



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## FAMILY ACTION PLAN

Junior year usually marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to support and take advantage of the opportunities that are best for you.

### SUMMER

- **Find out a college's actual cost.** Once you have a list of a few colleges you're interested in, use this [College Calculator](#) together as a family to find out the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost— or net price —of each college.
- **Explore financial aid options.** These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs. Find out more about different [Ways to Pay for College](#) and check out this [Paying for College Guide](#).
- **Stay organized.** Work with together to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges. For more time-management tips, see [8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time](#).

### FALL

- **Set up an appointment for you and your child to meet with their school counselor and GEAR UP advisor.** This meeting is especially important this year as your 11th grader starts to engage in the college and scholarship application process. Talk about college and career options, academic requirements for college admissions, discuss how to earn college credit in high school, and learn about the most-appropriate classes your child should take. Find out who the [GEAR UP advisor at your school](#) is.
- **Discuss internship opportunities with your school counselor.** Internships help students get acquainted early with career opportunities, influence what college degree they want to pursue, and set them apart from their peers on applications. Explore more on the [Keys to Success app](#).
- **Set goals for the school year.** Working toward specific goals helps you students stay motivated and focused.
- **Prepare for the ACT Test.** This is a college placement exam that every 11th grader in Utah takes so they can get a head start on planning for college. Consider preparing for the ACT using your free student [Shmoop](#) account (see GEAR UP advisor for login information and alternative testing options) and by taking an ACT prep course offered at your high school.
- **Attend college fairs and financial aid events.** These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions. Students can ask the school counselor and GEAR UP advisor how to find events at your school or in your area. Check out the [College Fair Checklist](#) for more information.

### WINTER

- **Discuss next year's classes.** Make sure your child is challenging him- or herself — and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Ask about costs and deadlines for taking college classes during high school. Learn more about the [high school classes that colleges look for](#).
- **Take AP Exams.** If you take AP or other advanced classes, talk with your teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the [AP Program](#).

## SPRING

- **Search together for colleges that meet your needs.** Once you have an idea of the qualities you are looking for in a college, work with a parent or adult to enter these criteria into **College Search** to create a list of colleges to consider applying to. Search the **Utah College Directory** for specific information about colleges & universities in Utah.
- **Research scholarships.** This form of financial aid provides money for college that doesn't need to be repaid. Learn more about scholarships through **GEAR UP's website**, the **Keys to Success app**, and various websites and **databases**.
- **Make summer plans that include participating in GEAR UP activities.** Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways students can **stay motivated this summer** and get involved in **community** and **GEAR UP activities**.
- **Visit colleges together.** Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges you're interested in. Use the **Campus Visit Checklist** to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.
- **Consider retaking the ACT.** The ACT Test can be retaken several times and colleges will accept a student's highest score. Prepare for the ACT using your free **Shmoop** account (see GEAR UP advisor for login information), taking an ACT prep course offered at their high school, and registering for the GEAR UP Summer ACT Boot Camp.
- **Use the Paying for College Guide.** The **Paying for College Guide** will help you understand how to pay for college and has a checklist to guide you in the process. This guide will help you get ready for all the scholarship opportunities that will become available throughout your senior year.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

GEAR UP is here to assist Undocumented Students with or without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in every way possible, and are committed to their success. You and your student should meet with your **GEAR UP advisor** regularly to find out how to apply for colleges and what scholarships are available to them, and refer to the guidelines and resources below.

- **Applying for College.** Utah House Bill 144 allows qualifying undocumented students to pay the same tuition as Utah residents do at any Utah college or university. Those who meet the requirements of HB 144 must print and fill out the **Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit** and submit it to the admission office of the Utah college they wish to attend. Affidavits and instructions can be found on each college's website by searching for the term "HB-144 affidavit."
- **Strongly consider taking college classes in high school.** Students who take and succeed in college classes such as **Concurrent Enrollment (CE)** or **Advanced Placement (AP)** can save time and money by earning college credit before graduating from high school.
- **Paying for College.** Dreamers can apply for scholarships to help pay for college. To learn more about what scholarships are available for undocumented, DACA, and non-FAFSA eligible students, talk to your GEAR UP advisor and visit the Undocumented Student Resources web pages for **Weber State University** and **EDUCATE UTAH**
- **Additional Resources:** **Dreamers Road Map**, **Educate Utah**, **My Undocumented Life**

**\*\*Note:** The *online version* of this Family Action Plan allows you to click on the **yellow text** above to access important resources/websites\*\*

Visit [weber.edu/stategearup/students.html](https://weber.edu/stategearup/students.html) for more info.