

## TIPS FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

- ✚ TRAVEL----When selecting a college, how will you get around? Are freshmen allowed to have a vehicle on campus? Where will you park on campus? Is there a city/campus transit system? Will you need to fly home? Will your parents need to travel more than two hours to come and get you for an emergency?
- ✚ CLIMATE---If you know you are likely to skip class if you see snow on the ground, you may not want to choose a college in Chicago, Illinois.
- ✚ TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO---Will you be bothered by sitting in a class of 250 people? Would you feel more comfortable if you knew the class would NOT be routinely taught by a graduate assistant?
- ✚ OFFICE HOURS---Pay attention to office hours posted by your instructors. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with an instructor. They are more likely to assist those that they are at least somewhat familiar with...really!
- ✚ COMMUNICATION---Call and email your instructors if you are sick. You may not be able to come to class if you have the flu, but you do need to keep the lines of communication open. AND you may still be expected to turn that research paper in ON TIME.
- ✚ BE ASSERTIVE---Ask the questions you need to ask at the appropriate time. Some instructors welcome questions during lectures, but others do not.
- ✚ SAT and ACT---Do take these test seriously. A great score could equal several scholarship opportunities for you. Don't wait until the last minute to take the test. Take practice tests to prepare for the test.
- ✚ FEE WAIVERS---Many schools accept fee waivers to cover application fees. Just check the college websites or call the director of admissions. In most cases, students who qualify for a SAT or ACT fee waiver may use application fee waivers. High school counselors are usually required to certify a fee waiver for an applicant.
- ✚ FAFSA----FAFSA---FAFSA---Get this done as soon after January 1 of your senior year as possible.
- ✚ BE REALISTIC---Can you afford to go to the colleges on your list? Will you NEED a grant, scholarship, or LOAN to attend? LOANS will have to be paid back with interest.

- ✚ WHAT'S IN A NAME?---Don't just select a college based on the name. Do they offer your prospective major? Is the college known for having a great program of study for that major?
- ✚ HOUSING---Does the college require that you live on campus? Be sure to apply for housing as early as possible.
- ✚ COLLEGE FOLDER---You must have a place to keep all of your paperwork for college planning. Sometimes offices lose documents. Always keep a copy for yourself. Organize your stuff!
- ✚ TRANSCRIPT---Get a copy of your transcript BEFORE your senior year. Be sure that your GPA and CREDIT totals are correct.
- ✚ ALTERNATIVE ROUTES---Remember that two-year colleges are a great alternative route to a four-year degree. Consider the "transfer plan" to get a degree. It may save you a lot of money.
- ✚ LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION---Do get commitments for letters of recommendation **early** if you will need them for college applications or scholarships. Ask people who are familiar with your strengths and goals. Be sure this is a task that they will be comfortable doing for you.