



OUTREACH FUTURES
PHILADELPHIA FUTURES

Programs, Services, and Resources

2021

123 South Broad St., Suite 850
Philadelphia, PA 19109
Phone: 215-790-1666
Fax: 215-790-1888
Web: www.philadelphiafutures.org

PROGRAMS, SERVICES, and RESOURCES

Philadelphia Futures' Outreach Futures initiative brings the organization's skills, expertise, resources, and networks to a broader community. Working in collaboration with high schools and community-based organizations, through workshops, one-to-one counseling, and print and digital media, Outreach Futures offers critically needed information about the college admissions and financial aid processes to Philadelphia students who otherwise would not have access to these services. Our workshops are an extension of the deep work done through our direct services programs as well as the comprehensive guidance offered through our Step Up to College resources. To learn more about how students might connect with the Sponsor-A-Scholar or College Connection programs, or to receive more information about the print and digital Step Up to College resources, please contact Michelle Mora at michellemora@philadelphiafutures.org or 215-790-1666 ext 425.

WORKSHOPS

TARGETED AUDIENCE: Students, parents, and educational professionals.

WORKSHOP TOPICS: Philadelphia Futures' workshops are offered to schools and other youth-serving organizations. Workshops cover the spectrum of topics related to the college admissions and financial aid processes. Sessions are interactive and generally an hour long but can be adjusted to meet specific audience needs. Workshop topics and the appropriate audience are listed below:

S=Students **P**=Parents **EP**=Educational Professionals

“Why College: Owning Your Vision of Personal Success” There is a proven link to staying in school and achieving career success. Through group discussions, activities and self-assessments, students will create a vision for their own college success and generate SMART Goals for making their vision a reality. (S)

“Maximizing College Exposure Opportunities” With over 5,000 colleges and universities in the United States, it can be difficult to differentiate schools merely based on what is available online. Many institutions invite students to engage with them in other, more personal ways to learn more about the school. This session will provide students with a foundational understanding of these exposure opportunities and tools for exploring them more deeply. (S, EP)

“Insider Tips for Understanding the Common Application” More than 500 colleges and universities are members of The Common Application. This workshop will help students to understand The Common Application sections and holistic admission practices. Staff will provide “expert tips” to help students navigate the Application with greater ease and to avoid mistakes. (S, EP)

“Summer Supplement: Eight Steps to Prepare for the Path to College” Specifically designed for rising high school seniors, the *Summer Supplement* outlines eight steps to prepare students for the college application process. By following the action plan outlined in the *Supplement*, students will be prepared to navigate the application process. Students will receive copies of the *Summer Supplement* during the session. *Summer Supplement* workshops are offered in the spring. (S, P, EP)

“Assembling Your College Team” Getting to and succeeding in college requires a team of effort. One of the first steps on the path to college is building a team of trusted advisers -- individuals who care about the student and their future. This session will guide students through an assessment of who those key resources may be and how to maximize the benefits of those relationships. (S, P, EP)

“Roots and Fruits: Supporting Our Children’s College Aspirations” This parent and guardian workshop will prepare the supportive adults in students’ lives to take on the college application process with confidence. Participants will receive resources for engaging in tough conversations with students around making decisions, finances, and the strategies for achieving the goal of college success, together. (P)

“Finishing Strong: Powering Through a Successful Senior Year” This workshop will be split into two sections. The first will focus on scenarios that past students have encountered in their senior year and how rising seniors can avoid, counter, or troubleshoot those situations. The second will engage participants in the goal-setting and organizing activities that will prepare them for a strong senior year. (S)

“Step Up to Your Future: The Basics of the College Search” Finding the best fit college is an essential part of future success. This session will focus on the basics of the college search, providing the necessary foundation for families to understand fit, visits, interview preparation, types of schools, cost awareness, and deadlines. Targeted at sophomores or juniors and their parents, this workshop is ideal for students at the beginning of their college search. (S, P, EP)

“Dollars and Sense: Understanding Financial Aid” Students will learn about the financial aid process, including the difference between grants and loans, financial need, direct and indirect costs, and financial aid terms. The session will also cover types of aid, family responsibilities, the impact of student loans, financial need, forms, and tax preparation. Additionally, the session will cover the best ways to apply for outside and private scholarships. The “Dollars and Sense” workshop is appropriate for juniors and seniors. (S, EP)

“Do You Have the Write Stuff?” Essays are a key component of the college application process. Designed to be a working session, students will start drafts of college essays. Students will learn about the various types of writing samples required for the application process: personal essays, supplement essays, and scholarship essays. (S, EP)

“Becoming a College Student”: Acceptance letters are just the beginning of the transition from high school to campus. This session will provide students with the tools and checklists they need to understand decision and award letters, make deposits, identify on-campus supports, and close the loop on the logistics of enrolling at their future school. Students will also receive tips for the first semester on campus. (S, P, EP)

For information about scheduling a workshop for your school or student group, visit www.philadelphiafutures.org/outreach-and-engagement.