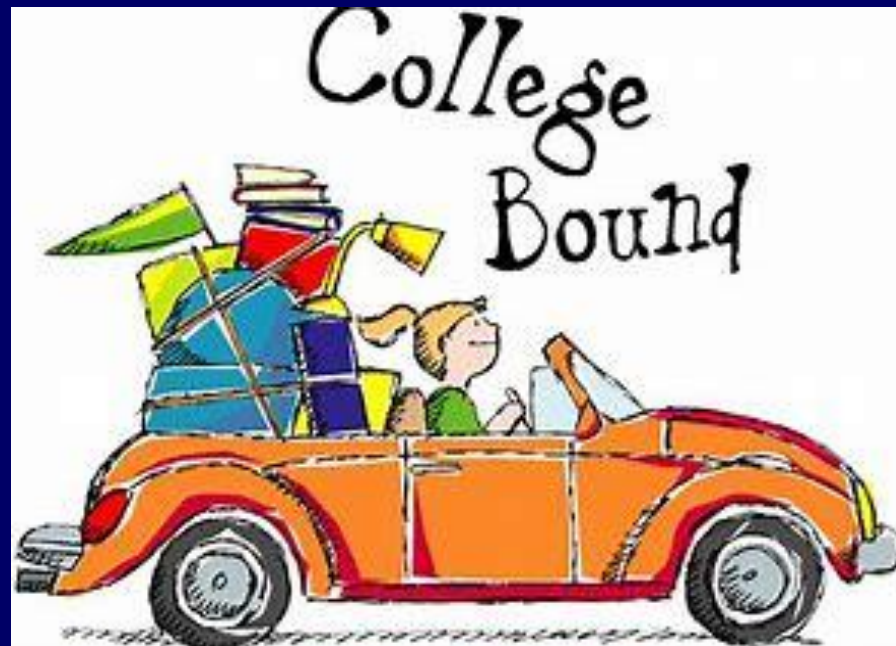


COLLEGE 101



Step 1: What Should I Major In?

- ▣ Personality Assessments
- ▣ Career Assessments
- ▣ Hands on Experience

Step 2: Take The ACT or SAT

- ▣ ACT- The ACT contains four sections: Reading, Math, English, and Science.
- ▣ SAT- The SAT contains three sections: Reading, Math, and Writing.
- ▣ Both also have an optional essay. Each section has a different format on the ACT compared to the SAT.

Step 3:

Extra Curricular Activities

- ▣ Students should participate in at least one activity during the school year.
- ▣ Activities may include sports, band, or clubs and organizations.

Step 4: Maintain Good GPA

- ▣ A good GPA will set student apart from other candidates.



Step 5: Community Service

- ▣ Make sure that community service is repetitive and consecutive over at least two years.



Step 6: Look at Colleges that Specialize in Major

- ▣ Encourage your child to apply to at least 4-5 schools.
- ▣ Encourage your child to have at least 1 reach school.
- ▣ Attend college fairs.
- ▣ Tour prospective colleges.

Step 7: Visit Campuses

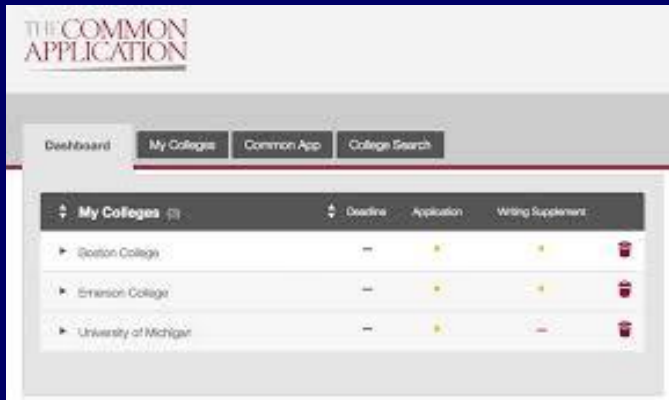
- ▣ Make Appointment
- ▣ Ask Questions
- ▣ Get to know Admissions Counselor
- ▣ Ask current students questions.
- ▣ Sit in on a lecture.

Step 8: Find Out What Matters Most?

- ▣ Major
- ▣ Scholarships
- ▣ Greek Life
- ▣ Car for First Year Students
- ▣ Teacher Student Ratio
- ▣ Proximity to Home

Step 9: How to Apply to Schools

- ▣ Common Application
- ▣ Apply Texas



Step 10: Transcripts

- ▣ Transcripts may be sent early to admit a student provisionally, but all schools require a final high school transcript.
- ▣ Be sure to check final high school transcript for accuracy.

Step 11: Immunization Records

- ▣ If a student is under 22 when he or she enrolls into a college or university, the state of Texas requires that he or she have the meningitis shot proof submitted 10 days prior to the first day of class.

Step 12: Letters of Recommendation

- ▣ Please give a 3 week notice to person writing letter.
- ▣ Please make sure that person writing the letter has known student at least two years.

Step 13: Admissions Essay

- ▣ Authentic Voice
- ▣ Tone
- ▣ Passion



Step 14: Early Decision vs. Early Action

- ▣ **Early decision** plans are binding — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college.
- ▣ **Early action** plans are nonbinding — students receive an **early** response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Step 15: How to Apply for Financial Aid

- ▣ Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.
- ▣ As of last year, FAFSA was made available on October 1.
- ▣ Please encourage your student to apply early.
- ▣ The easiest and fastest way is to file the FAFSA online with your FSA ID, made up of your username and password. Your application will be processed within 3 – 5 days.

AP VS. DUAL CREDIT

AP courses are part of the College Board organization that requires students to take a rigorous test at the end of the course to potentially earn college **credit**.

A **dual credit** course on the other hand is an official college course and student must make 70 or higher in the class to pass.

Step 16: How to Find Scholarship Money

- ▣ Local
- ▣ Job Scholarships
- ▣ School Scholarships
- ▣ Departmental Scholarships
- ▣ FAFSA is not required for Merit or Needs Based Scholarships.

Questions

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