

iGraduate! 2.0

A College Planning Guide to Success

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics



iGraduate!: A College Planning Guide to Success provides Hispanic students with information and resources to apply and enroll in a community college or a 4-year college or university. The guide outlines the steps that you should take throughout high school up until your first college class.

Guide Highlights



PREPARE: Key resources and information for the early stages of the college planning process



APPLY & ENROLL: Information regarding the college application process, requirements, entrance exams, and fee waivers.



PAY FOR COLLEGE: Descriptions of available financial aid to supplement the Initiative's iGraduate! Financial Aid Guide to Success.



NAVIGATE YOUR FIRST SEMESTER: Tips to help you prepare for your first semester of college.

Sample Tips

- High school students can earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual or concurrent enrollment, and community college courses.
- Stats that count when comparing potential school choices: Graduation Rate, Retention Rate, Job Placement Rate, Loan Default Rate, Average Earnings for Graduates, Post-College Earnings
- Key Factors to consider when selecting an institution include academic programs offered, employment outcomes, tuition cost, and financial aid available.
- When applying for college, most applications will require a mix of some, if not all, of these items: transcripts, essays, resume, ACT/SAT exam scores, letter(s) of recommendation, application fee.
- Most colleges require a fee as part of the application process. Many students who qualify for free-and-reduced lunch also qualify for fee waivers. Check with your counselors.
- The FAFSA is completely free and available starting October 1. Students should fill it out as early as possible since many states and colleges use a student's FAFSA information to award their aid.

Other Useful Resources



- **College Scorecard** is a useful tool which simplifies the process of looking through thousands of different college and university websites.
- **College Navigator** is a useful planning tool to help students and their families make more educated decisions about college, providing even more detailed information about colleges such as accreditation, athletic programs, and crime statistics.
- **Common App** allows for the submission of applications to multiple schools.
- **Net Price Calculators** are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year.

For the full guide, visit: www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative