**Junior Information: Fall 2015**

**10 Tips to Prepare for College in High School**

1. Strive for academic excellence so that your grades are high – the best colleges come to those who have the best grades.
2. Cut back on the frivolity in your junior and senior years and work on taking AP and college prep classes in your free time. You not only gain college credits and get to graduate early, you also bring down the total cost of college.
3. Volunteer for some community service and take part in extra-curricular activities to boost your extra-curricular profile; it not only reads well on your college application but also goes down well with employers once you graduate.
4. Create a portfolio of all your accomplishments in high school; from academic performances to community service experience, they all count when you’re looking for a scholarship.
5. If you’re not yet decided about your major and what degree you want to pursue, talk to your high school guidance counselor so you’re able to gain an idea before you go off to college.
6. If you know what you want (which college you want to attend and which degree you want to study), then do your research and ensure that you meet the qualifications for admission. If you require a high GPA or a certain score on standardized tests like the SAT, work on achieving them.
7. Don’t pin all your hopes on one particular institution – create a list of desirable schools and prioritize it in order of your preference. Applying to many schools gives you more options and reduces your chances of failure.
8. Decide on how you’re going to pay for college – if your parents have saved up for you, it’s not much of an issue, otherwise, you must try hard to find a scholarship or grant. Start early, scour the web for resources, and talk to your guidance counselor and the colleges you’re applying to so you can check if you qualify for any of their programs. The least attractive option is a student loan because you graduate with debt clinging to your back. However, if you can work at a part-time job and pay off your debt quickly (don’t borrow loans with prepayment penalty clauses), students loans are a good way to put yourself through college.
9. Work on your communication skills, both written and oral. Your college essay is your USP (unique selling position) when it comes to gaining admission because it is the one thing that sets you apart from every other student who has the same academic qualifications as you. You’re also likely to be interviewed at some point of time before or after you graduate, so learn how to speak confidently and without showing any signs of nervousness.
10. And finally, prepare for a life that’s very different from high school and where your future and success depend on your ability to take the initiative and assume responsibility for yourself.

**Early Graduation?**

**Late Entry/Early Release?**

* Don’t do it! Colleges don’t like it!
* In fact, they *DISCOURAGE* it!
* Instead take more challenging courses (honors, AP, Career & College Promise).
* Don’t believe us

…call the admissions office &

speak to a counselor!

**Why Early Deadlines?**

* High school seniors get lazy & procrastinate!
* It is also deadlines for many scholarships!

**Other Tips:**

* Do as much as possible ELECTRONICALLY!
* Be sure to use the CORRECT/ALL of your name!
* Know your student number & social security number!

**Things to Consider when Looking at Colleges/Schools**

**Affiliation**

• Public

• Private, independent

• Private, church affiliated

• Proprietary

**Size**

• Very small (fewer than 1,000 students)

• Small (1,000-3,999 students)

• Medium (4,000-8,999 students)

• Large (9,000-19,999 students)

• Very large (more than 20,000 students)

**Community**

• Rural

• Small town

• Suburban

• Urban

**Location**

• In your hometown

• Less than 3 hours from home

• More than 3 hours from home

**Housing**

• Dorm

• Off-campus apartment

• Home

• Facilities and services for students with

disabilities

**Student Body**

• All male

• All female

• Coed

**Minority representation**

• Primarily one religious denomination

• Primarily full-time students

• Primarily part-time students

• Primarily commuter students

• Primarily residential students

POTENTIAL ESSAY QUESTIONS

**Think about these questions/statements AND how would you answer them as it pertains to your future!**

1. Give at least one example of your academic motivation and/or potential.

2. What will you bring to a college campus that’s unique?

3. How will college make you different from the person you are today?

4. Are there any particular circumstances, school experiences, or persons influencing your preparation/motivation at attend

college/position? Explain.

5. List 4 adjectives or phrases that describe you and explain.

6. Describe your family (occupations and educations of family, financial situation, relationships with family, etc).

7. Which of your extracurricular activities has been the most important to you and why?

8. Have there been any circumstances that have affected your academic performance and/or personal

development?

9. Describe your relationship with your peers? How would your peers describe you?

10. Give two examples of comments that you believe a teacher would make about you.

11. Is there any other information that you have not included, that would be relevant to your application.

**Academic Environment**

• Majors offered

• Student-faculty ratio

• Faculty teaching reputation

• Instruction by professors versus teaching

assistants

• Facilities (such as classrooms and labs)

• Libraries

• Independent study available

• International study available

• Internships available

**Financial Aid**

• Scholarships

• Grants

• Loans

• Work-study program

• Part-time or full-time jobs

**Support Services**

• Academic counseling

• Career/placement counseling

• Personal counseling

• Student health facilities

**Activities/Social Clubs**

• Clubs, organizations

• Greek life

• Athletics, intramurals

• Other

**Athletics**

• Division I, II, or III

• Sports offered

• Scholarships available

**Specialized Programs**

• Honors programs

• Services for students with disabilities or special

needs