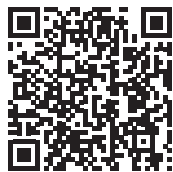


KIDS 2 CAREERS

SENIOR YEAR



COLLEGE PREP OVERVIEW

1 Prepare

- TAKE THE TESTS:**
Register and take [SAT](#), [ACT](#), [WorkKeys](#), and [AP Tests](#) – whichever are right for you.
- WRITE YOUR STORY:**
Create a resume in [akcis.org](#), and a list of [accomplishments and values](#) - these will help with essays and help your recommenders know more about you.
- LIST TOP OPTIONS:**
Decide which colleges are best for you AND [make a list of your favorite choices](#). Use ACPE's [Comparing Colleges & Tracking Deadlines](#) tool.
- UNDERSTAND COSTS:**
Use [Net Cost Calculators](#) to estimate costs and identify your best options.
- APPLY FOR FUNDING:**
Apply for grants and scholarships (local, institutional, specialty).

2 Apply

- CONSIDER ALL OPTIONS:**
Look up programs that meet your educational and personal needs. There are many programs – big and small; You might be surprised at where you can find the best aid package and education.
- FINALIZE YOUR LIST:**
Select one to four (or more) schools. Consider [1 safety, 1 reach, and 2 matches/targets](#).
- START YOUR ESSAYS:**
Use your resume, [values, and accomplishments](#) to write your personal statement and essays. Research professors and programs and think about minors and specializations when writing the *"Why This School"* essays.
- RETAKE TESTS IF NECESSARY:**
[Send score reports](#) to colleges when required, or where you opt to do so.
- REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS & TRANSCRIPTS:**
[Tell recommenders deadlines](#) and share with them your resume, list of accomplishments, values and anything else you want them to know. Letters should be generic for use at any and all institutions; Transcripts should be ordered one month before due.
- FINALIZE & COMPLETE APPLICATIONS:**
Track requirements and deadlines; Ask your school counselor if you qualify for an application [fee waiver](#).



KIDS 2 CAREERS



Continued: SENIOR YEAR — COLLEGE PREP OVERVIEW

3 Find Funding

- COMPLETE THE FAFSA:**
 Complete [student and parent sections](#) as early as December to receive the most financial aid
- APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:**
 Track deadlines and seek out scholarships throughout the year.
- UNDERSTAND LOAN OPTIONS:**
 Review [ACPE's financial literacy information](#) to learn more about responsible options for funding your education. Accept Federal loans first, then [ACPE loans](#) to cover unmet financial need.

4 Choose

- EXPLORE CAMPUSES:**
 Review websites, visit in person, and talk with campus staff and students at your top choice institutions.
- WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS:**
 Use a [spreadsheet to track](#) all the factors that are important to you and decide which colleges you are qualified for that include your interests (academics, activities, lifestyle, finances).
- MAKE IT AFFORDABLE:**
 Review [financial aid award letters](#), use [Net Cost Calculators](#) and [Income-Based Repayment Calculators](#) to determine which options are financially best.

5 Finalize

- RESERVE YOUR SPACE:**
 Pay the deposit to reserve your space and follow all instructions. Many schools will ask you to create and monitor your student portal and email from now until graduation.
- REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION:**
 Watch your email, review the campus website and share orientation details with your family. Orientation is a great time for you and your family to become familiar with what to expect as you begin your college experience.
- MAKE YOUR PAYMENTS:**
 Monitor your student portal and email, review the campus website, and ensure your family is aware of all upcoming due dates and payment options. Ensure you have a plan in place one month before fees are due.

 Some colleges DO NOT send invoices. Be sure to monitor the portal and [calendar deadlines](#). You are responsible for making payments and your family won't have access without your written permission.
- PREPARE TO MOVE IN:**
 Review your campus website for a list of what to bring. Talk with your roommates to decide who is bringing items that will be shared. Make travel arrangements.