The College Access Program is designed to help all those who want to get ready, get set and go to college—no matter where they are in life. Part of the Philadelphia Education Fund, we are Philadelphia’s oldest and largest college access program. We offer expert advice on selecting the right college for you and your needs, assistance with admission applications, workshops and seminars geared toward college success and completion, financial aid application assistance, and a wide range of other services designed to help you make a successful transition to college.

Whether you’re in middle school or high school, or you’ve been to college already or not, your dream of a college education is closer than you think.

**WE CAN HELP YOU GET STARTED.**

The College Access Program can help you:

- Meet with an educational advisor one-on-one
- Identify your career path
- Develop an education plan
- Identify colleges that are right for you
- Gain a support system
- Participate in one of our workshops and seminars:
  - Learn about colleges and careers
  - Get help with essay writing
  - Manage stress
  - Public speaking
  - Develop custom study skills
  - Time management
  - Understand the ABC’s of college
  - …and much more.

**GET READY. GET SET. GO!**

Don’t let the cost of a college education scare you away. Visit your College Access Center to get help finding financial aid.

**WHERE TO FIND US**

The Gallery College Access Center: OPEN TO ALL
Center City
The Gallery, Street Level
9th & Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-574-1341

All services are FREE and open to all!

- Unlimited computer lab access, based on availability
- Personal attention
- Library resource center
- Access to other services
- Location easily accessible to public transit
- Open year-round
- Child-friendly environment

School-based Programs
- John Bartram High School
- Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts
- Olney Charter High School
- Paul Robeson High School
- Roxborough High School

**OTHER FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES**

- **Federal Student Financial Aid Information Center** - 1-800-433-3243
- Provides information on Federal Pell Grants and will provide brochures for other sources of federal aid.

- **FAFSA Application** - www.fafsa.ed.gov
  Free application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA is used to apply for all federal financial aid.

- **PHEAA** - www.pheaa.org
  Provides information on applying for state grants and checking state grant application status.

- **FinAid.org** - www.finaid.org
  This award-winning site has grown into one of the most comprehensive sources of student financial aid information, advice and tools —on or off the web.

- **U.S. Department of Education** - www.ed.gov/students
  Provides information regarding federal grants (known as Pell Grants), loans and college preparation information for students, parents and educators.

**COLLEGE ACCESS FOR ALL**

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The Philadelphia Education Fund’s Philadelphia Scholars program provides scholarships to help students afford college. Graduating high school seniors who actively participate in the College Access Program are eligible to apply for this need-based “gap-filling” scholarship. It is awarded to those who have a documented unmet need up to $4,000 during an academic year.

To find out if you qualify:
Visit our website: www.philaedfund.org/scholars
Email us: scholars@philaedfund.org
Call: 215-665-1400, ext. 3344

**GO!**
YOUR ROADMAP TO COLLEGE AND LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Each year in high school is important if you want to keep your options open for life after college. Whether you decide to go directly to work, to a training program or to college, what you do in your high school career matters. Keep your options open by following this path.

Junior Year

Summer
1. Regularly schedule time in the summer to continue to read newspapers, magazines and novels with subjects you enjoy. Consider making another visit with your parents or guardians to a College Access Center.
2. Continue to discuss college and education with your family.

September
1. Join the College Access Program or a program like it in your school for an extra level of support in your college preparation process.
2. Register for the Preliminary SAT Test (PSAT) held in October.
3. Find out about and attend any scheduled college fairs held in your school or in the community.
4. Sign up for high school extracurricular activities.

October
1. Take the PSAT. Test fees can be waived in some situations. Ask your guidance office about fee waivers.
2. Have a family discussion about college plans.
3. Start exploring information about colleges you might attend. Talk with your high school guidance counselor and teachers.
4. Collect information from college fairs and websites, attend college presentations at your high school, read college guides and visit the College Access Center.

November/December
1. Attend the Philadelphia National College Fair and/or the Performing Arts Fair in the fall.
2. Find out the following about colleges: application procedures, admission requirements (standardized test scores, grades, class rank and essay required), size, location, fees, tuition, room and board costs, student activities, courses or major offerings and financial aid procedures.

January/February
1. Review senior year course selection, graduation requirements and college places with your guidance counselor or visit a College Access Center for free assistance.
2. Sign up for an SAT/ACT preparation course. Look online for courses, assistance or helpful preparation tools like “Question of the Day” that you can find on test preparation websites.

March/April
1. Register for the Spring SAT/ACT tests.
2. Begin narrowing down your list of colleges and begin to consider the colleges to which you will apply.
3. Check with colleges, your school or other programs in your community for scheduled trips to college campuses.
4. Register for SAT Subject Tests (optional). Be sure to research the admission requirements of colleges in which you are interested.

May/June/Summer
1. Take the SAT and/or ACT.
2. If you are interested in visual or performing arts as a career, begin to develop your portfolio or audition.
3. Gather applications, forms, catalogs, websites and information about financial aid for colleges chosen from your guidance office and the nearest College Access Center.
4. Email, call or write to college admission offices to get information.
5. Investigate the process of applying online using college websites. Computers with Internet connections are usually available at all College Access Centers and may be available at your school or local library.
6. Research private sources of scholarships and other forms of financial aid from colleges, businesses, private foundations, labor unions, government agencies, ethnic, veteran, religious, fraternal, high school and civic organizations. Request scholarship applications from these sources. Use scholarship websites to start your research.
7. Start writing essays for college and scholarship applications.
8. Ask teachers for recommendations that are required for many colleges and some scholarship applications.
9. Check with your counselor or academic advisor to verify graduation credits and requirements.

Senior Year

September
1. Continue gathering college information and applications, both online and paper forms. Ask teachers for positive letters of recommendation.
2. Continue to work on college applications, and ask guidance counselors if you qualify for application fee waivers to help pay for the application fees.
3. Register for the SAT and/or ACT tests (or any other required admission tests).
4. Choose 3-6 colleges to which you will send applications. Choose these colleges so that they range from likely to be admitted to competitive.
5. Be sure to pay all college application fees and financial aid application deadlines. Keep records of all correspondence.

October/November
1. Attend the Philadelphia National College Fair.
2. Register for or re-take the SAT or ACT test offered in these months (or any other required tests for admission).
3. Register for the SAT and/or ACT tests (or any other required admission tests).
4. Submit applications to colleges.
5. If you apply for early decision, begin preparing the application at least 2-3 months before the deadline.

December
1. Register for or re-take the SAT/ACT test offered this month (or any other required admission test).
2. Learn which financial aid forms are required to complete for each college (i.e. FAFSA, CSS Profile, PHEAA) and keep applying for any private sources of scholarships.

January
1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online to apply for grants from the Federal Government and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).
2. Confirm with each college the deadline for the financial aid form for which you are required to complete. Some colleges may have different deadlines for the FAFSA and/or the college’s own financial aid forms. Keep copies of all correspondence.

February/March
1. Keep track of acceptance offers and deadlines, as well as financial aid award letters.
2. Regr promptly to colleges that offer admission. Reply dates are usually up to May 1.
3. After applying for federal grants you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). You will have to check these forms for errors and follow all other instructions.
4. Promptly respond to offers for summer program participation. Summer programs can enhance freshman year success.
5. Promptly submit deposits required for admission and housing to the college you will attend.

July/August
1. “Off you go to college! Congratulations! Read and follow instructions on arrival dates and what to bring or pack.
2. Don’t miss your orientation and registration days.
3. Have fun!

MORE INFORMATION!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!