

# Getting Into College

Tips for middle school students

## Career Research

- Think about what you want to do in the future and find someone who has your dream job. Set up some time to chat with that person and learn more about their career path. Here are some great questions to ask. What is the best and worst part of your job? How did you know you wanted to be a ...? How long did you have to go to school? What were your classes like?
- Think about what makes you unique? What are your hobbies? The things that make you “you” are great places to start when looking at career choices. If you like to draw and paint, consider being an Artist, Art teacher, or Designer.
- Look for opportunities to learn more about different career fields. For example the UNM CEOP-College Prep Programs offers a Summer Law Camp that helps students learn more about a career in Law.

## College Research

- Talk to your parents, teachers, and counselors about college. Ask them, how you get there? How many years do you spend in college? What kinds of colleges are there?
- Research different universities and academic programs online. You can learn all sorts of things from the university’s website. Interested in a school in your state? Look up what colleges are in your state, and how to get into them.
- Set up a college visit with your family, school, or friends. Visiting colleges provides you with the opportunity to see first-hand what different colleges are like.
- Visit college fairs. They are free and a great way to see what colleges are out there.

## Prepare for High School

- Create and maintain strong study habits. Doing something as simple as this will help you in high school and beyond. Stay organized and study hard!
- Take challenging and interesting classes. It is important to keep an open mind when taking classes, taking something that challenges you helps you get ready to take harder classes in the future.
- Do your best in school, especially your core classes. Math, Science, English, and Social Sciences are all important classes. If you do well in them, this will help you on standardized tests like the ACT, and set you up for success in college.

## Prepare for College

- Get involved in sports, clubs, and after school activities at your school and in your community. These will allow you to explore your interests further and learn new and exciting things.
- Find something you are passionate about and volunteer your time to make a difference in your community.
- Get an early start at college. Ask your high school counselor about dual credit courses.
- Start setting SMART academic and personal goals!
- Be careful what you share, post & like on social media! Future employers, colleges and scholarships may look at these sources to learn more about you. Security settings don’t always work.
- Read, read, and read! Reading helps you learn new things, acquire new vocabulary and language, and will help you prepare for challenging courses in the future.