

Real Life 101
 Guide
 College Prep

This program takes a different approach from other programs in this series. Rather than focus on careers, our student interviewers talk with a college counselor, a SAT tutor and a woman who gives tips how to write an essay for a college entrance application. Through these interviews, students get solid, helpful ways to plan their college application process. What students learn is that the application process starts with tests early in their high school years. From there the decision of what colleges to apply to is looked at. It is suggested to narrow down the focus to five schools. College selection is based on interest and options. If a student needs extra help with testing or essay writing, they gain insight in this process by watching the program.

Activity: After viewing the program, have students construct a ‘timeline’ of what they need to do to get ready for the college application process. Here’s a sample of what that timeline might look like. Have them use their own situation—skills—interests and possible college choices.

Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Take PSAT; start looking at interests and schools you might be interested in. Start looking at extra curricular activities you would be interested in participating in within or outside of school.	Continue with extra-curricular activities. You might want to take the PSAT again, if your first time wasn’t as successful as you would have liked it to be.	Take SAT. You can retake it and combine the ‘parts’ for the best representation. Talk with College Counselor on the process for applying. (If needed a SAT counselor can help with the testing process). Start looking at colleges, visiting those you might want to attend (if possible)	Narrow down your college choices. Choose top 5 schools. It is recommended not to apply to more than this. Break down applications. Do a little at a time. (Get help with the essay portion if needed). If interviews are part of the college application, practice speaking, as in an interview. This will help make you comfortable when you do visit with college recruiters.

Websites to help with the college prep process

Student Resources

From the National Association for College Admission Counseling. This page has links that provide information on the College Prep Timeline, College Fairs, Educational Consultants and Counseling Centers, International Students Resources and Online Student Resources.

<http://www.nacacnet.org/StudentResources/Pages/default.aspx>

Vocabulary

From Vocabulary.com. Provides quizzes, puzzles, lists of words, and puzzles for the SAT and ACT tests. One-stop for all things vocabulary.

http://www.vocabulary.com/dir-test_prep-test_info

College Planning

From the teen site on the Multnomah County Library site. Provides links for admissions help, guides, financial aid and studying abroad.

<http://www.multcolib.org/teens/college.html>