**From:** Jasmine Rainey
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 11:27 AM
Subject: College Bound Students--Are you on track to enroll?

Hey ~~Seniors~~ Graduates!

Congratulations on graduating! I’m so proud of you all. For those of you who are college bound, please review the below tasks and reminders. Let me know if you have any questions or if you need help with the items listed below. I’m on vacation from June 30th-July 14th, but I’m available before and after that timeframe if you need to meet or get help.

As a reminder, if you’ve been using your high school email for your main communications or when you signed up for various accounts (e.g. CollegeBoard, FAFSA, etc), make sure to update this to a personal email. Your high school email will eventually be deactivated. Don’t lose access to your accounts in the future!

-Ms. Rainey

**Are you on track to enroll in college? Have you done the following?**

* **Completed verification (if applicable) and received a financial aid award letter?**
* **Signed up for housing** (if applicable)
* **Registered for/attended New Student Orientation?**
	+ You usually cannot register for classes until you attend a new student orientation and/or meet with you academic advisor. So, do this ASAP!
	+ Before orientation or meeting with your academic advisor you should send over your college transcripts (if applicable) so that you’re not asked to take courses you’ve already taken. If you took AP or IB exams and earned a score that will qualify you for college credit, make sure to send that to the college too!
* **Does your college require health insurance?** If yes, get this waived if you are covered under your parents’/guardians’ health insurance. Otherwise, you might find an additional charge on your tuition! Contact your college to check if it’s required and to learn the process to waive it if it is.
* **Have you accepted your institutional and private scholarships?** If not, make sure to do your next steps as outlined by your scholarship providers.
* **If you’re attending college in Colorado, make sure you apply for and authorize the** [**Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF)**](https://cof.college-assist.org/) **.** [COF](https://cof.college-assist.org/) provides a discount on in-state tuition. If you took dual enrollment courses, you probably already applied for it, but you must also “authorize” or give your college permission to utilize the funds. You usually do this through your college portal.
* **Review the full “next steps” checklist** [**HERE**](https://41a3dcce-e418-43b0-b193-5145ccfd2c12.filesusr.com/ugd/5f6a4b_5cf61d26024149ea9456a5930d552d1f.pdf)**.** Please read the document and complete the tasks that are applicable. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or need help.

**As you transition to college, also keep in mind the following:**

* Transportation
	+ How will you arrive at campus?
	+ Holiday travel logistics (Thanksgiving, winter and spring break)
	+ Summer—coming home for the summer.
* Documents needed for college:
	+ Insurance: Was it waived? Yes / No / NA (Circle One)
	+ Immunization Records: Have you submitted them to your college? Yes / No / NA
	+ Placement Exams Taken: Yes / No / NA (Circle One)

**Other Tips and Reminders…**

***Budgeting for and in College***

As a college student, you can receive a lot of free or discounted items. Check out [this document](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RvAyk2hDAHMaoJszdxvAZIjGCPx8806g/view?usp=sharing) to learn more.

***Academics***

* Find student support programs at your college and join them (e.g. join TRIO programs if your college offers them)! These programs (similar to Elevated or Peak Education) will help support you throughout your college journey. Some will provide mentors, additional scholarships or other helpful resources!
	+ If you’re going to a college in Colorado, check out these [student support programs](https://41a3dcce-e418-43b0-b193-5145ccfd2c12.filesusr.com/ugd/5f6a4b_e624ab67396047e7be24ac2dbcc0e704.pdf).
* Consider joining a living learning community if your college offers this.
	+ What is a living learning community? Check out [this resource](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/reslife/llc/) and then see if your college offers these.
	+ You may want to consider an honor’s program in college. See [this document](https://www.thecollegesolution.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-honors-colleges/) about the pros and cons of an honor’s program and research your college’s process.
* Go to tutoring and student study groups.
* Go to your professor’s office hours and introduce yourself. If you don’t understand the material, get help early through tutoring and by visiting your professor’s office hours. Don’t wait until you’re failing the course, go early!
* Get involved on campus!

***Scholarships and Financial Aid***

* You can still apply for scholarships. In fact, you should constantly apply to scholarships from now until you’re finished with college (unless you have a guaranteed full-ride).
	+ Goingmerry.com, unigo.com, scholarships.com, fastweb.com
* Many colleges have separate internal scholarship applications that you can complete every year! Most of these applications will open between Oct. 1st-December 1st and usually close March 1st. Some have earlier deadlines; so, pay attention to your college’s deadlines.
* Once you’re in college, you can also go to the department for your academic major (e.g. the biology department) and ask them if they have scholarships. Often, they will have a scholarship and will tell you that most students don’t apply! So, you could receive it just by applying.
* FAFSA opens October 1st of every year for the next academic year. So, as of October 1, 2021, you can submit your FAFSA for the 2022-23 academic year. Remember to submit it early and to not procrastinate! FAFSA qualifies you for financial aid; so, make sure you do this. Your college should have resources to help you completed the FAFSA if needed.
* If you were offered work-study and plan to work in college, remember that it’s like a real job; you will need to search for a job on campus and apply. Use your college’s job search tool to locate jobs. You’re responsible for using your paycheck to pay your tuition/bill.
	+ Some colleges will allow you to connect your job to your student account so that your wages are applied directly to you tuition/bill. Ask your college about this.
	+ If you don’t need to work, consider adjusting to the pace of college during your first semester before adding a job.

***Wellbeing***

[Tips for Managing the College Transition](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/tips-for-smooth-college-transition/)

[Other Tips](https://www.northcentral.edu/blog/top-10-tips-transitioning-college/)

Going Away for College:

For those of you who are going away for college, remember that it’s ok to be homesick! Find ways to get involved and to find your place on campus. Sometimes the transition can be tough and students will want to transfer to a college near their home before the first semester is over or at the end of the first semester. **I encourage you to stay at the college for the entire academic year before deciding to transfer.**  Often times, students will decide to stay at the college after having a full academic year to adjust and find their place. Just know that feeling homesick is normal, but make an effort to find your place.

If you’re going away for college, but you’re still close enough to drive home in a few hours times, don’t come home often! Don’t return home every weekend if you don’t have to do so. You miss out on the full experience of college and it’s more difficult to “find your place” if you’re always at home on the weekends when a lot of social activities can occur.

Have fun in college, but remember that you’re in college first and foremost for an education. So be responsible and find your balance.

Staying at Home for College

If you’re staying at home for college, [read this guide for tips on how to still have a good college experience](https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/living-at-home-in-college/). You might need to speak with your parents about expectations and boundaries. College can be challenging and will require more of your attention and time than high school did. Sometimes parents might expect you to do everything you did in high school (e.g. take siblings to and from school), but you won’t always have time.

Once again, if you have questions or if you need help, please let me know.

**Jasmine Rainey**

Director of College Counseling

Peak Education-Sachs Elevated Partnership

1645 S. Murray Blvd | Colorado Springs, CO 80916

O: 719-597-0873, ext. 1 | C: 719-301-9483

jasmine@peakedu.org | <https://www.peakedu.org/>