

GEAR UP III/IV Seminar Course- Grade 11/12 (2010-2011) MC1110

Monthly Focus Areas

August

- Review your career plans and [decide which type of postsecondary school](#) is best for you.
- Save money from your summer job for college.
- List your top college choices.
- Request admissions information and school catalogs.
- Go on college visits.
- Obtain registration materials and test dates for the [Scholastic Aptitude Test \(SAT\)](#) and/or [ACT assessment](#).
- Compare costs of each school that interests you by contacting the colleges by phone, mail, or via their websites.
- Visit [Going2College](#) for information about career, college, and financial aid resources in your state.

September

- Mark your calendar with registration, admissions, and financial aid deadlines and fees.
- Determine if the schools that interest you have online admission applications. If not, request them by mail now.
- Meet with school representatives who visit your high school.
- Look at virtual tours of college campuses online.
- If you haven't already taken the [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#), register for the test(s).
- Attend college planning and/or financial aid information nights and college fairs.
- Ask employers, teachers, and guidance counselors for letters of recommendation to accompany your admissions applications.

October

- Take the [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#).
- [Work on your admissions essays](#).
- If you haven't already done so, attend college planning and/or financial aid information nights and college fairs.
- Visit your top school choices. If possible, make appointments with faculty, staff, and students.
- Complete applications for every scholarship for which you may be eligible.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to develop a college admission and financial aid application plan.
- Make a folder for each of your college choices.
- Contact the schools' financial aid offices to determine which forms they require. Some schools may require special forms.
- Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talent if required for admission.

November

- Complete admissions applications by their deadlines.
- If you haven't already done so, attend college planning and/or financial aid information nights and college fairs.
- If necessary, register to retake the [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#).
- Request financial aid forms and applications. Double check the deadlines for submission.
- Follow up to ensure your employers, teachers, and guidance counselors send letters of recommendation.

December

- [Sign up for a PIN](#), to complete your FAFSA online. (Also let your parents know that they will need a PIN.)
- Finalize admission applications.
- Urge your parents to file their taxes as soon as possible after January 1. This will ease the financial aid process.
- [Research and apply for other financial aid](#), including grants and scholarships.
- Watch for early admissions notices (they tend to arrive in December or January).

January

- As soon as possible after January 1 and when tax forms are complete (they don't have to be filed until April 15; you can use estimates), [complete your FAFSA online](#) (or go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov to download a PDF version of the FAFSA). Keep copies of all documents, including your PIN, in a file.
- If you can't attend financial aid nights, ask if you and your parents can borrow a video of an event from your counselor.
- Contact the U.S. Department of Education at 800-4-FEDAID for assistance completing the FAFSA and/or plan to [attend a College Goal Sunday event](#) (free FAFSA advice) near you.

February

- Be mindful of deadlines. Always submit information on time.
- Research Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Watch for the e-mail notice indicating your [Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#) is ready.
- Review your SAR for errors and make any corrections as indicated.
- Rank your top school choices.
- Attend a College Goal Sunday event.

March

- Check with the financial aid offices to ensure your paperwork is complete. Submit tax forms if they request them.
- Narrow your school choices and make campus visits.
- Be on the lookout for acceptance letters.
- Start looking for summer jobs.

April

- Compare financial aid award letters.
- Make your final school decision and mail deposits, as required.
- Check with the school you've chosen about returning financial aid award letters.
- Notify the schools you have chosen NOT to attend.
- Plan for registration, orientation, and housing, and mark your calendar with important dates.

May

- Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll, and make plans accordingly.
- Finalize your summer job plans, and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.
- Prepare a realistic [student budget](#).
- Follow up with your high school to ensure the counselor forwards your final school transcripts to the college.

June

- Plan for college transportation.
- Notify your high school guidance office of your college selection and any scholarships received.
- Follow up with the financial aid office to ensure all paperwork is complete.

July

- Save money from your summer job.
- Send “thank you notes” to everyone who helped you plan and prepare for college.
- Make copies of your financial aid forms, health forms, etc for your files to aid in resolving future issues.

Congratulations! It's time to get ready to start college.

Required Text:

- Realizing the College Dream.....Teacher-Advisory Guide
- CollegeEd 12th Grade Teacher's Guide and Student Workbook

Suggested Resources: (You must request)

- Countdown To Colleges: 21 To Do Lists for High School (Valerie Pierce & Cheryl Rilly)
- The Real High School Handbook: How to Survive, Thrive and Prepare for What's Next (Susan Abell Lieberman)
- First in the Family, Advice About College From First-Generation Students-Your High School Years (Kathleen Cushman)
- First in the Family, Advice About College From First-Generation Students- Your College Years (Kathleen Cushman)
- Daring to be Different 25 Tips for A Life of Success (Darrell Bennett, Jr.)
- I Have Risen- Essays by African-American Youth, Ron Brown Scholar Program-Read to Lead Program
- The Purpose Living Teen: A Teen's Guide to living Your Dreams (Darrell "Coach D" Andrews)
- Financial Literacy for Teens: A Teen's Guide to the Real World of Money (Chad Foster)
- Teenagers Preparing for the Real World (Chad Foster)
- I am the ONE.....who's going to plan for my future. A College Planner.

The course number is MC1110 and will focus on researching colleges, applying to colleges, writing the essay, keeping up with deadlines, SAT/ACT prep, college visits, applying for financial aid and scholarships.

Please contact me for any concerns or questions:

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