

# KIDS2CAREERS: SENIOR YEAR



## COLLEGE PREP OVERVIEW

### 1 Prepare

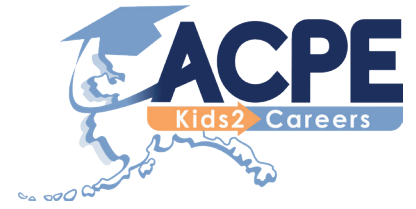
- **TAKE THE TESTS:**  
Register and take [SAT](#), [ACT](#), [WorkKeys](#), and [AP Tests](#) — whichever are right for you.
- **WRITE YOUR STORY:**  
Create a resume in [akcis.org](#), and a list of [accomplishments and values](#) - these will help with essays and help your recommenders know more about 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](#).



**Continued:**  
**SENIOR YEAR —**  
**COLLEGE PREP OVERVIEW**



**3 Find Funding**

- COMPLETE THE FAFSA:**  
 Complete [student and parent sections](#) as early as December 1 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.