

The College Application Puzzle

*FINANCIAL AID

Fill out the FAFSA as soon as it's available in January. Attend a financial aid workshop and College Goal Sunday event at your school or in your community to get the help you need.

GRADES and TRANSCRIPTS

In order to be competitive, it's more than just numbers: it's strong grades in challenging classes.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Your accomplishments outside the classroom show what you're passionate about and that you have qualities valued by colleges – like leadership, commitment, and ambition. Get involved in sports, clubs, community service, band, etc. to show off your talents and to reveal to colleges who you really are.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

Plan to take the SAT or ACT. Study hard and read as much as you can to prepare for these tests. Taking challenging classes will also help you be ready.



*SCHOLARSHIPS

Usually based on student skills, interests, area of study or merit. Research early and apply for as many as you can. Pay special attention to deadlines!

*LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

These letters should reveal something about you that your grades and test scores cannot. Ask people who know you well as a person. This could be a teacher, coach, counselor, or community member.

*COLLEGE ESSAYS

TEN TIPS TO A GREAT ESSAY

1. Be Concise
2. Be Honest
3. Be an Individual
4. Be Coherent
5. Be Accurate
6. Be Vivid
7. Be Likeable
8. Be Memorable
9. Be a Storyteller
10. Be Smart

For More Info:

www.stepuhawaii.org



* Refer to your packet for specific handouts on these topics