Learn about College

- I have attended college preparation events.
  - Talk with your mentor about which Dream Project events you would like to or can attend:
    - Spring BBQ
    - Admissions Workshop Weekend
    - Scholarship Workshop Event
  - Attend the National College Fair at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle.
  - Attend the local college fair at your high school or in your school district.
  - Visit a college campus, or two, or three.

- I have learned about my different options after high school.
  - Be able to define and differentiate between college terms such as majors, minors, and bachelor’s degree.
  - Discuss what it takes to enter particular careers or fields:
    - Years of education, special tests, experience in the field, etc.
  - Learn and be able to discuss the differences between higher education options:
    - Public, private, 4-year, 2-year, community college, vocational, technical, military
  - I know what path after high school I am working toward (you can select more than one):
    - 4-year Public College/University
    - 4-year Private College/University
    - 2-year Community College
    - 2-year Trade/Technical College
    - Vocational Training
    - Military College/Training
    - Career
    - Other: ________________________________
  - Sign up to be on the mailing list for each college you are interested in.

- I have debunked myths about college.
  - I have talked through the myths and facts about college with my mentors and feel more confident about my choices for my future.
Prepare to Apply

I know my college eligibility requirements.

☐ Review your transcript with your mentor to determine if you are on track for your post-high school goals (4-year, 2-year, vocational, technical, military, career).
  • If you are not, check with your high school counselor to see if you can continue pursuing this option OR begin to investigate other options.

☐ Review your world language status
  • If you took ELL (English Language Learner) or ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, determine if you still need to complete 4-year college English requirements.
  • If you already speak a language other than English, determine whether you need to take any world languages in high school and/or a placement test in college.

☐ Sign up to take the SAT or ACT+Writing
  • Find out if your school offers a free, in-school SAT day.
  • If you qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch, request a fee waiver from your high school counselor.

☐ Determine what options your college allows to determine course placement, including transcripts, SAT/ACT test scores, AP/IB test scores, and/or COMPASS test (if you plan to attend Community College)

I have identified “Reach,” “Solid,” and “Safety” post-high school options.

☐ Work with your mentor to research and identify reach, solid and safety colleges.
  • Identify your **Reach** school(s): the school(s) that have a very competitive acceptance rate and are more difficult to get in.
  • Identify your **Solid** school(s): the school(s) that are competitive, but you have confidence they will accept you.
  • Identify your **Safety** school(s): the school(s) you know you will be accepted to based on acceptance rate, your grades/scores, and a simpler applications process.
  • Remember, just because a school has a more competitive applications process does NOT mean it is the right fit for you. For example, a large safety school with an excellent business program could be a better fit than a small reach school that focuses on computer science, depending on your interests.

☐ Keep track of application deadlines.
  • Start working on applications early to make sure you have enough time with mentors to edit your application.
  • Prioritize applications by what category (reach, solid, safety) and by deadline to ensure you are submitting applications thoroughly and on time.