

College & Career Center Suggestions for Success

Please see **Mrs. Maloney, Room 109B**, in the College & Career Center for information about these opportunities, or call **301-353-8029**. Also visit www.SenecaValleyHighSchool.com, ACADEMICS, SVHS Career Center.

1. Take Career Assessments:

- Evaluate your skills, aptitudes, and interests.

2. Use Resources in the College & Career Center:

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Occupation Finder Files
- Seneca Valley College Files on Computer
- TCCi – The Counselor/Family Connection
- Vocational Inventories/Books

3. Take Advantage of Practical Experiences:

- Summer Programs and Classes
- Internships, Jobs, Shadowing
- Volunteer Experience

4. Find Out What Testing You Need:

- SAT, SAT II, ACT, TOEFL, ASVAB, Accuplacer or LOEP (for Montgomery College)

5. Investigate Options for Post-Secondary Plans (after high school):

- Apprenticeship: What kind/where?
- Vocational/technical schools
- 2 year school (certificate program, associate's degree, transfer plan)
- 4 year school (college/university)
- Post-graduate work (master's/PhD)
- Armed services (regular/reserve)
- Work force (full-time/part-time)

6. Research Colleges:

- Talk with counselor, friends and family
- Read catalogues
- Search the Internet for college information
- Check out collegeboard.com and princetonreview.com
- Get phone numbers/addresses of potential colleges and job sites
- Obtain NCAA information
- Fill out the Common Application (one application to use for multiple colleges)
- Find dates and locations of college fairs
- Hear college representatives from your prospective schools
- Find campus visit information
- Get organized and informed!

7. Stay on Top of Applications:

- Start early! Many colleges now require on-line application processing; be prepared with a credit card to send electronically – request transcripts to be sent from Registrar.
- Be organized! Try using different folders for each college.
- Watch deadlines! Keep a calendar of deadlines.
- Follow directions carefully: read what each school requires and make lists of everything you need to do.
- Follow Guidance Department requirements and deadlines for transcripts.
- Talk with teachers **in advance** about recommendations.
- Begin planning essays as soon as possible and do your best...they really do count in the admission department's decision – be original!

8. Evaluate Financial Options:

- Talk with your parents about your family's options.
- Attend the financial aid workshop in December (at Seneca Valley).
- Register with FAFSA and obtain both your PIN # and your parent signature PIN #.
- Fill out the FAFSA on-line for fast reply and file ON TIME or EARLY!!
- Fill out the CSS profile, if required.
- Complete lending institution's forms, if necessary.
- Scholarships: Start early! Begin looking in September.
 - Check books, files, on-line scholarships (www.fastweb.com)
 - Research through your parent's employer and church affiliation
 - Ask about athletic and musical scholarships, etc.
 - Investigate state/senatorial/government grants and loans

9. Watch Out for Scams:

If an opportunity appears too good to be true, research it thoroughly before giving out information. It may be wise to avoid contracting/paying a company to do scholarship research for you. It is often expensive and unnecessary. Spend time in the **Seneca Valley College & Career Center** and on the web and you'll have a whole list of potential scholarships...FREE!

10. Check Out These Web Sites:

www.SenecaValleyHighSchool.com - click ACADEMICS, College & Career Centers
www.nacacnet.org/memberportal/forstudents/2006spaceavailabilityresults.htm
princetonreview.com
www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.asp
collegeboard.com
www.collegenet.com
www.ecampustours.com
www.srnexpress.com
www.mycoolcareer.com
www.monster.com
a2zcolleges.com
www.careerkey.org/english
www.degreeusa.com
www.collegeanswer.com
www.scholarships.com
www.finaid.org/scholarships
www.theoldschool.org
www.fastweb.com
www.hispanicfund.org

NCAA Information:

www2.ncaa.org or www.ncaaclearinghouse.net