

Freshman Year is Here!

Continued from the August issue of the GEAR UP Gazette, read on to learn more tips that may help you this school year and throughout your high school career as you plan for college:

Know Your School Counselors. They have all the information you need about college, and if they don't, they can get it to you. Get to know them by making appointments to discuss your interests. Ask them to help you choose college prep classes. Thinking ahead: If you show interest and dedication, your counselor can write you a strong recommendation for college, which can give your college application that extra edge.

Be Serious about Schoolwork. A strong academic record is key to getting into college. Take classes that are challenging. Take electives, but not too many. Focus on core subject areas, such as Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Languages. Thinking ahead: During your junior and senior years, you should take classes that show you are advancing, and doing well. Junior year is the time to bring up your grades before you apply to college. Senior year is about keeping up your grades. It's too late to bring up your grades in your senior year.

Research. Looking for information about colleges can be fun and exciting. Use the internet to get information on schools, scholarships, and other college information. Start collecting materials on schools in which you're interested. Thinking ahead: Look at what each school's applications look like so you can prepare for their requirements.

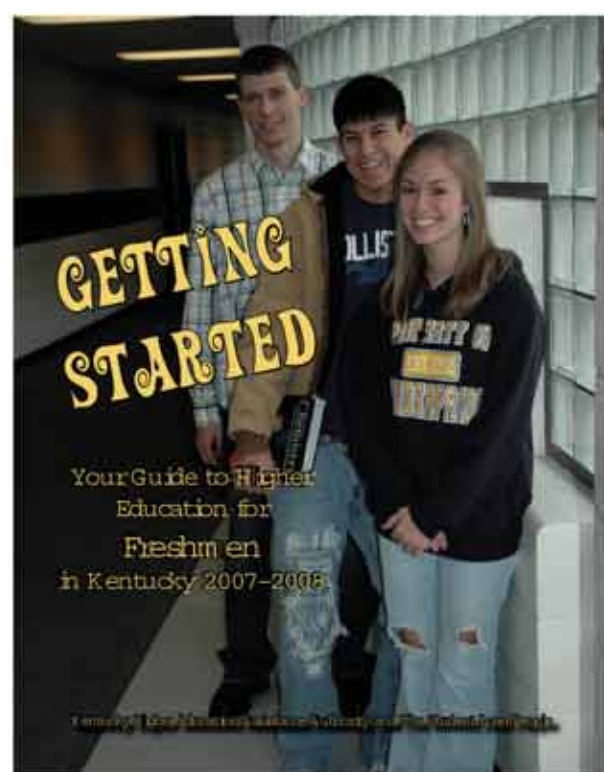


GEAR UP students wanting to know more about college, University of Louisville College 101 Program

Be Active in GEAR UP!!! GEAR UP KY provides many programs and services to help you get into any type of post-high school program, such as a University, technical or vocational school, or community college. If you are serious, GEAR UP KY can help. Always feel free to talk with your GEAR UP Site Coordinator and your teachers about your future.

Source: GEAR UP Hawaii: <http://gearup.hawaii.edu/students/documents/Top10TipsforGettingintoCollege.pdf>

Getting Started



High school counselors across the state will receive free books to distribute to students to help them plan and prepare for college.

The books, published by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and The Student Loan PeopleSM, are specifically designed for each grade of high school.

Getting Started advises freshmen how to use their high school years to prepare for college. Ask your school counselor about *Getting Started* today!

Source: KHEAA, Financial Aid Tip of the Month, August 2007

More Math = More Success

If you're busy taking math classes, good for you. If you're avoiding them, give them another chance! The effort will be worth it. Students who take four or more math courses achieve higher overall ACT scores than students with three or fewer classes, and that's been shown to translate into success in college.

For example, the 2006 graduating class achieved an average composite score of 21.1 on the ACT. (The ACT score scale is 1–36.) Students taking five high school math courses achieved an average composite score of 23.3, while students who took four math courses had an average score of 20.8. Students taking three math courses had an average composite score of 18.5, while students taking fewer than three averaged 18.3.

In different studies over the years, ACT has noted this strong relationship between additional math courses and higher performance on the ACT. These results demonstrate the role math plays in better preparing students for college-level coursework and for the technological demands of the future.

Source: ACT News You Can Use, May 2007

