

6 Tips to prepare for college as a first-generation high school student

1 Start the Process Early!

- **Research colleges** that have the major you want, are in a location you like, and are the size you're looking for
- **Create a calendar** of important admissions dates (application deadlines, decision deadlines)
- **Visit campuses** in-person or online!



4 Explore Financial Aid Options

Some scholarships start as early as **junior year!**

Complete the FAFSA or CASFA Early (senior year)!

Apply for every scholarship you can! (Your CCAs and counselors have these!)



2 Meet with an Advisor

Schedule an appointment to meet with your high school counselor, College & Career Advisor, or Upward Bound Advisor to discuss your **goals, dreams, and college plans!**

5 Create Your Support System

Know who to go to for help!

- **Counselor/Advisor** - applications, scholarships, financial aid
- **Admissions Counselor** - each college will assign you someone to answer your questions!
- **Family & Friends** - keep you grounded during the long path to college!

3 Focus on Your Grades

Grades are one of the **most important** pieces of your college process, especially for scholarship and admission purposes.

Knowing how to study and succeed in your high school classes **sets you up for success in college** classes that are more academically challenging!



6 Explore What's Next

- Interested in a specific major or career? Check out what internships or jobs are available in your area!
- Read books or articles about careers you are curious about!
- Consider concurrent enrollment courses to sharpen your specific skills!

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS:

More Dates, Deadlines, and Considerations to Make in High School

1 Admissions & Financial Aid Dates

- **August 1** - Common Application opens
- **October 1** - FAFSA Opens
- **November 1** - Boettcher Scholarship Due
- **Mid-December** - Early Action/Early Decision Deadline
- **May 1** - College commitment day!

2 Use Your Summers Wisely

- **Working** - find a job that helps you save some money, learn important skills, and enhance your resume!
- **College Programs** - see the list below!
- **Volunteering** - give back to local organizations!

Free & Low-Cost Pre-College Summer Programs



3 Scholarships to Explore

JUNIOR YEAR *Spring Deadlines*

- Quest Bridge Scholarship

SENIOR YEAR *Fall Deadlines*

- Boettcher Scholarship
- Daniels Fund Scholarship
- Dell Foundation Scholarship
- Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

Spring Deadlines

- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- Western CO Community Foundation Scholarships
- Saccomanno Scholarship
- Reisher Ready Scholarship (CMU)

4 Consider Joining Upward Bound

Upward Bound works with income-eligible, first-generation students at Central and Grand Junction High School

After-school tutoring, SAT prep, 6-week summer academy, admissions support, financial aid guidance

5 Take the SAT Seriously

The SAT is important to your college success!

- **Practice Tests** - the Bluebook App offers free, digital practice tests and will review your answers!
- **Free Workshops & Resources** - Upward Bound hosts once monthly **SAT workshops** at CHS and GJHS; download the **Khan Academy app** on your phone!
- **One-on-One Tutoring** - if you're struggling in a specific topic, reach out to a teacher, REC tutor, or Upward Bound tutor for help!



6 Focus on 1-2 Activities

- **Quality is better than quantity**
- Instead of adding more to your plate, **lean into leadership positions** in the clubs or sports you're involved with.
- Lead a club initiative, connect with other groups, and show depth of involvement