

MacTivity: 12 Tips for Getting Into College

Let's discover 12 tips for getting into the college of your choice since college admission (acceptance) is very **competitive**! Colleges will get a picture of who you are as a student by reviewing the following pieces of your college application: high school transcript (grades), rigor (level of difficulty) of high school classes, standardized test scores, college application essay, activities outside of academics (clubs, sports, volunteer or work experience, etc.), teacher and community recommendations, and a college interview. Let's get started!

1. Go to: www.calcareercenter.org
2. Go to "My Stuff" and create an account.
3. Go to "Students", "Education and Training", and then "12 Tips for Getting into the College of Your Choice".

→ Below are the **12 Tips for Getting into the College of Your Choice**. Fill in the blanks.

1. Get _____ you can during ALL four years of high school. Grades are extremely important.
2. Take academically rigorous classes ALL four years. You should carry as many challenging courses as you can handle: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
3. Practice taking the ____ or _____. Become familiar with the types of material covered and the test directions. Take the _____ during your _____ year. Determine what knowledge and skills you _____ and master them for the actual tests. Take advantage of _____ online SAT or ACT materials, study guides, practice tests, tutors, and prep courses before or during your _____ year.
4. Try taking _____ the SAT and ACT. Colleges will accept either test. You may do _____ on one test than the other. This will boost your chances for _____. Take the SAT or ACT _____ if you are not satisfied with your scores.
5. Take SAT _____ and _____. Competitive colleges may require you to take some of these exams and they take note of exam results. Only AP scores of _____ are accepted by _____ colleges.
6. Spend sufficient time developing your college _____. Think and reflect before you write. _____, _____, _____. This is your opportunity to sell yourself. Convey who you are in your writing: energetic, exciting, passionate, and intellectually curious. How can you make the real "you" _____ of the crowd? Get _____ on the essays from your teachers and/or other school personnel.
7. Become _____ in your school and/or community during _____ four years and _____ vacations. You need to _____ of your involvement in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, sports, and/or volunteer activities in your community. Move up to _____ positions. Demonstrate _____. Develop a deep interest or talent in one or more areas.
8. Ask your school counselor and teachers who know you well for _____. At least a month in advance of college deadlines for recommendations, jog their memories by providing them with a "personal data" or "brag sheet" _____ your academic accomplishments, athletics, activities, and community

service and leadership positions. Also, highlight anything special you did during the summer (for example, foreign travel to improve language skills, volunteer work, projects).

9. Prepare for on-campus _____, if required by colleges. Re-read your essays and any information you have acquired on specific colleges. Be friendly and articulate. Dress _____, not casually. After the interviews, send _____ or _____ expressing your continued interest in their institution.

10. Decrease your stress by starting your search for colleges _____ —no later than the start of your junior year. This gives you adequate time for researching colleges, completing applications, writing essays, and taking necessary exams.

11. Get _____ and stay _____. Make a _____ for each college that interests you and put relevant information inside of it (for example, a copy of your application and essay, any materials downloaded from the Internet). Keep focused on your ultimate goal: Getting into the college of your choice. Use these _____ to plan the tasks you should take to get into the college of your choice: (click the links online to review the checklists. [Print](#) the grade 9 checklist to add to your MacTivity portfolio.)

12. Get on-going assistance from your _____ and _____. Don't be afraid to ask them questions no matter how simple your questions may seem.