

Sophomore Survival Skills for College Admissions

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



Review Your Course Plan

- Meet with your guidance counselor.
- Compare your course plan to the admission requirements of your preferred colleges.
- Add dual credit (concurrent credit) courses to your course plan.
- Consider taking Pre-AP Courses.



Check into Admission Tests

- Explore the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT <https://www.collegeboard.org>
- Look for information about the ACT test at <https://act.org/>
- Another ACT website with great information on college planning, financial aid, test prep, and practice test questions is <https://www.actstudent.org/>

Continue to Work Hard in Your Classes

- Grades do matter. Admission offices look at the whole high school transcript. Also remember that not all grades are considered equally.
- Don't procrastinate.

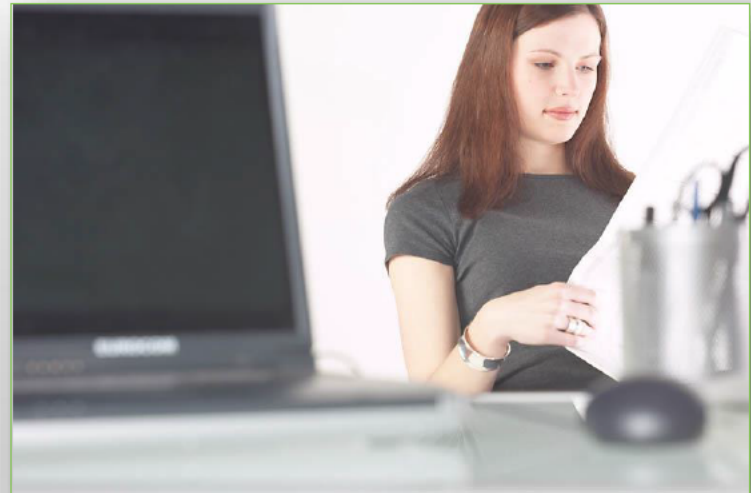


Use a “To Do” List or a Daily Planning Calendar

- Track your assignments and due dates.
- Allocate your time.
- Follow a daily schedule that includes time for homework, every day.
- If you need help—ASK!
- Keep your “College File” up to date with lists of your activities and honors.

Read. Read. Read.

- In your daily schedule set aside time to read.
- Stay on top of world events and news.



Research Colleges and Majors

- Identify colleges and majors that interest you.
- Start to narrow your list of colleges.
- A wealth of information is available on the internet at websites like:

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com> - supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/> - supported by Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Scholarships

- Don't forget to look locally—Civic clubs, high school booster clubs and non-profit organizations.
- Do some leg work! The extra effort will pay off!
- Take advantage of free scholarships searches. **Never** pay for scholarship searches or financial aid advice.
- Search free at:
 - **Adventures in Education** <https://www.aie.org>
 - **College Board**
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>

Web Resources

- **Adventures in Education**, Trellis supported site—<https://www.AIE.org>—FAFSA information, calculators, financial aid calendar, email weekly newsletter, **FREE** scholarship search, web resources, state resources, check lists, and planning guides.
- Also powered by **AIE**—<https://going2college.org>—contains excellent information on college planning, career information, finding a college, and paying for college.

Web Resources

- **Know How 2 Go**—www.knowhow2go.org - sponsored by the American Counsel on Education (ACE) and the Lumina Foundation for Education—site provides planning tips for college by grade level.
- **Windows on State Government**—<https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp> —supported by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts—links to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation “Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar”. Provides admission and financial aid information for Texas colleges and universities.

Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Foundation

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

