

# How To Prepare, Plan and Pay for College?



## **Session Overview**

- About College
- Preparing for College
  - Types of Colleges
  - Choosing the right fit
- Planning for College
  - Academic preparation
  - Admissions requirements
- Paying for College
  - Applying for financial aid
  - Scholarships





# **Preparing for College**





# Why College?

- College is critical to your future
- Jobs of the future will require more skills than those provided by a high school education alone
- Students who go to college have financial advantages
  - their life-time earnings are higher than those of high school graduates
  - they are less likely to be unemployed
  - their children are more likely to attend college

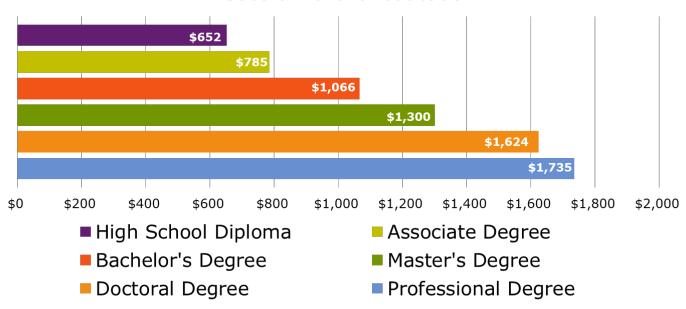


# Why College?

Besides educational gain ,earning a college degree also places you at a different earning bracket:

#### Median weekly earnings in 2012

Based on level of education



Source: bls.gov/emp/ep\_table\_001.htm



## **Types of Institutions**

# High School Community College\* College/University Graduate or Professional school (2 years) (4 years) (2-6 years) Associate's Degree • Bachelor's Degree Masters Doctorate

\*Earn AA degree and take appropriate transferable units to move on to a 4-year institution



## **Choosing the Right College**



College visits & campus tours



# **Planning for College**





# Academics (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

## College Requirements

- Minimum Recommended:
  - 4 Years English, 3 Years Mathematics, 2 Years Science, Foreign Language, and Social Studies, and 1 Year Laboratory Science, Performing Arts, and History.
- Competitive Students:
  - Full 4 Years in the Five Core Subjects: English, Mathematics, Laboratory Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language.

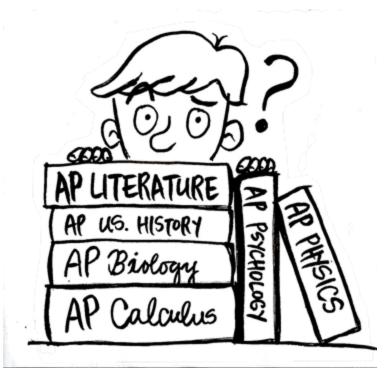
## Challenge Yourself

- Honors / Advanced Placement Courses
- Community College Courses



## Why Should You Take Advanced Courses?

- Types of advanced courses:
  - Honors courses
  - Advanced Placement (AP) courses and AP Exams
  - Dual credit courses
  - International Baccalaureate (IB) courses
- Classes are more challenging
- Coursework prepares you for college courses
- Makes you and your application more competitive
- Tells colleges and universities that you have challenged yourself with rigorous academics during high school





# Planning for College (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

- Grade Point Average
- Maintain Good Grades
  - 3.0 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale(Good)
  - 3.6 4.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale (Great)
- Get Help in Your Classes
  - Teachers
  - Tutoring
  - Make Sure They Know YouCare!

#### **GPA**

$$F = 0.0 - 0.4$$
 (0-64)



## Extracurriculars (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

- Extracurriculars are activities that take place outside the classroom
- Allow students to develop leadership and organizational skills
- Lets admission representatives determine your ability to manage school work and activities outside of the classroom



Dance groups



School-based sports



High school clubs and organizations







Church youth groups / Catechism



Community service/volunteering



## **Standardized Tests**

- 9<sup>th</sup>—10<sup>th</sup> grade → Take the PSAT
  - Sign up to take these through collegeboard.com
  - Begin to explore test-taking, techniques
- 11<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> grade → SAT/ACT/AP Exams/HS Exit Exams (vary by state)
  - Study from guide books
  - Track your progress and working under time limits
  - Register for SAT: collegeboard.com
  - Register for ACT: actstudent.org

Fee waivers are available!

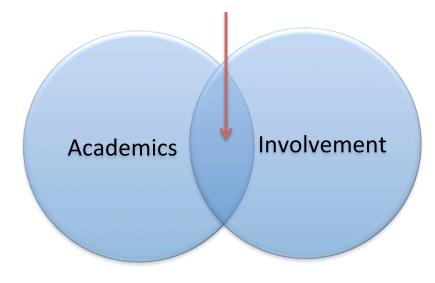
Test optional admission:

www.fairtest.org



## The Well-Rounded Student (9th-12th grade)





# Who is a wellrounded student?

- Strong academic profile
  - GPA and class rigor
  - Solid writing skills
- Involved in community service, athletics,
   extracurricular activities
  - Strong leadership & organizational skills



# **Building Your Network (9th-12th grade)**

- Let teachers know who you are!
  - Share your academic goals
  - Mentoring & guidance
- Start researching schools & scholarships
- Visit Colleges
  - Meet with representatives from schools you're interested in
  - Make an impression
- Letters of Recommendation
  - Share your résumé/brag sheet
  - Inform them about guidelines
  - Provide sufficient time

- ✓ Teachers
- √ Counselors
- √ Employers
- ✓ Community Leaders



# **Building Your Network (10th-11th grade)**

- Keep an eye out for:
  - College prep programs, workshops, institutes, etc. to put your best foot forward









# **Applying to College (12th grade)**

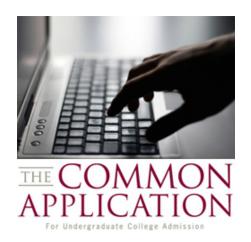


- Keep in mind the type of school you are interested in
- Fall deadlines/Spring deadlines
- Events to attend
- Where to go for college information
  - College websites
  - College Board
  - Campus visits
  - College fairs
  - College interviews



# **Applying to College (12th grade)**

- Application Process:
  - Application: Common Application: (commonapp.org) or application specific to school
  - High School transcripts
  - SAT and/or ACT test scores
  - Essays
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Keep deadlines in mind!
- Additional requirements per institution









# College Prep Summary—Building up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Academic rigor
- Extracurriculars
- Exam testing
- Well-Rounded Student
- Building Your Network
- Start working on essays for colleges and scholarships
- Keep deadlines in mind!





# **Paying for College**





## What Does Financial Aid Offer?

## Access to funds to help pay for

- 4-year public and independent colleges and universities
- Community colleges
- Private career colleges

## Choice among schools

 Choose the best academic, career, cultural, and social fit rather than the least expensive program





## What Are The Basic Concepts Of Financial Aid?

- Student Cost of Attendance (COA)
- Parent and Student Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Student Financial Need





## What Is The Cost of Attending College?

**Tuition & Fees** 

**Room & Board** 

**Personal Expenses** 

**Books & Supplies** 

**Transportation** 



## What is the EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)?

# **The Expected Family Contribution**

**(EFC)** is the amount a family (parents and student) is expected to pay from income and assets over time.





#### **How Do We Determine The Student's Need?**

## **Cost of Attendance (COA)**

- Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)

\*Financial Need\*

\*Financial Need= Financial Aid Eligibility





## **What Are The Types Of Financial Aid?**

Scholarships	Grants	Federal Work-Study Program	Student loans
<ul> <li>Do not have to be repaid</li> <li>You should never have to pay to do a scholarship search – beware of scams.</li> <li>Find details on finaid.org and hsf.net</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Do not have to be repaid</li> <li>Awarded based on financial need and/or academic achievement</li> <li>Some are federally funded and others are state programs</li> <li>Some institutions have private grant programs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Based on financial need</li> <li>Allows students to earn income working part-time</li> <li>Can work either on or off-campus</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Must be repaid</li> <li>Federally funded</li> <li>Privately funded from lenders such as banks and credit unions</li> </ul>



## What Are The Primary Sources Of Financial Aid?

- Federal government
- State governments
- Colleges and universities
- Private agencies and organizations





#### What Type of Loans Are Available For Students and Parents?

If student/parents loans are offered loans in a financial aid packet, families should understand the different types

#### **Federal Perkins Loans**

- Need based
- Subsidized (no interest accrues while in school)
- Low interest rate

#### **Federal Stafford Loans**

- Government guaranteed
- Qualify for unsubsidized loans regardless of family income
- Subsidized loans require student and family to show financial need.

#### **Federal PLUS Loans for parents and graduate students**

- Fixed interest rates/unsubsidized
- Cover the cost of education
- Not need-based
- Unsubsidized (interest accrues while in college)

#### **Private loans**

- cover the cost of tuition and other eligible educated related expenses
- Credit based and students might need a cosigner



#### **Want More Information on Loans?**

#### Wells Fargo *CollegeSTEPS*<sup>®</sup> program:

- Get college planning tips, tools, and resources
- wellsfargo.com/steps4success

#### Wells Fargo student loan website

- Explore tools and resources, learn about searching for scholarships
- wellsfargo.com/student

#### The Student LoanDown<sup>SM</sup> blog

- Join the conversation about financing college and managing debt
- blogs.wellsfargo.com/studentloandown

#### Hands on Banking® program

- Learn sensible money management skills to help create a brighter financial future
- handsonbanking.org

#### Additional online resources

- Find additional resources on budgeting, choosing a college, finding scholarships, and more
- wellsfargo.com/collegeresources



#### **How The Previous Formula Works:**

	HSF CC	<b>HSF State</b>	<b>HSF Univ.</b>	<b>HSF Private</b>
Cost	\$13,000	\$23,000	\$31,000	\$55,000
EFC	- 500	- 500	- 500	- 500
Need	\$12,500	\$22,500	\$30,500	\$54,500

In the best of all possible worlds, full "need" will be met with financial aid award made up of grants and scholarships along with reasonable amounts of work and loan. Some schools are not able to meet full need.



## You Receive Financial Aid By Completing The FAFSA

1. Obtain a U.S. Department of Education (ED) Personal Identification Number (PIN)

www.pin.ed.gov

2. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

#### **FAFSA DEADLINE VARIES BY STATE**

- 3. Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR), where EFC amount is included
- 4. Learn about other required financial aid forms
- CSS Profile through College Board

TIP: Get an estimate of federal financial aid eligibility at: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov



## Important Update to FAFSA

- IRS Retrieval and Transfer Tool
  - Automatically transfers data from IRS to FAFSA
  - Easier way to fill out the FAFSA
- IRS data available:
  - 1-2 weeks after electronic filing
  - 6-8 weeks after paper filing
- Not required
- FAFSA Website: www.fafsa.ed.gov



## **Use Your College's Net Price Calculator**

- The **Net Price Calculator** is a tool that can help you estimate your total costs and help you understand the types of financing resources that you may qualify for. Use the search feature on your college's website and type price calculator to get an estimate.
- When planning your college budget, consider the following expenses:
  - Tuition and fees:
  - Housing
  - Meals
  - Books and supplies
  - Transportation
  - Personal expenses





#### **Undocumented Students**

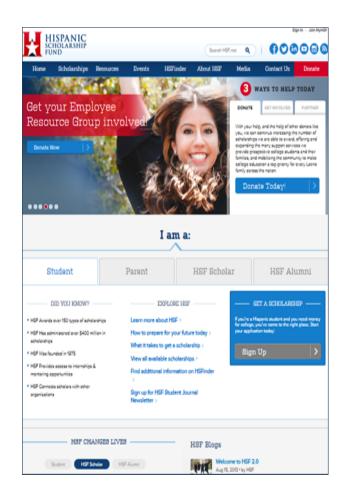
- Can attend college
- Ask colleges about their undocumented student policy
- Dream Act
   equivalent of FAFSA
   for undocumented
   students
- DACA—Deferred
   Action for Childhood
   Arrivals





#### **Undocumented Students**

- Qualify for certain types of aid take advantage of these!
  - Merit-based scholarships to all admitted students
  - Special programs for undocumented students
  - Financial aid packets are offered at many institutions
- Additional resources to receive more information and apply for aid:
  - HSF.NET
  - www.latinocollegedollars.org
  - www.MALDEF.org
  - www.bestcolleges.com





## What Happens After The FAFSA Submission?

- Institutions will take into account your family's EFC (Expected Family Contribution) as calculated on the online Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Financial aid packets from all institutions student was admitted into
- If schools are not able to meet full need, students will need to rely on other alternatives (scholarships, loans, etc.)
  - Visit HSF.NET to learn more about our scholarship!
    - HSF Application opens on January 15<sup>th</sup>
- It is important to compare all financial aid packets available and keep in mind what the student is looking for in a college
- Check your email!



# **Sample: Financial Aid Award**

Sample Financial Aid Award Package	
Total Cost of Attendance	\$20,000
Expected Family Contribution	\$1,823
Outside Scholarship	\$1,000
Financial Need	\$17,177
Federal Pell Grant	\$3,700
State Scholarship Grant	\$1,500
Institutional Grant	\$7,500
Federal Perkins Loan	\$1,000
Federal Direct Loan	\$1,477
Federal Work-Study	\$2,000
Total Award	\$17,177

From Student aid on the Web: http://studentaid2.ed.gov/



## Stay On Track: Checklist for the Fall Semester

July/August	September/October	November/December
<ul><li>List your top college choices</li></ul>	<ul><li>Submit your college applications</li></ul>	<ul><li>Gather the data needed for the FASFA</li></ul>
<ul> <li>Request admissions information and school catalogs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Search and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources including your college(s)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Visit the website:         <ul> <li>fafsa4caster.ed.gov and</li> <li>use the Net Price</li> <li>Calculator on college</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Plan visits to colleges.</li> <li>Compare costs of each school that interest you by contacting colleges through phone, mail or through their websites</li> <li>Set a time to meet your college counselor</li> </ul>	or choice  Check with college to see if you need to complete a College Scholarship Services (CCS) profile or a Financial Aid form	websites to determine costs for going to college  Parents: begin gather information to file taxes



## **Stay On Track: Checklist for Spring Semester**

January	February/March	April/May
<ul> <li>Complete the FASFA at fafsa.ed.gov online as soon as possible after January 1st.</li> </ul>	Look in the mail for your:	<ul> <li>Consider all funding options to cover costs of college after reviewing award letter</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Check with college for FAFSA priority deadlines</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Online Student Aid Report (SAR)</li><li>Financial aid award</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Accept financial aid offer from the institution of your choice</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Check with college for institutional and state aid priority deadlines</li> </ul>	letter/s and begin comparing packages from all institutions your student was admitted into	<ul> <li>May 1<sup>st</sup>: National Commitment Deadline: Send in tuition deposit by the required deadline</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>HSF application opens on January 1<sup>st</sup>—possible additional funds!</li> </ul>	stadent mas danneted mes	to the school you've decided to attend

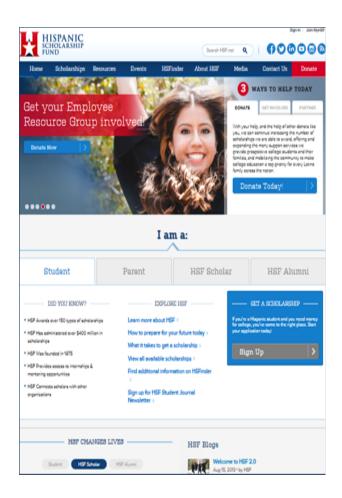
#### **FAFSA DEADLINE VARIES BY STATE**



#### **Additional Resources**

- Visit HSF.NET—

   apply to
   scholarships, find
   resources to better
   understand the
   college process, be
   part of our events!
- Fastweb.org
- Collegeboard.org





#### **Additional Resources continued**

- High school counselors
- Colleges'/Universities' websites and Admission/Financial Aid Offices
- Find online planning tools and resources by visiting wellsfargo.com/student including:
  - CollegeSTEPS® program
  - Scholarship research
  - Student loans step-by-step
  - Interactive calculators to help students determine how much to borrow, estimate the payments, and more!















