

Getting to College : Pathways in Grades 9-12

Tolani A. Britton

Alpha Kappa Alpha - RDO

Black College Fair



Introduction

► Assumption

- College is the destination

► Workshop Goals

- To help you understand what it takes to get ready to go to college



About Me



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 MINIMUM 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

: Exceed 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 10th and 11th 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

- Questions?

