

# College planning

## checklist

*Planning for college is a complex, multi-year process, but Class 101 makes college planning simple! We help students find the best schools, at the best price, for their best future.*

### Exploring majors and discovering your potential career route

- Class 101 students take a DISC behavioral analysis to help each student identify their natural talents, behaviors and potential career paths.
- Students should identify careers that excite them and find a mentor or shadow a company within that industry.
- Students should participate in organizations, clubs at school, or in the community around areas of interests. Attend a camp, for example Pharmacy Camp, Aviation Camp, etc.

### Developing a college plan

- Attend college presentations at your school or in your community.
- Attend college fairs and talk to college representatives.
- Start reviewing college websites. Explore different locations and think about the distance from home, weather, and future economic and employment opportunities in that area.
- Start considering campus lifestyle. Identify where you feel comfortable: in an urban, suburban, or rural setting? Would you prefer public or private? In-state or out-of-state? Do you prefer a school that is competitive in athletics? In regard to size and student body, are you looking for a school that has a large enrollment or something smaller?
- When exploring majors, does the school offer the majors you are interested in pursuing?
- Start identifying a list of safe schools, match schools and reach schools.
- Request information from the colleges in which you are interested. Contact admissions representatives and ask questions.
- Visit 10 schools before senior year (college visits can be done virtually now).
- Reminder: college campuses are looking much different during the pandemic; read their back-to-school COVID guidelines.

## Did you know?

College admissions officers review your:

- STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES**
- HIGH SCHOOL GPA**
- THE CLASSES YOU TOOK IN HIGH SCHOOL**
- PERSONAL ESSAYS**
- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
- ADMISSIONS INTERVIEWS**

## Developing a memorable college essay

- Choose a unique topic. Make your essay memorable by identifying a topic that will help your essay stand out from all the other essays. Class 101 helps every student find and identify their unique topic and guides them through the editing process.
- Be mindful of the number of supplemental responses and additional essays you will need to complete based on your college list.
- Highlight information that does not show up anywhere else in your application.
- Have your essay complete by the start of senior year.

## Building your resume for applications

- Present your accomplishments, highlighting leadership positions, honors, awards, internships, externships, and relevant employment opportunities.
- Identify sports leagues, clubs, community organizations, and extracurricular activities.
- A strong application has at least ten robust extracurricular activities. If your list is lacking, your Class 101 advisor will help you create a separator, which is an extracurricular that you have created and organized.

## Our advice: Visit 10 schools, apply to 7 and love 5

### ACT/SAT/PSAT Test Prep

- Class 101 emphasizes the importance of ACT/SAT/PSAT practice tests and test prep. We help you identify your top ten areas of improvement in order to increase your test scores.
- Test prep scores will be used to help colleges make decisions about admittance as well as scholarship consideration.
- PSAT:** high-achieving students in grades 10 and 11 take this test. The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) not only gives you the chance to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program, it can help you earn more scholarships, become a better test-taker, and ultimately, stand out from your peers.
- ACT:** measures a student's skills in four core areas: English, Math, Reading, and Science.
- SAT:** measures a student's skills in Math, Reading and Writing & Language.

### College applications

- On **August 1st every year**, the majority of colleges and universities across the country open their application window. Applications usually include transcripts, test scores, extracurricular activities, honors, essay prompts, supplemental questions, and more. For most colleges, this information is easily accessed through [Common Application](#), a free portal that aggregates information from nearly 900 colleges and universities nationwide.
- Thoughtful preparation, including utilizing the Common App with the support of an expert college planner, can save many hours down the road, not to mention a lot of unnecessary stress.
- Submit applications ahead of deadline dates, and be aware of the many different deadlines—scholarships, honors colleges, early admission, FAFSA—that must be met.

**Student-  
tested.  
Parent-  
approved.**



*WE'VE HELPED OVER  
6,500 HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS*



*GET INTO OVER  
550 COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES,*



*AND SECURED  
FAMILIES MORE THAN  
\$482 MILLION IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS.*

### **Securing financial aid and understanding FAFSA**

- The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) is used by national, state, and local government agencies, as well as higher education institutions and private organizations to award need-based financial aid.
- The FAFSA calculates your eligibility based on financial need with respect to your estimated cost of attendance and family contribution.
- The FAFSA opens up on October 1st each year, and forms should be completed within the first two weeks of October. There is no limit to the number of colleges to which you can submit the FAFSA.

### **Applying for merit-based and outside scholarship opportunities:**

- Scholarships can make college more affordable. Class 101 ensures our students have maximized every available scholarship opportunity.
- Keep your grades up! A high GPA and high prep test scores are the factors that put you in contention for merit-based scholarships. Your Class 101 advisor will help you monitor grades, set grade goals, and help with study skills. If the merit applies to you, strive to meet scholarship requirements and deadlines.
- Class 101 makes every effort to pursue outside scholarships, but they are the most unpredictable way to help pay for college.

### **Remember: Early engagement is a game-changer!**

When it comes to maximizing college and scholarship opportunities, the earlier the better. Class 101 helps students and families navigate the college planning process beginning in 9th & 10th grade. However, we work with students of all levels from 9th to 12th grade.

### **Ready for your student to start planning for college today?**

Learn more about our services by calling or texting

**281-758-8533**



Empower students.  
Serve families.  
Inspire greatness.

**Learn more at**  
**[Class101.com/cypresstx](https://Class101.com/cypresstx)**

