

# College Planning *for* Early High School Students

## Steps Early High School Students Can Take To Get A Head Start On College Admissions

### RESEARCH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- As early as middle school, begin mapping out your involvement within the school you plan to attend for secondary education.
- Plan ahead for your high school years to maximize the experience and enter your new school with a plan in mind.

### PLAN AP/IB CLASSES

- It is essential to plan your high school courses with college in mind. For instance, if you plan to pursue a Pre-Med track in college, it would be wise to demonstrate your aptitude for science by registering for science-focused AP classes.
- Undertaking AP and IB classes show future colleges that you appreciate challenging coursework and have a strong interest in a certain subject.

### SCHEDULE CLASSES WITH COLLEGE IN MIND

- It is never too early to begin researching a few top choices of schools, and planning your class schedule to meet their admission requirements.
- Oftentimes, high school graduation requirements do not guarantee eligibility for out of state college admissions. If you are considering leaving your home state, check requirements for acceptance.

### BEGIN NARROWING DOWN A FIELD OF INTEREST

- While it is unrealistic to expect students to plan a major so early in high school, narrowing down a field of interest through online surveys or researching data on job projections can help you in the long run.
- Inquire about internship, shadowing or volunteer opportunities in the areas that interest you.

### BUILD A LINKEDIN PROFILE

- LinkedIn provides a platform to build a visual activities resume, which can be linked to in your future Common Application.
- Extracurricular activities play a large part in the college admissions process; it takes more than top grades to be admitted to the top universities.
- Unlike a traditional resume, LinkedIn allows you to add videos and images to illustrate your involvement.

### PLAN STAND OUT ACTIVITIES

- Take every opportunity to stand out from the crowd.
- If everyone in your school is involved in a certain activity or club, you are encouraged to join, but challenged to add something more.
- Create opportunities to stand out and leave a lasting impact.

### RESEARCH SUMMER PROGRAMS

- The best way to demonstrate that you are an ambitious student to your future college is to pursue a summer internship or competitive program.
- A summer program demonstrates early interest in a school, in addition to showcasing your eagerness to undertake academic challenges.

### PREPARE FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION ESSAYS

- It's no secret that admission to top colleges will require excellent writing skills.
- Freshman and sophomore year are the perfect time to hone your writing skills. Keep on schedule.
- Take a summer class at your local college in creative writing to gain college-level writing skills and college credit on your transcript.

### KEEP ON SCHEDULE

- Plan an outline of steps for each of your high school years to keep yourself on track towards your college goals.
- With college admissions focused on your GPA from the end of your junior year, having an academic plan will allow you to stay a step ahead of the admissions game and never be surprised by a deadline.

