



NATIVE PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE

This is the time to get serious and stick to your schedule. Keep up in your classes and plan out the next two years strategically. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want, then finding colleges that will meet your goals and interests.

12th
grade
checklist

Check-in w/ Counselor

- Update them on your college application process and ask about any fee waivers or programs that can help with testing or college applications.
- Notify them of any major deadlines with scholarships and applications.
- Give them a copy of your resume with any additional accomplishments over the summer.

Stay Organized

- Keep copies of everything you submit, be prepared to resend any missing information to organizations, individuals and colleges.
- Make sure you are aware of deadlines

Fall | Sept - Jan

- Check in with your teachers or people writing letters of recommendation. Make sure they are aware of deadlines for your materials.
- Prepare and your college applications. When writing your essays, be sure to proofread your work. Use your resources and seek out a teacher to review your essays before submitting them.
- Search and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources, including your college(s) of choice.
- The FAFSA application opens on October 1st.** Ask schools if they require additional information for your financial aid package.
- Early decision/early action: Nov. 1-15 (Ask your counselor for details)
- Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving. Don't forget to submit transcript requests with your schools for college and scholarships. Be sure to send your test scores as well!
- Before the Holiday Break in December - all college applications need to be submitted.

Semester Checklist

Spring | Jan - May

- Start researching housing on campus at the schools of your choice. Consider living at home as an option, living off campus, or a deposit for residence hall is needed. Housing fills up fast!
- Keep active in school and keep your grades up. If schools are debating to take you, they will follow-up to see if you are keeping up in classes and staying involved.
- If possible, visit the college before accepting and inquire about any concerns such as housing.
- Mid-April - Compare financial aid packages** at the schools who have accepted you.
 - Sit down with your family and understand what each grant or scholarship will pay for and consider any additional funding that may be needed through loans.
 - Consider any funding needed for future years and what action may be needed from year to year.
 - Consider the best option along with your academic and social needs.
- Accept your school by May 1st and submit a deposit to the college of your choice. If you cannot pay the deposit, communicate with the Financial Aid office on waiver or deferment options. Ask your high school to send in a final transcript to your school. Be sure to follow up with other schools about your final decision.

Communication is important

- Email etiquette is important when communicating with your teachers, counselors, and college representatives
- Use complete words - no OMG or BTW
- Title your emails, use a salutation and use closings
- CHECK YOUR EMAIL - there is important information being sent to you, but this is great practice for college

College Visits

- Visit colleges and explore what they offer. If possible, visit a range of local colleges—large, small, public, private, tribal—and decide what fits your needs.
- Talk to key staff members such as the professors, students, the Native American Center or the Multicultural Center.
- Contact the Admissions office to set up a tour or inquire about the interview process and schedule an interview.
- If one or both of your parents did not attend college, you could be eligible for first-generation services like TRIO or Upward Bound. They are designed to assist in your transition to college and some programs offer financial assistance.
- Get connected with the Native American or Multicultural Center. They may offer services or programs that are specific to your identity and will most likely connect you to scholarships.

For more guidance to prepare for a campus visit:

- Campus Tips & Tricks - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvHePH1aub&feature=youtu.be>
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist

Congrats! You're going to college!

- Enroll in classes and attend orientation for new students.
- Look over the syllabus for each course. The syllabus is the outline and summary of topics that will be covered in the course. The syllabus should also note what books are required for the class.
- Start buying required books. Used books cost less, but make sure they are the edition required in class.
- Study the map of the campus and visit each classroom. This way, you won't feel so rushed on the first day of classes.
- Buy the supplies you'll need (backpack, pens, notebooks or folders, and so on). Supplies are likely to cost less off campus.

Connect with us!

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