

## 11th Grade College Planning Tip Sheet

### GOAL

To prepare for college while there's still time to impact your applications and find an affordable school where you're likely to be accepted.

[Road2College is here to guide you.](#)

1. Start having conversations about how much your family can afford to pay for college. Make sure the budget is clear before looking at schools.
2. Take the most rigorous course load you can manage without sacrificing work-life balance.
3. Continue to sign up for extracurricular and volunteer activities, but bear in mind that quality trumps quantity.
4. Create a test prep plan for taking the SAT or ACT. Include study sessions and the best dates to take and retake the tests.
5. Start building a college list that includes reach, target, and safety schools. Keep your financial limits in mind.

### GO DEEPER

[10 Factors for Building Your College List](#)

6. Organize all your information. Create a physical and online folder to keep your information and brochures for easy reference.
7. Request information from colleges you may be interested in attending. This can help you show demonstrated interest, enabling you to stand out.
8. Ask for teacher recommendation letters near the end of junior year. Be sure to agree on deadlines and provide teachers as much information about each school as possible.

### GO DEEPER

[How to Get College Recommendation Letters, and How They Help Students Stand Out](#)

9. Make a plan to start visiting schools, if possible, and attend college fairs if they come through your area. Don't forget to sign in at booths of schools you're interested in attending.
10. Start brainstorming essay ideas, and make plans to work on them over the summer.

### GO DEEPER

[How to Write a College Essay That Works](#)