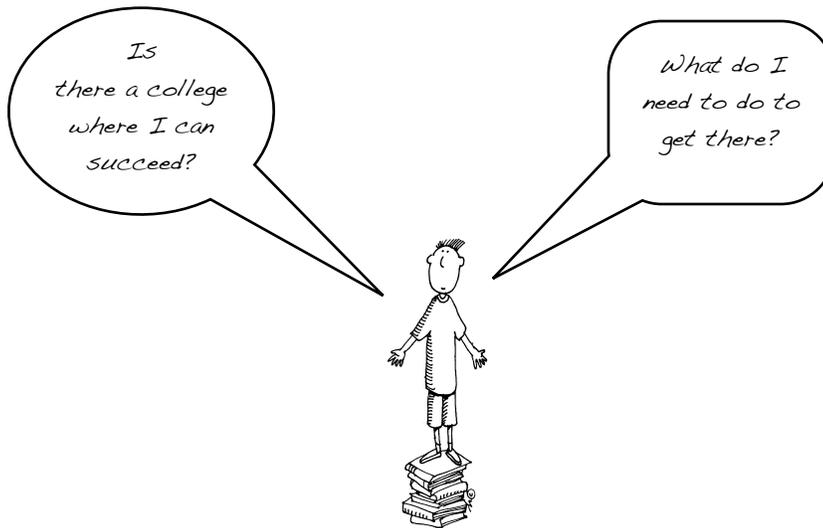


Getting into College

An EARLY guide for
Students in High School
by



CEF COPTIC
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION



Name:

High School:

Grade:



All about YOU.

Just do your best in answering these questions

- (1) What are my academic credentials? (Grades, GPA, rank, test scores if applicable)

- (2) What are my strengths outside academics?

- (3) What clubs, sports, volunteer work do I do? What would I like to get involved with in the future?

- 3) What are my goals after high school?

- 4) How do I want college to help me reach my goals?

- 5) What questions do I have about college? What are my concerns?

Explore your interests.

Do this activity to see how you can go more in depth...

Examples:

Interest: *I am interested in theater.*

How can I learn more? *I can try out for a play at my school or go see a local play.*

Interest: *I am interested in becoming a physical therapist.*

How can I learn more? *I can ask a physical therapist at church about her job.*

1- Interest:

How can I learn more?

2- Interest:

How can I learn more?

3- Interest:

How can I learn more?



FACT: Did you know there are over 250 colleges in California alone?

Activity: Take 5 minutes to think of many colleges as you can think of that fall under these categories:

4 year private:

4 year public:

Community College:

Vocational/Trade School:

MAJOR [mey-jer]: A subject or field of study chosen by a student to represent his or her principal interest and upon which a large share of his or her efforts are concentrated

You do not need to know your major or career while you are in high school. However, you can begin to think about them. Here are some questions to help.

1.) What is my best subject? Which subject do I enjoy the most? (The answer to these 2 questions do not need to be same.)

2.) What is hardest subject?

3.) What are some talents and skills I have? (Name a minimum of 3.)

4.) What jobs seem interesting to me?

5.) What accomplishments am I most proud of?

6.) Who are people that I admire? Why?

Dream University

Let's pretend YOU are creating a University from scratch.

What size college would you like the University/College to be?

- Large (over 10,000)
- Medium (Over 3,000)
- Small (Under 3,000)

Why did you pick this size?

Where would you want to locate this college?

- In a big city
- In a suburb, near a city
- In a rural area or "small town"

Why would you pick this location?

How close to home do you want your college to be?

- A short drive away from home
- A few hours away from home
- A plane ride away from home

What would you like to study and learn in that college?

What clubs, sports or activities would you want at your college?

Activity Log

The next few years will go by fast. It is helpful to record the experiences you have along the way.

Date(s)	Time	Experience/ Activity	Role	What I valued about this experience?
grade 11	3 hrs./wk	newspaper	news editor	teaches me to meet deadlines

My College to do list

Write down some tasks to help you get started on your journey.

- Example:
1. Sign up for an SAT prep course through CEF.
 2. Ask older friends about their college experience.
 3. Sign up for the SAT.

High School Timeline: What to do each year to get ready for college

Freshman Year

- Meet your guidance counselor (even if it is just a 5 minute introduction.)
- Take the hardest courses you can manage
- Get involved in 2-3 sports and/or extracurricular activities (Stay with them throughout high school. For example, soccer, math club and school newspaper.)
- Consider doing community service, even if it is not required at your school (at church, at the library, at a hospital, with the city, etc.)
- Check course requirements for Cal State & UCs and plan to complete them in high school

Sophomore Year

- In October, consider taking the PLAN (given by the makers of the ACT)
- Continue to do well in school and be involved with 2-3 clubs/sports/activities
- In the summer after your sophomore year, do something meaningful like volunteer at a hospital, take a summer class or find a job.
- Get 2-3 books from the library and read them for enjoyment.

Junior Year

- In October, take the PSAT
- Make an appointment with your guidance counselor or CEF counselor to talk about strengths, weaknesses, possibilities for college, etc.
- In November, evaluate your PSAT score—ask yourself, is it high enough to get into the type of college you want to go to? Start doing practice SAT questions at home every week night for 15 minutes minimum.
- In March/April, register for SATs and if needed, the SATIIs (Subject Tests)
- In May, take AP tests if appropriate
- In the summer, begin seriously researching colleges—attend college fairs, gather brochures, surf college websites, ask older friends about their college experience.
- In the summer, Develop a preliminary list of schools to apply to—reach schools, appropriate schools, and safe schools.
- In the summer, study for the SAT, the ACT and the SAT II if you plan to take again

Senior Year

September

- Register asap for the SAT or ACT if you have not already
- Ask teachers and/or other adults for rec letters in September. (Remember, you can ask a youth leader at your church for one but the best recommendations come from school teachers who know your academic ability.)

October

- Finalize list of schools to apply to
- Start filling out applications (usually done online.)
- Start writing college essays (CEF can review your essay. Also, you can have teachers and older mentors proof read and give honest feedback)
- Arrange for transcripts to be sent to colleges.
- Visit colleges if needed & attend college open houses

November

- Register for CSS profile if necessary (a financial aid form used by many private schools)
- Finish applications, visits and interviews

January

- Finish applying to college by college deadline date (often times November-January)
- Work on FAFSA for financial aid, starting in January (www.fafsa.gov)
- Research scholarships
- If needed, make sure first semester transcripts were sent to colleges
- Call each college in January and make sure they have all your materials (things get lost!)

February-March

- If you are applying to schools with rolling admission, and you haven't completed your application, make sure to get everything in

April

- Review acceptances and financial aid packages
- Revisit colleges with your parents
- Decide on one college by May 1st, and decline other offers
- Find out housing application deadlines if necessary

May

- Take AP tests in necessary (a good score may mean less courses to take in college!)
- Enjoy graduation :)