

Maui Preparatory Academy College Counseling Program

Maui Prep's college counseling program encourages students to explore the opportunities for higher education that will best meet their personal unique life goals. Under the guidance of a college counselor, Maui Prep students identify personal talents and interests, and discover a range of colleges that match and engage those interests. In so doing, students gain important skills in self-reflection, critical thinking, communication and decision-making.

An individualized program of college counseling begins in the sophomore year through a trimester course called College Explorations. In the junior year students and parents attend informational meetings in the fall regarding the importance of individual reflection and openness to exploring college options, as well as the necessary steps and procedures in the college admission process. In January, a formal College Evening kick-off event will feature guest speakers and discussion groups for both students and parents. During the spring juniors meet with the college counselor in individual or small group settings to gain knowledge and tools for the college search process. Individual appointments with a college counselor build the foundation for a strong advising relationship that continues into senior year. As students finalize and submit college applications, the college counselor prepares and sends supportive materials including a comprehensive school report and counselor recommendations. Our expectation is that all Maui Prep graduates enroll in selective colleges and universities across both the United States and around the globe.

College Counseling Services: Maui Prep offers timely and practical advice about the college search and application process. While testing is an important first 'step' each student takes toward college admission, the SAT and ACT are kept in proper perspective through a thorough counseling program emphasizing thorough college research, self-reflection, practical advice and individualized planning. More specifically, our college counselor offers the following assistance and guidance for our Upper School students:

- Assistance with college research and college list development
- Evaluation of personal strengths and areas in need of development for effective college admission (academics, testing, community service, leadership, etc)
- Transcript audit and understanding of college admission requirements
- Assistance in accessing, completing and reviewing college or university applications
- Essay development and review
- Interview preparation as needed
- Financial Aid and Scholarship search
- Assistance with evaluation for final enrollment decision

College Admissions Criteria: Each institution of higher learning (junior college, college or university) has their own distinct admissions requirements usually provided online. The most common criteria are:

- Grade Point Average
- Teacher, Administrator, and Coach Recommendations
- SAT Test Scores; ACT Test Scores, SAT Subject Area Test Scores
- Admissions Essays
- Student Profile: Athletics; Community Service; Clubs; Leadership; Awards; Travel; Church or Community Involvement; Unique Qualities (sustained passions, interests, and involvement)
- Ability to contribute to the college community (racial, ethnicity, cultural experience, special talents)

Selecting Colleges and Universities: There are many different higher education options available for a student. The college counseling process is intended to assist students and parents in looking at the wide range of options to find the best possible matches. Things that are generally helpful in making decisions are: 1) match of programs to student interest; 2) tuition and expenses less financial aid and grants; 3) geographic setting; 4) weather; 5) size of institution; 6) proximity to supportive family; 7) academic reputation of program; 8) distance from home; and 9) legacy or former relationship with institution. Students can access MyRoad to search for colleges at www.myroad.com. In addition, each year Maui Prep students attend two local college fairs on island(November and April).

Grade Point Average (GPA): A student's grades beginning in either ninth or tenth grade are generally used by colleges and universities as one of the important criteria for admissions. The GPA formula varies by institution (some count PE; some give honor points for Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, others do not) thus a student's GPA will have a slight variance. It is advisable for students to work towards grades of "B" or better in all classes and monitor how their GPA would be computed in each of the colleges they are interested in attending after graduation.

Honor Points: A common practice is to give "1 honor point" for each academic course designated as an Honors or Advanced Placement class due to the higher level of expectation and grading criteria. Maui Prep currently reports both unweighted and weighted GPA on transcripts. For weighted GPA, a honor point is given for all AP and designated Honors classes only.

Teacher Recommendations: Students are required by most colleges and universities to submit recommendations from two or more faculty members that have worked directly with the student. Colleges and universities provide the recommendation forms online and require the faculty member to mail the sealed recommendation directly to their admissions office within a set deadline. Upper School teachers are required by Maui Prep to complete the forms within two weeks of reception and to have the form logged and mailed by the college counselor to ensure that deadlines are not missed for any college. Students must provide a stamped envelop

addressed to the college or university for each recommendation to the college counselor. Students are advised to select faculty based on their rapport and the quality of their academic performance. Coach recommendations are valuable for both situations seeking athletic scholarships and for regular admissions.

Standardized Testing (Maui Prep School Code 120188): Good or bad, fair or unfair, the fact remains that standardized testing is a necessary part of most students' applications to college; though it's relative importance in the evaluation process remains hotly debated.

- **ERB CTP IV:** Maui Prep administers the ERB CTP IV test from grades 2-10. The test is the mostly highly correlated to the SAT test and thus gives a reasonable predictability of how a student will do on the SAT. Test administered on campus in late January.
- **PSAT/NMSQT:** Stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs. The PSAT/NMSQT measures: 1) critical reading skills, 2) math problem-solving skills, 3) writing skills. A student's test profile will indicate the advisability of advanced SAT preparation programs. Students receive a detailed score report assessing areas of strength and weakness and a suggest course of study. Students register for the test directly through Maui Prep in late September for a fee of \$13.
- **SAT Reasoning Test™:** Similar to the PSAT, this tests measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills that students have developed throughout school. The major difference is the incorporation of a written essay into the writing section. More specific, it is a multiple-choice test intended to assess a student's ability to understand and analyze written material, to draw inferences, to differentiated shades of meaning, to draw conclusions, and solve math problems. These are the skills that are considered necessary for success in college and the work word. The test is administered throughout the school year at various testing sites on Saturdays. It is typically a 3½ hour exam. Students register online at www.collegeboard.com.
- **SAT Subject Tests:** These tests are optional and usually taken during the junior year or early senior year. Students considering applying to more selective colleges that require 2 or 3 Subject Tests in addition to SAT or ACT may wish to take these one-hour tests to demonstrate knowledge in a subject completed that academic year. The college counselors and faculty advise students on whether to take these tests.
- **The ACT®:** This test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. It is a multiple-choice test that covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skills in planning and writing a short essay. The ACT is curriculum-based and is not an aptitude or an IQ test. Instead, the questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses in English, mathematics, and science. Different then the SAT, because the ACT tests are based on what is taught in the high school curriculum, students are sometimes more comfortable with the ACT than they are with traditional aptitude tests or tests with narrower content. Students register online at www.act.org.
- **Advanced Placement exams (AP) – early/mid May:** Maui Prep teaches an independent, rigorous college-prep curriculum to all students and provides opportunities to take

advantage of internal and external AP curriculum; however, students may take AP exams in any of the 34 subjects offered. AP scores are not required for college admission; scores will be reported on the transcript if requested by the student. Currently Maui Prep offers the following AP courses and exams: AP English Literature and Composition, AP Calculus AB, AP Physics B, AP European History, AP US History, and AP Studio Art – 2D Design. Information is provided in February. Interested students register for AP exams through school in late March.

Test	Testing Date(s)	Registration Date	Fee	Location
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT)	Wednesday, October 13, 2010	Registered by Maui Prep	\$13 * Fee waiver available for low income families	Maui Prep
SAT Reasoning Test (SAT)	October 9, 2010 November 6, 2010 December 4, 2010 January 22, 2011 March 12, 2011 May 7, 2011 June 4, 2011	September 10, 2010 October 8, 2010 November 5 2010 December 23, 2010 February 11, 2011 April 8, 2011 May 6, 2011	\$45	Lahainaluna on October 9 th , November 6 st , and May 7 nd . Maui Prep on March 12 th . Other dates at Seabury Hall, St. Anthony, & Maui High
SAT subject Tests Test: Algebra 2; English and two or more subject tests.	October 9, 2010 November 6, 2010 December 4, 2010 January 22, 2011 March 13, 2011 May 1, 2011 June 5, 2011	September 10, 2010 October 8, 2010 November 5 2010 December 23, 2010 February 11, 2011 April 8, 2011 May 6, 2011	\$20 each	Same as above
ACT	September 11, 2010 October 23, 2010 December 11, 2010 February 12 ,2011 April 9, 2011 June 11, 2011	August 6, 2010 September 17, 2010 November 5, 2010 January 7, 2011 March 4, 2011 May 6, 2011	\$30 Registration \$44.50 Writing	Lahainaluna on Dec 13 th . St. Anthony on other dates.

Testing Timeline: Sophomores and Juniors take the PSAT in October. Juniors take the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT early in the second semester of that year and usually again in the Spring. Seniors often retake the SAT Reasoning Test and ACT early in the year to improve scores needed for specific colleges that they have selected.

College Applications: Students obtain college applications online. It is their responsibility to manage the completion of the application to meet deadlines. The college counselor will review the student's college admission folder and prompt students but does not take responsibility for the actual completion of applications. Our college counseling program facilitates the search and application process for all students whether they are seeking traditional four-year colleges, fine arts programs, or an international educational experience.

Then in the spring they meet individually with our college counselor to review their academic record and to discuss their goals as well as their strengths, ambitions and preferences. Our college counselor suggests an appropriate range (where chances of admission range from 30 – 90 percent) of colleges or programs for the students and their families to investigate over the summer before their senior year. Each senior applies to approximately seven colleges; international students sometimes apply to more. The counselor closely monitors the application process, proofing applications and essays, and is also responsible for sending out the Secondary School Report Form, ensuring that teacher recommendations are completed, and overseeing the mailing of official transcripts for each student.

College Counseling Programs and Events: Below is an overview of the full set of College Counseling evening programs and events for parents and students throughout the academic year.

- **Senior Parent Night -- Early September.** Event covers many aspects of senior year, not just college counseling.
- **College Evening for Sophomores, Juniors, and Parents – late January.** Required event for all juniors; we encourage all parents to attend. A preview of the College Counseling program for Juniors and Seniors. PSAT scores will also be analyzed and used help families formulate a study plan for the SAT.
- **College Workshops – throughout the year.** At times interactive evenings of several sessions on different aspects of college admissions, led by admission deans from selective colleges and college counselors will be scheduled.
- **Maui College Fair – November & April.** Representatives from 150 colleges and universities around the country talk with students and parents from partner schools: Seabury Hall, St. Anthony, Baldwin, Maui High, King K. Kekaulike, and Lahainaluna.
- **College Visits at Maui Prep – September through November.** Admission representatives from many colleges and universities visit the campus to meet with interested students. Typically, about twenty visits occur in the fall, and many college representatives return in the spring. Upper school students also attend the Maui College Fair each fall where they speak with representatives from over 150 national and international institutions.
- **College Financial Aid Program – January.** Guest speaker is a financial aid director from the College Opportunities Program (C.O.P.) from Maui College. This event provides insight and answering questions on financial aid and scholarship opportunities will do a workshop on campus. Additional events are held throughout the island such as College Goal Sunday at Maui College.

Financial Aid and Scholarships: If a family has even the slightest concern about financing a student's college education, we encourage you to learn more about the aid resources at colleges that interest you and to explore the options for financial assistance. A college education is a major lifetime investment, second only to buying a house. While a high proportion of all students enrolled in higher education receive some type of financial assistance from federal, state or

school sources, the amount of federal financial aid has declined over the last few decades, often increasing the amount of loans in a student's financial aid package. Colleges and universities themselves remain the single largest provider of assistance to families in paying for college, offering grants, employment, loans, payment plans, and other resources.

- **Expected Family Contribution Forecaster (FAFSA Forecaster)** : One of the most helpful devices for parents in the early stages of exploring financial aid eligibility is the FAFSA Forecaster, a preliminary estimate which tells you whether you are likely to qualify for need-based financial aid. If a family is unsure of college costs and how to pay for a college education, this service, along with other helpful calculators dealing with loan programs, is available from the at the FAFSA website at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov. The College Board offers a similar forecaster at <http://www.collegeboard.com/pay>.
- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**: Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded or federally guaranteed financial assistance for education beyond high school. Students wishing to receive both school aid and federal aid must submit this form to their prospective college by their particular school's financial aid deadline (usually March). Each school will then formulate a financial aid package that might include federal grants, federal student loans, federal parent loans, school grants, school loans, and/or school scholarships. This form is completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- **Financial Aid Night**: Another opportunity to learn more about this process is the Financial Aid Night. This program, featuring a representative from the COP program at Maui Community College, is a forum for assistance and information as you fill out the financial aid forms. We urge parents of seniors and juniors, in particular, to attend this evening meeting in mid January.
- **Scholarships**: The College Counseling office has a considerable library of information about grants, scholarships and merit-based aid, as well as information from specific colleges. Many of which are particularly designated for Maui students. Students may review printed notices of outside scholarships sponsored by private organizations, or consult a list of scholarships at our online college planning center from the Maui Prep website. Increasingly, the Internet is the most comprehensive tool for researching scholarships and determining individual student eligibility. Students should also check parents' employers, professional associations or labor unions for available grants or scholarships. Investigate community organizations, fraternal groups, and churches for special opportunities.
- **Timing**: Many outside or non-college sponsored scholarship applications are due in late fall of winter or senior year, generally after admission applications have been filed.

Some have earlier deadlines, and a few are targeted to high school juniors. Check Maui Prep resources or complete a web search early to track scholarships of interest to you.

- **A word of caution:** We do not recommend the use of scholarship search services that charge a fee for providing a list of award programs. Much research confirms that such services offer little substantive information; some are "scams." Do consult websites with free information, guidebooks, and our listing of outside (non-college sponsored) scholarships. Pay particular attention to application deadlines. Realize that searching and applying for financial aid takes time and effort, but the results can be very beneficial.
- **Web Links for information on Scholarships, Aid and Savings Plans:**
 - [FastWeb](#) – One of the most comprehensive and well-regarded scholarship search sites
 - [Finaid.org](#) – Advice on financial aid terms, forms, strategies and scholarship search
 - [Scholarship America](#) – An organization that administers many private scholarships
 - [Guaranteed Scholarships](#) – web links to various colleges' "guaranteed" scholarships, usually based on minimum GPA, test scores, or other personal factors
 - [NASFAA](#) – Advice from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
 - [Guide to 529 Savings Plans](#) – tax-advantaged, pre-paid college savings plans sponsored by various states
 - [Independent 529 Plan](#)

More links for researching colleges, college athletics, and more: Click here for links to various search engines and resources for exploring college options. A primary online college research tool for current Maui Prep juniors and seniors is "MyRoad" by the College Board (www.myroad.com) a password-protected online tool which enables students to search for college and build an online profile in preparation for the college application process.

When clicking on the links below, please note you will leave this site, www.mauiprep.org

Other College Search resources:

- www.collegeboard.com
- www.petersons.com
- www.collegeview.com
- [Colleges of Distinction](#)

- [Colleges that Change Lives](#) (see also books by Loren Pope)
- [Associated Colleges of the Midwest](#)

Interested in playing sports at the college level?

- [College athletics at the Division III level](#)
- [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) (for Division I and II)
- [NCAA Website](#) – information on sports at all levels

Interested in attending a British or Canadian university?

- [British Council](#) – for education options in the United Kingdom
- [UCAS application](#) – a common application for many UK schools
- [StudyinCanada](#) – information on Canadian universities

Further Questions? Please Contact:

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