

Summer Planning Tips + Research Ideas

NOTE: THIS IS A WORKING DOCUMENT. THE PURPOSE IS TO HELP BRAINSTORM IDEAS, GATHER IDEAS REGARDING SUMMER PLANNING. LINKS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK DIRECTLY WITH WEBSITES AND ORGANIZING. THERE IS NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL TO COLLEGE PLANNING. PLEASE BE REFLECTIVE OF PERSONAL GOALS, ACADEMIC FIT, FINANCIAL FIT, ETC.

Before you begin: Colleges care about genuine interests and areas of strength that are meaningful to YOU. Be authentic in your extracurricular and summer planning. This will vary from student to student! Volunteering isn't praised higher than community service, and a college class isn't necessarily better than a summer college experience. Consider the following tips:

1. Self reflect (what are your interests, future career goals, areas of strength - what do you want to gain?)
2. Decide what type of experience
3. Take note of your time of availability (do you have trips or any other commitments?)
4. Create a resume and have it handy (you can create in [Naviance](#) under the About me section!)

Internships

How to Guide to Internships:

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/high-school-summer-internships>

- Find the area you'd like to intern in
- Have a resume (create on in Naviance)
- Ask your friends, parents, neighbors or opportunities to connect with professionals in the area of interest
- Ask to job shadow or have a short conversation - might get the ball rolling, etc.

<https://camp-galileo.icims.com/jobs/15442/summer-operations-intern/job>

Volunteer

Child Development Institute - <https://cdikids.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
[Heal the Bay](#) - Santa Monica beach clean ups - environmental sustainability
[Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library](#)

Work

[Century City Westfield](#)

Ask around!! Ask your parents/family friends, have a resume handy.

Do something on your own

<https://go.collegewise.com/50-ways-to-spend-summer>

Start your own business

Art

- Keep a sketchbook

- Create a photography portfolio

- Take a local ceramics class or art class

Working with younger students

- Babysit

- Offer to tutor a younger student over the summer in an area you're strong in

- If you're involved in a sport, offer to "coach" or train students in a local park

Take a college class

Notes: Concurrent enrollment note about college classes

[FIDM - Summer program + classes](#)

[Online fashion courses with Parsons](#)

[Woodbury University, Burbank, CA High School Academy](#)

- Architecture Lab

- Creative Writing

- Art + Design Portfolio

- Steam + Computer Science

- Smart Money

- Psychology + Human Behavior

[SMC Concurrent Enrollment Application](#)

Pre-College Program

Notes: Pre-college programs may cost a fee, some have selective application processes. These are examples!

[Engineering Possibilities in College \(EPIC\) Cal Poly SLO](#)

[Pomona College Academy for Youth Success](#)

[UCSB Research Mentorship Program](#)

[California State Summer School for Mathematics & Science \(COSMOS\)](#)

<https://precollege.wisc.edu/badger-summer-scholars/>

<https://precollege.emory.edu/index.html>

[California State Summer School for the Arts](#)

Misc/Other

[Summer Camp Search Guide](#)

<https://momsla.com/10-incredible-summer-programs-for-los-angeles-high-school-students/>

Resources

[Beverly Hills High School Career Center summer page](#)

<https://go.collegewise.com/setting-up-a-successful-summer>

Source: <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/high-school-summer>

Take an online course in something that fascinates you. Like Berkeley's "[Science of Happiness](#)" course. Or here are [1,200 free online courses from top universities](#).

Looking for something more practical? [Lynda.com](#) has over 5,000 courses in everything from How to Draw Good and Evil Comic Book Characters to How to Market and Monetize on YouTube. And don't even get me started on [Coursera](#).

Create your own online course. What's something you can do so well that you could teach people? Ethan's brother's friend, for example, teaches [design sketching](#).

Podcast: [The Top Summer Programs for High School Students and How to Gain Admission to Them](#)