a school.
4. Narrow your list to 10 to 20 schools.
5. Create a system to hold all the college information that is and will be coming your way. It could be a folder, a bin, or a separate email category.
6. In late winter, early spring take the SAT or ACT and any AP tests. If you wish to improve your score, do online practice exercises, work through a workbook, or go for tutoring specific to college entrance test prep.
7. Beat the rush for letters of recommendations and ask at the end of the year. Lots of students will be asking for these letters from teachers, don't wait until right before the deadline, act now.
8. Contact prospective colleges to schedule interviews and visits.
9. Create your Common App Profile. This takes some time and getting it done ahead of the application season will lessen the burden later.
10. Research scholarships: do this now so next year you will be ahead of everyone else.
11. Over the summer begin working on your college application essays.
12. Pray! Ask the Lord for guidance in your search; ask that you will be open to whatever direction He requires of you.

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Tips For Students

Road to success by grade level

12th Grade

You are so close, don't quit now. Too many of your peers are slacking off, don't fall for that siren song.

1. Pray! Ask the Lord for guidance in your search; ask that you will be open to whatever direction He requires of you.
2. Be in discussion with your parents, teachers, and mentors. Their input is invaluable because they know you so well and they have life experience to add.
3. Visit prospective colleges.
4. Rank your college preferences.
5. Know where you want to go? Apply early; look at early decision vs early action. Some schools have a binding decision, but you often have fewer other applicants early on.
6. Get those recommendation letters, don't procrastinate.
7. Take those SAT, ACT, SAT subject tests.
8. Fill in college applications before the deadline.
9. Schedule college interviews
10. Hunt for scholarships.
11. In the spring make your final decision. Congratulations!!
12. Send your final transcript to that college.

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