Paying for your college education:

- Graduation or completion rate for the program you are interested in.
- How will I pay? Will my degree provide enough income to cover my costs?
- Will I be able to repay my loans?
- Am I eligible for federal student aid?

How to apply to college step by step:

1. Meet with high school guidance counselor as early as 9th grade to discuss college preparedness and then continue to meet with him or her regularly to discuss college preparedness.
2. Take the SAT or ACT and do your best.
3. Find the colleges/universities that match your goals.
4. Apply to the colleges/universities.
5. Get 2-3 recommendation letters from teachers and school counselors.
6. Write personal essays.
7. Meet with high school guidance counselor as early as 9th grade to discuss college preparedness and then continue to meet with him or her regularly.
8. Take the SAT or ACT and do your best.
9. Find the colleges/universities that match your goals.
10. Apply to the colleges/universities.
12. Write personal essays.

Roadmap:

- Bachelor's degree = $1.50 million
- Master's degree = $2.67 million
- Doctoral degree = $3.25 million
- Professional degree = $3.65 million

These numbers may increase when the candidate is bilingual.

Developed by The Bronx Institute at Lehman College of The City University of New York on behalf of The New York State Education Department Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages.

Translating by the NYS Statewide Language RIBBON

@ NYU STEINHARDT METRO CENTER

A college access guide for English language learners/multilingual learners in New York State
**GRADE LEVEL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Do your best in class, study hard, complete all assignments, and earn good grades (A’s and B’s).
- Develop and practice good attendance habits.
- Develop good study habits and improve your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills every day in English and in your home language.
- Take challenging and interesting classes to prepare for high school.
- Work hard to do well in school and to provide good test scores. If you need help, go to a teacher, tutor, or mentor and put in the extra time you need. Join a study group to become a better student.
- Learn with your parents/guardians about the cost of college and how to finance your education.
- Join a school or community-based activity to expand your interests and connect with new people.

**ACADEMIC**

- Participate in extracurricular activities, volunteer projects, and sports that interest you (A’s and B’s).
- Read books in English and/or in your home language from your reading list recommended by teachers.
- Participate in summer programs.
- In addition to hanging out with friends, watching TV, or playing video games, participate in sports team, performing arts programs, clubs, sports team, or community service group and keep a record of all of your activities.
- Besides building your own skills, having fun, and helping other people, your efforts to develop personal strengths, leadership skills, and interests will be seen positively by colleges and future employers.
- Clean up your social media image. Remove any embarrassing or frivolous pictures, videos, or comments that might get you disqualified from college acceptance or potential scholarships.

**EXTRACURRICULAR AND WORK**

- Participate in school or community-based activities to explore your career interests.
- Start your high school resume that lists your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.
- Make sure you have a productive summer. Volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- Establish an “all business” email account to demonstrate your seriousness as a college applicant.

**FRESHMAN/ SOPHOMORE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL**

- Work with your school counselor and teachers to review your academic progress and get the extra help you need. Identify a tutor, seek homework help, or first an after-school program (ESOL, academic support).
- Go over your four-year course plan and choose the classes you need to take next year. Find out about Advanced Placement (AP) classes and make plans for summer activities. Take AP courses in your home language if available.
- Participate in extracurricular activities, volunteer projects, and sports that interest you (A’s and B’s).
- Read books in English and/or in your home language from your reading list recommended by teachers.
- Participate in summer programs.
- In addition to hanging out with friends, watching TV, or playing video games, participate in sports team, performing arts programs, clubs, sports team, or community service group and keep a record of all of your activities.
- Besides building your own skills, having fun, and helping other people, your efforts to develop personal strengths, leadership skills, and interests will be seen positively by colleges and future employers.
- Clean up your social media image. Remove any embarrassing or frivolous pictures, videos, or comments that might get you disqualified from college acceptance or potential scholarships.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL**

- Meet with your school counselor to review your credit accumulation, grades, and Regents scores to make sure that you are meeting requirements for on-time high school graduation and acceptance into college.
- Prepare for the SAT by taking the PSAT, taking classes and private tutoring (ESOL or academic support).
- Take opportunities to build on your home language to work towards attaining the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Discuss different graduation pathways with your counselor.
- Register for and take the PSAT/NMSQT. Meet with your school counselor to discuss your PSAT/NMSQT scores.
- Find out if the PLAN and ACT are offered at your school. Prepare for January Regents exams.
- Find and register for an SAT prep course being held in January or February. Plan to take the SAT in May or June.
- If you are enrolled in AP courses continue to prepare for exams to be held in May.
- If you plan to take the May SAT meet with your school counselor with questions and to learn about the college application process.
- Take college entrance exams such as the SAT, SAT subject area tests, and/or the ACT.

**ACADEMIC**

- Continue to seek free and low-cost course options in high school to reduce the cost of college.
- Continue to work, volunteer, intern in areas that relate to your college interests.
- Familiarize yourself with activities at local community colleges in preparation for college.

**EXTRACURRICULAR AND WORK**

- Start looking for opportunities to take college courses in high school (in addition to AP courses) to reduce the cost of college.
- Don’t forget to use your home language as a vehicle to work, volunteer, or take an internship (paid or unpaid) that relates to your college interests.

**12th GRADE**

- Most regularly with your school counselor to make sure you have the necessary classes for graduation.
- Take the SAT or ACT a second time.
- Increase your level of effort using a home language to study not just words (especially in Romance languages).
- Work with your ESL teachers to refine your college essay.
- Prepare for the PSAT exam.
- Take college entrance exams such as the SAT, SAT subject area tests, and/or the ACT.
- Most regularly with your school counselor to make sure you have the necessary classes for graduation.
- Take the SAT or ACT a second time.
- Increase your level of effort using a home language to study not just words (especially in Romance languages).
- Work with your ESL teachers to refine your college essay.
- Prepare for the PSAT exam.
- Take college entrance exams such as the SAT, SAT subject area tests, and/or the ACT.

**ACADEMIC**

- Apply to colleges.
- By the end of fall:
  - Finalize your college list.
  - Send college official test scores to colleges.
  - Finalize and submit all your applications.
- In winter:
  - Apply for scholarships.
  - Work with your counselor and parents to fill out and submit your FAFSA. See the financial aid officer in your school to learn about additional financial aid opportunities.
  - Send thank you notes to everyone who helped you (and stay in touch with them). Work with your teachers to write or review notes.
- By spring:
  - Get notified by colleges. Send in your deposit by May 1.
  - Finalize and submit all your applications.
  - Apply for scholarships.

**EXTRACURRICULAR AND WORK**

- Create a calendar to keep track of important dates and deadlines for college applications, financial aid, and scholarships.
- Keep college information together in a file folder.
- Request and accept financial aid offered by colleges.
- Review your college application list and begin filling out applications.
- Ask your school counselor about early decision/early action.
- Get two or three letters of recommendation.
- Submit your first drafts of your essays for college and scholarship applications.
- Find out from your school counselor if you qualify for EOP/HIP support.