### Getting to College : Pathways in Grades 9-12

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#### Introduction

Assumption
•College is the destination

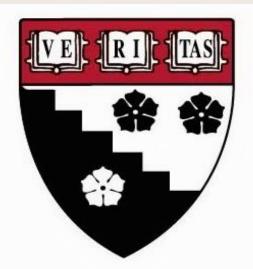
Workshop Goals •To help you understand what it takes to get ready to go to college











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# **College Pathways Outline**

- Course planning in high school
- Exams and timelines
- **Activities and Service**
- Building Relationships
- Choosing a college
- Applications and Essays



# Activity 1: Guess that curriculum

 Who can name the minimum requirements for admission to the University of California (UC) system?



#### Course planning in high school : UC <u>MINIMUM</u> Requirements

- English 4 courses
- Math 3 courses
- History and Social Science 2 courses
- Lab Science 2 courses
- Foreign Language 2 courses
- Visual Arts 1 course
- College Prep Elective
- 1 course
- No grade below a C-



# Course planning in high school : <u>Exceed</u> the minimum requirements

- Minimum requirements mean that you can't get in with less
- They also mean that you likely will not get in with just the listed requirements
- Take more courses than required (Math, English and Lab Science EVERY year)
- What additional advanced courses does your school offer :

Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB)?

# Activity 2 : Guess those Exams

 What are the exams required by many colleges in the United States?



### **College Entrance Exams**

- •PSAT grades 10 and 11
- •ACT with writing grades 11 and 12
- •SAT Reasoning Test grades 11 and 12
- •SAT Subject Tests take at the end of the course



# College Entrance Exams : Things to Know

- High school counselors receive waivers that allow students to take the exam for free
- PSAT used as an initial screen for National Merit Scholarship Program
- Take the SAT and ACT more than once, as you can choose which scores you send!

#### **Activities and Service: Purpose**

- Activities, sports, and volunteer activities demonstrate:
- Your capacity for non-academic success
   Your willingness to persevere
   Your individuality
   What you can contribute to a college campus



#### **Activities and Service: Strategy**

- It is better to have 2 or 3 activities in which you persevere over multiple years than different activities every year
- Seek out leadership positions in the activities in grades 10 and 11: i.e. President, VP, Team Captain

# **Building Relationships**

- Build relationships with teachers and counselors (because they are awesome) AND you will need recommendation letters for college
- Go to office hours or extra help and ensure that they know both your academic work and your work ethic
- Choose teachers from 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Select teachers from academic subjects i.e. Math, English, Science

# Choosing a College: Grades 11 and 12

- Think about your academic interests but be flexible – they will likely change!
- Attend college fairs
- Ask friends and relatives in college about their experience
- Visit colleges and websites
- Size: Large, Medium, or Small
- Urban or Rural

# **College Application Strategy**

- At least 6 colleges
- 2 each: Reach, Match, Safety
- Ensure that your essay is unique and reflects both your interests and writing abilities
- Proofread!!!!!!!!!!
- Many colleges accept waivers on app fees





Questions?



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