

Seniors, are you getting ready for college?

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☐ Write your Apply Texas essays

- Essay A: What was the environment in which you were raised? Describe your family, home, neighborhood, or community, and explain how it has shaped you as a person
- Essay B: Most students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.
- Essay C: You've got a ticket in your hand - Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

☐ Prepare for the SAT and ACT

- It is highly recommended that you take the SAT and/or ACT in the fall semester of your senior year
- Visit the college adviser at your high school for assistance with registering
- Some schools require a minimum score for acceptance
- Get free SAT preparation at KahnAcademy.org/sat

☐ Narrow down your list of colleges that you intend on applying to

- Do you want to go to a big school or small school? Do you want to live in Texas or venture out of state? Do you prefer having small class sizes or big class sizes?
- Take note of admissions criteria, deadlines, etc.
- The earlier you start your search, the more best match options you will find

☐ Start your college applications when they open

- There are many benefits to completing your applications early
 - Earlier consideration for institutional scholarships (some schools have a strict scholarship deadline)
 - Less stress and more time to take care of scholarships, FAFSA, etc.
 - You may be notified about your admissions status earlier

☐ Complete the FAFSA or TASFA starting October 1st

- Filing the FAFSA or TASFA early allows you to maximize the amount of money you are eligible for
- Visit our 'FAFSA' or 'TASFA' pages for step-by-step instructions on how to complete the forms

☐ Apply for scholarships

- There are national, state, and local external scholarships that you can apply for
- Make sure you are also submitting all scholarship sections of your college applications to be considered for institutional scholarships
- Visit our 'Scholarships' page for external scholarship deadlines and requirements

☐ Attend college representative visits

- College representatives are a great resource to gain valuable information about schools you are considering
- It is your job to ask them questions that are important to making your final decision
 - What is the student to teacher ratio in the classroom?
 - What academic resources are offered?
 - How many clubs and organizations are there?
- Take note of admissions criteria, deadlines, etc.

☐ Visit the campuses that you are strongly considering

- Visiting a college campus can help you decide if the institution is the right one for you
- Take a campus tour, visit with staff and staff, but most importantly, ask questions
- Try to visit more than one campus so you can compare your experiences
- Take note of admissions criteria, deadlines, etc.

☐ Volunteer at school, church, or with local organizations

- Colleges want to see that you care about your community and are willing to make it a better place
- Examples of volunteering:
 - Helping at a hospital, pet shelter, library, or summer camp
 - Tutoring students through an official organization
 - Helping at church events
- Visit our 'Volunteer Info' page under the 'Resources' tab for volunteering opportunities in San Antonio

☐ Become a leader in your extracurricular activities

- Being involved at your school shows that you are committed to something that you care about
- Leadership experience shows that you are a team player, can manage your time well, and care about diversifying your experiences

☐ Consider participating in academic enrichment programs

- Academic preparation is a critical part of being college-ready
- Some high schools have access to programs like UTSA Ready which helps students prepare for college through academic enrichment opportunities
- Ask your college adviser if your high school has access to any academic enrichment programs

☐ Update your resume

- When applying to colleges and scholarships in your senior year, you will be asked to list all of your challenging classes, volunteer experiences, extracurricular activities, and enrichment programs
- Colleges want to see what you are passionate about and how hard you worked over your high school career
- Visit the 'Resume Building' page under the 'Resources' tab for free templates

☐ Narrow down your list of possible career options

- What subjects do you like? What makes you happy? What do you enjoy doing with your free time?
- Searching your career options will help you select a major later on
- Visit the 'Career Search' page under the 'Resources' tab for help searching

☐ Take challenging classes in core academic subjects

- Talk to your school counselor or teachers about Advanced Placement courses
- Colleges want to see that you are interested in learning new things and will work hard to excel in the classroom

☐ Start saving money for college

- Saving money for important college necessities like books, food, dorms, and tuition can be very beneficial if you start early
- Talk to a parent or guardian about opening a savings account

☐ Analyze your financial aid award letter with a college adviser

- Once you are accepted into a college and have submitted your FAFSA, you will most likely receive a financial aid award letter showing how much federal, state, and institutional aid you received
- Compare your aid to the cost of attendance to determine your next steps