

Make the Most of Your Summer: Plan Ahead

Prepare for Next Year

The summer months provide a great opportunity for you to get involved in activities that can help you prepare for next year:

Lock in financial aid for next year:

Renew your current scholarships and search for new ones on FastWeb: www.fastweb.com. If you haven't done so, submit your FAFSA! It's not too late to qualify for federal aid. If you've received your SAR, make sure it is correct. Contact your school's financial aid office or visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. Use the "Live Help" tool on the FAFSA steps for additional help.

Get a summer job and save money:

Some faculty members hire students to help with research projects. Ask professors if you can apply to be their research assistant for the summer. Do you prefer to work outdoors? Park districts often look for students to hire for camp counselor and lifeguard positions. Match your interests to your job hunt!

Volunteer:

Use the skills and knowledge you have learned in the classroom to make a positive impact in your community. Volunteering is both fulfilling and fun, and can build your resume and supply great material for scholarship essays.

Take a summer class:

Complete a required course so you can take more classes in your major throughout the year. Check with your Financial Aid office to see what's available to help you cover summer tuition.

Arrange housing:

Moving into an apartment in the fall? Is there a deposit that you need to pay at the end of this year? If your lease is up, make arrangements to receive your security deposit back.

Register for fall classes:

Do you know which courses you need to complete your academic major? Meet with your faculty advisor before the end of the year to help you make smart class selections.

FastTip: *Away for the summer? Moving? Don't forget to change your address with your school's registrar & financial aid office!*

*Free search of
1.3 million
scholarships worth
over \$3 billion!*
www.fastweb.com

Year-by-Year Summer Guide

College Freshman/Sophomore

- Check out opportunities on campus. Apply to be an RA or lead campus tours for visitors. Does your college counseling center offer time management and study skills workshops?
- Keep reading! Ask your professors to recommend texts that can help you prepare for next year's academic course load.
- Update your resume and draft cover letters for internship and work opportunities. Visit your school's career center to explore internship opportunities. You can also search for internships on FastWeb: www.fastweb.com.
- Thinking about studying abroad? Research countries and programs this summer and ask your parents for advice. Explore funding opportunities at your school's study abroad office.

College Junior

- Check with your school's career center for internship and job listings. Update your resume and cover letters.
- Attend career/job fairs and hand out copies of your resume. You will make valuable networking contacts that will help you narrow down possible career paths for next year.
- Thinking about grad school? Begin studying for the required standardized test (MCAT, LSAT, GRE, GMAT). Try to enroll in a prep course or an independent study with your favorite professor to help you better prepare for graduate study.

Graduating Seniors

- ▶ Looking for a job? Visit your school's career center. Find out if they are sponsoring any upcoming career/job fairs and ask them to look over and edit your resume and cover letters.
- ▶ Browse online job sites like MonsterTrak, a great resource that helps college students find their first job: www.monstertrak.monster.com.
- ▶ If you are going to graduate, medical or law school in the fall, apply for financial aid. File your FAFSA, check your SAR for errors and look for additional scholarships on FastWeb: www.fastweb.com.
- ▶ Pay outstanding college fees (return library books, pay computer printing fees, resolve outstanding parking tickets, etc.). Problems or holds on your student account may prevent you from receiving your degree and/or transcripts.
- ▶ Start thinking about a new budget for yourself. Will you be moving back home with your parents or renting an apartment with friends? Do you own a suit for job interviews? When will you need to start paying off your student loan?

FastTip: *Take time now to plan for next year to increase your chances for success in the year ahead!*