Family Science Night
2011-2012
The University of Rhode Island SMILE Program
So you’re just starting high school, or maybe you’ve been here for a while. Sometimes it can be a little scary or difficult but most of the time you’re probably having a blast. In fact, you probably feel like college is a long way off.
Guess Again!!

It may not seem like it but college is just around the corner.

Start getting ready as soon as possible!

Actually, put it off until tomorrow because tonight’s family science night. But start getting ready tomorrow! (Seriously)
General Tips

There are going to be a lot of things that you need to do every year.

These things are perhaps the most important and also the hardest things to do because they seem kind of silly and you might do them without even trying.

In any case, keep these things at least in the back of your mind at all times. They’re going to be the things that help you get into the college that YOU want to go to.
General Tips

The things that will seriously help you get into college
Keep track of your grades!

As we all know, grades are important to college admissions officers, but so is the rigor of your coursework! Try to take the most challenging courses you can. An ‘A’ or ‘B’ in a more difficult course looks better than the same grade in an easier one.
Study, study, study!

Don't neglect your studying habits. High school is a great time to get on track and prepare for college level courses. If you’re having trouble, talk to a counselor! They should have tips on how to study better.
Your guidance counselors, teachers, and family members are all here to support you. They can help you determine what you want to do after high school and the best way to achieve your goals.
Sign up for a college savings account as early as you can.

Once you have one (or if you already have one), be sure to add to it regularly.
Extracurricular Activities

Get involved! Admissions officers don’t just look at your grades! They want to see someone well rounded with a variety of interests.

The key to extracurricular activities is not to take on too many! If your overall grades start to suffer, try to cut back.

Remember, you don’t have to join every club or activity your school offers.
Keep a calendar with important dates and deadlines. This will become especially important when you decide to take any standardized tests (PSAT, SAT I & II, ACT, and AP) so it’s important to get in the habit of doing this early.

Keep a file for your report cards, a list of awards and honors, school and community activities, and volunteer work. This will be very important when you start to fill out college applications.
Think about the colleges you want to apply to and explore their entrance requirements. That way you have an idea of what grades you need to maintain and the types of classes you need to take.

College websites should have a detailed list of what the entrance requirements are or you can call the school and have them send you information.

www.collegeboard.org also has information about college entrance requirements and valuable statistics
Some Helpful Information!

We’ve concluded the “General Tips” portion of the program for this evening (until the slideshow runs through again, at least).

However, now it’s time to provide you with some information both students & parents can use!
There are a lot of different types of financial aid, BUT in order to qualify for any of it (except for scholarships), you need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Seniors & Parents: Fill this form out (online) as soon as you can after January 1 in order to make the priority deadlines for the colleges to which you have applied.

http://www.fafsa.ed.gov
There are many types of financial aid available.

The colleges you apply to will send you what’s called a “Financial Aid Package” that will summarize what grants and scholarships the school is willing to provide for you, if you’re eligible for work study, and what federal loans you are eligible for.
Financial Aid

In order to receive more scholarships or grants, you must apply to them from outside sources.

If the financial aid package is not enough and you can’t get anymore scholarships, you might have to apply for a private loan.
Grants

Grants are money you receive from the government or even your school that you do not have to pay back. Some grants you have to apply for but most you do not.
Work Study

A part-time job on campus to help you pay for things like tuition, books, room and board, or other essentials. If you’re eligible for work-study, it will say if you’re eligible and how much you are eligible for within your financial aid notice.
Scholarships

Free money! There are so many scholarships out there BUT you have to put in the work. Go online, look around, and apply!

Even if they’re for small amounts ($100, $200)! It will add up quickly.
Loans (Federal & Private)

This is money that you borrow from a lender that you will have to pay back. There are federal loan programs that you may be eligible for as well. The schools you apply to will let you know. This should be a last resort after you receive your financial aid packages, but sometimes they are necessary to pay for school.
### Sat Registration Dates
#### 2011 – 2012

Fees & Subject Test Information/Dates Are Available at www.collegeboard.org

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A Few Websites to Keep in Mind

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.collegeboard.org
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.actstudent.org
www.uri.edu/smile

And don’t forget to find us on Facebook! (The Smile Program)