

TEN IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER IN PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

1. Start researching colleges of interest well before the start of your final year of high school. Don't wait until November or December of your senior year. Research pre-admission expectations, if any (for example, minimum grade-point average or standardized test scores, a required art portfolio, a music audition tape), and various application requirements (for example, deadlines, letters of reference, standardized tests).
2. Maintain a complete list of the community service activities and extracurricular activities, in which you have been involved. Consider creating a résumé, which you can do in Naviance and which your teachers and college counselor may find helpful in writing letters of recommendation for you.
3. Take the necessary standardized tests (e.g., SAT, TOEFL, ACT, IELTS). Generally, this must be accomplished by December or January of your senior year, at the latest. Be certain to register for these exams by the registration deadlines. See Section 7 of this handbook.
4. Make sure when you register for standardized tests that you use your formal name, that is, the name on your passport. This should also be the name that appears on your high school transcript and on your college applications.
5. Visit college campuses, if at all possible! Do this during the summer(s) before your senior year or during school vacations within the academic year.
6. When you apply for admission, you will want to submit all original transcripts from previous high schools. This means that you will need to plan ahead to request that the registrar of any previous high school sends an official copy of your earlier record directly to the colleges to which you are applying.
7. Remember when choosing colleges that you will want at least some schools on your list to be within reach. Regardless of your KAS record, do not apply only to colleges that are among the most highly selective.
8. Wherever you apply, your grades will be very important. The most important goal for you in grades 11 and 12 should be to be responsible students and active learners, and to earn good grades in ALL courses. Some students believe that the senior year doesn't count. This is not true. Colleges will request mid-year and final

senior grades. To be sure, your admission to college will be based on grades earned before the end of the final semester of your senior year, but if your academic performance drops well below earlier levels, offers of admission may be revoked.

9. Ask questions when in doubt. Be thoughtful and take your time. Don't make careless mistakes that may cost you an offer of admission. If it is worth the effort to initiate an application and the effort of others to support your candidacy, it certainly ought to be worth the effort to do your very best to complete the application carefully and effectively.

10. Work on your application essay(s) early. You can check out the websites of universities of interest to you and start writing well before the application deadline. You can certainly do this with the Common Application essay prompts, which tend to change very little from year to year. Do not simply type your written work (essays, short answers) into an application without proofreading several times. In fact, it is often a good idea to invite one or two adults to read over your work and to give you feedback on how you might improve your essay.