

Future Center Resource Sheet

SUMMER COLLEGE PLANNING

What is the number one piece of advice college freshman offer to high seniors?
START THE PROCESS EARLY!

Below is a list of items that you can work on during the summer to help make the college admission process easier for you. **The items in bold are handouts available in The Future Center.**

1. Continue researching colleges and refine your list to 6-7 schools where you are interested in applying. You can find a helpful search tool at collegeboard.org. It might be helpful to fill out the **College Comparison Worksheet** as you do your research.
2. Explore the websites of schools that interest you. This is a great way to begin to prioritize the schools. Also, you can send for any viewbooks, catalogs or financial aid/scholarship information you need from these colleges. Pay close attention to the admission requirements and how well the school matches your own academic profile.
3. Visit college campuses. Use the **How to Get the Most from a Campus Visit** booklet. A campus visit is the #1 recommendation of college freshmen in terms of making a decision whether or not a campus is the right one for you.
4. Create your **High School Activities and Awards Resume**. Having all clubs, sports, volunteering experiences and work history documented will make the process of filling out applications much easier. Don't forget to include a short description and dates.
5. Set up an **Organization Chart** to keep track of your application and admission materials. Designate a space in your home for college information. Create a file system that works for you for mail you receive, college application materials, financial aid and scholarship information, your transcripts and letters of recommendation. It is a good idea to make and keep copies of everything you send.
6. Discuss college selections with your family, including financial considerations in college selection choices. Be aware that the FAFSA (the application that is the touch stone for all the financial aid you might receive) will be available earlier next year. Pick up a **Changes Impacting the 2017/18 FAFSA** handout and share with your parents/guardians. For a better idea of where you stand from a financial aid perspective, visit fafsa4caster.ed.gov to receive your estimated family contribution figure.

7. If you will be applying for private colleges, you can assume you will need letters of recommendation. Public colleges do not require letters of recommendation. Before the end of this school year, consider which teachers you would ask to write letters of recommendation for you. Contact these teachers and discuss their preferences for writing letters. Some prefer to wait until September. If you are considering colleges that require a counselor letter of recommendation, make sure you communicate with your counselor and give them a list of the schools you are considering.
8. If applying to private schools, visit commonapp.org to identify those schools that use the Common Application. Begin creating your account; much of this can be done before selecting your specific colleges.
9. Work on drafts of essays and personal statements for college applications. If you are using the Common App for private school applications, go to commonapp.org to see the essay prompts. Also go to college websites to determine what kind of application and/or essay supplements may be required.
10. If planning to compete in college athletics, pick up a **Student Athlete** packet. Register for the **NCAA Eligibility Center** by logging on to www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org. and the **NAIA Eligibility Center** at www.playnaia.org. Be sure to have your SAT or ACT scores sent to the Eligibility Centers.
11. Begin your scholarship search by creating an account with OSAC, reviewing sites on the **Favorite Website** handout and the BSHS Scholarship List located on the BSHS webpage. A spreadsheet is a great way to organize the scholarships you plan to apply for.
12. If you plan to retake the ACT or SAT or take an SAT subject test, summer is a great time to get in some study time. Remember to sign up for the test approximately 6 weeks in advance.

*** Make an appointment with your counselor beginning August 22***