

Freshmen Survival Skills for College Admissions

Skills and planning tips to prepare for the college admissions process.



Maintain Good Grades in All Your Classes

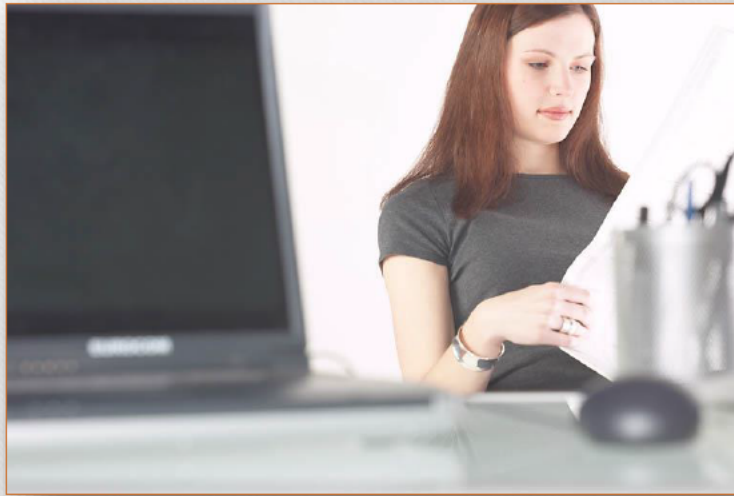
- College Admissions Offices review grades from *all* of your high school years.
- Not all grades are of equal value.
- If you take an AP class, take the AP examination when it is offered.
- Start to get to know your teachers.

Helpful Study Habits for Freshman

- Quiz yourself when reading,
- Read notes out loud,
- Study with a friend,
- Make flashcards,
- Turn the information into a story.

Read. Read. Read

- Read. Not just assigned reading for your classes.
- Keep up with current events.



Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities can help with potential paths, develop skill and add a great deal to your college applications including scholarships. Few examples are:

- Volunteer service
- Student government
- Sports teams
- Theater
- Church groups

Begin Preparing for College Now

- Start by talking to your family about your desire to go to college.
- Meet with your high school guidance counselor early and often.
- Review aptitude tests to determine occupations that may interest you.

Prepare Your Four Year Plan

- Select courses that meet college admission requirements.
- Get help from your counselor.



Learn How to Compete Effectively for Scholarships

- Find out about scholarships awarded locally.
- Remember that many scholarships have qualifications beyond grades, such as extra-curricular activities, community involvement, and volunteerism.
- Keep a calendar of activities, groups and any leadership roles held. This will be extremely useful your senior year.

Create a “Pre-College” File

- Keep important information in your College File.
 - Copies of grade reports
 - List all honors and awards
 - List community and school activities
 - Include all activities, paid or volunteer
- Keep it current.
- Begin to collect information on the colleges that interest you.

Begin Now Learning How to Pay for College

- In addition to scholarships, investigate how to compete for the billions of dollars awarded annually through federal, state institutional, and private resources.
- Check out 529 Plans.



Financial Aid

General Information

- Financial aid is available from federal, state, and college sources.
- The FAFSA is the key in your application for most aid programs.
- It is very important to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st of your Senior year.

Useful Websites

☐ www.collegeforalltexas.com

Supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

☐ <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/>

Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation: Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

☐ <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/>

College 529 savings plans. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

More Useful Websites

- <https://www.AIE.org>
Adventures in Education
- <https://going2college.org>
 - Powered by AIE
- www.knowhow2go.org
 - Sponsored by the American Counsel on Education (ACE) and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Foundation

- For more information visit: www.pphef.org
- Click on the student or parent tab for helpful planning information.

