



COLLEGE READINESS

Keeping Your Students on Track
and Motivated to WIN!!!



All if not most of us want our students to win. When you have a child, you look into those cute little eyes and you can't help but want the best for them. Most **teachers** go into teaching because they want to help inspire students and help them learn. Same for most **administrators**, they want to create a "college going" culture and develop future leaders that are ready to takeover and change the world.

Just as in winning sports championships, it takes a team to win!



The key is first understanding that engaging all sides –student, parent, teacher, counselor and/or administrator really helps you have a successful outcome.



Find out what the student is passionate about , i.e. computers, building, engineering, fashion, media, sports, athletics- this is where you start to engage student



Parents make sure you let your student's teacher/counselor/admin know that your student is college bound and/or what he or she is very passionate about



Make sure you tell the teacher, counselor, admin, that you want to be involved in your student's education and you are want to work with them in making sure your student is successful. Ask them how can you help them in this journey

College Planning

- College Planning
- Choosing a major
- Student Goals
- College Fit, Size
- In State vs Out of State
- Activities
- Offerings
- Cost



College Readiness

- College Readiness
- SAT/ACT preparation and testing
- Essay writing for college admission and scholarships
- Grades
- Study Habits
- College Entrance Exams
- Financial Aid Forms



What is College?

- Any post-secondary (After high school) education that is at least 2 years of education. This includes community colleges, vocational or trade schools, and 4 year colleges/universities.
- Students who go to college and obtain at least a long term certificate make on an average \$6,100 more a year than a non-college/certificate person. A 4 year college grad earns an average of 32,000 more a year, than a person with just a high school diploma. (Labor Statistics)
- More than 65% of the jobs are going to require some college (Georgetown Job Recovery 2020)
- Regardless of your background and/or socio-economic status, everyone has the opportunity to go to college. Even, if your grades weren't always perfect, or the best, there is a college for you. Even if you have a disability, every college in the country has a Disability Resource Center on campus to help you make it through college, and in most cases there is funding available to assist the student to go to college and graduate.

Types of Colleges



Community College

2 year colleges, although for some it may take longer depending on number of classes you take. They offer Associate Degrees and Certificate Programs. They also offer technical training in specific occupations, (booking keeping, culinary arts, cosmetology, health professions, etc.). Students may attend part-time or full-time. Students can take some college classes while in high school, which will help them finish college or obtain a college degree faster. A great way to get a specialty or skilled training at a low cost. Plus, each community college have agreements for students to transfer from their 2 year college to a 4 year college.



State Colleges and Universities, Private and Independent

4 year+ colleges that offer Bachelor of Arts/Science degrees, Master of Arts/Science degrees, J.D. (Juris Doctorate), M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) and Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) degrees

What is a Major?

- A major is a group of courses that focus and shape a student's skills, development, and experiences. A major should interest and excite a student, as it will take a significant amount of their academic time and energy. Majors, can be Biology, Computer Science, Engineering, Psychology, Business, Physics, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapy, Gerontology, Sociology, and so on.

Choosing a Major

- We suggest a student major and go into a profession that he or she has passion for
- Know your interests- what you love, who you are, what makes you...you
- Research- check out all majors and what's available
- Do your homework and see what jobs/careers exist for the type of major you are thinking about. Remember your selecting your major should be what you love, what interests you and research.



What does it take to get into COLLEGE?

- **Grades are very important** when it comes to going to college for FREE! High Core GPA + Good SAT and/or ACT = College for free.
- ACT and SAT offer test preparation on their sites (collegeboard.org and act.org).
- **Core Classes**
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of Math (4 years recommended)
 - 2 years of Social Science (like US History, World History- 3 years recommended)
 - 2 years of Laboratory Science (like Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
 - 2 years of a Foreign Language (3 years recommended)
 - 1 year of Visual and Performing Arts (Art, Drama, Music, etc.)
 - 1 year of College Preparatory Elective (can be chosen from field above, or psychology, statistics etc.)



Building Blocks to College

7th grade

- Tell your parents and school guidance counselor that you plan on going to college. Ask them to help you prepare.
- Take challenging classes in English, Math, Science, History, etc.
- Strive to maintain an “A” or “B” average all through school, especially the college prep courses.
- Get into the reading habit and ask your teachers to recommend books. Start to study with a group of friends (create a study group).
- Work with an Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP), Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), or other academic program representative.
- Volunteer for a community service organization so you can start accumulating community service hours
- Apply for scholarships, scholarships start as early as 4th grade, like the Angela Award <http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx#angela>



8th grade

- Continue to participate in EAOP, MESA or other academic enrichment programs at all grade levels.
- Continue to participate in study groups and read, read, read.
- Ask your counselor or program representative about Summer Academic Enrichment Programs.
- Talk pre-algebra or algebra.
- Make sure your 9th grade schedule includes algebra or more advanced math and/or foreign language classes.
- Take the American College Test (ACT) for fun. www.act.org. No need to select colleges to send your scores to, just wait until you have the scores you want to send.
- Explore preparation program or the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) for practice. www.collegeboard.org
- It is extremely important to work with your counselor or program representative so they can help interpret your scores.
- Volunteer for a community service organization to add to your community service hours. This helps with scholarships
- Apply for scholarships for college. Check out our website <https://www.thecollegeexpo.org/resources/scholarships>

Building Blocks to College



9th Grade

- Take challenging college preparatory courses. Make sure you review you're A-G, or require courses needed to get into college. Visit our website

<https://www.thecollegeexpo.org/resources>

- Begin researching universities that interest you.
- Begin researching scholarships, grants and other financial aid programs. Check out our website for scholarships
<https://www.thecollegeexpo.org/resources/scholarships>

- Take the ACT test. www.act.org and SAT test.
www.collegeboard.com

- Make community and other positive extracurricular activities a must on your schedule. Please volunteer with organizations to get community service hours. This is really good to have on your resume when applying for scholarships
- Take a summer course that helps you prepare for college.

Building Blocks to College



10th grade

- Continue to take challenging college preparatory courses, and striving for A's. Academic performance in 10th and 11th grade is extremely important! D's are unacceptable and colleges will not count D's. Remember you will be applying for college before you begin your senior year so make sure you perform well academically 9th, 10th and 11th grade. These are the years most colleges will decide to admit you or not.
- Continue researching universities and scholarships. Check out our updated scholarships <https://www.thecollegeexpo.org/resources/scholarships>
- Now is the time to take the PSAT in October.
- Take the SAT and ACT in again this year. This may be the great score you can use to get into college before your senior year.
- Broaden your spectrum of community and other positive extracurricular activities.
- Get a daily planner to help you stay on track and organized with all of your activities. Make using the planner a habit that you continue to use through college. Here's one suggestion, but you can research other options <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/make-a-plan>
- Form a study group or get a tutor if you get behind in any course. This self-help experience can also be used in college. Also, ask your teach in the subject you are behind in for help or suggestions so you can do better.
- Use the summer to hone your reading skills and experience. Get a suggested reading list for college-bound students from your English teacher.
- If you get a D in a class please retake that course over the summer.
- If you are a STUDENT ATHLETE register for the NCAA Clearinghouse at the beginning of your sophomore year so you are eligible for athletic scholarships. www.ncaa.org to allow sufficient time to be sure you are on track to graduate on time to meet the NCAA's required initial eligibility standards.

Building Blocks to College



11th grade

- Continue to take college preparatory courses. Work towards getting as many A's as possible. Academic performance in the 11th and 10th grade is extremely important! D's are unacceptable and colleges will not count D's.
- Visit College fairs in your area. Look for a list of our expos www.thecollegeexpo.org
- Narrow your choice of universities to an average of six to eight. Begin applying to universities.
- Make plans to visit universities you are considering.
- Continue looking for scholarships to apply for. Start putting your bio together. Begin asking for recommendation letters from your teachers, counselors, administrators, and community leaders.
- Take the SAT and ACT in the fall, winter or spring, and make sure you take the PSAT in October. 11th grade is when you can get merit based scholarships based on your PSAT test scores).
- Continue to broaden your spectrum of community and other positive extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Community service is a BIG plus when you are applying for scholarships. In many cases, as equally important as getting good grades.
- Keep making use of your daily planner
- Become a pro at taking thorough notes. You'll need this skill every day in college.
- Apply early to summer programs at colleges and universities. And enroll in a college summer program. They are fun and give you a glimpse of the college experience.
- If you have any D's please retake the class in the summer.
- Apply for federal and state aid by filing out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov application opens up for upcoming school year October 1st.

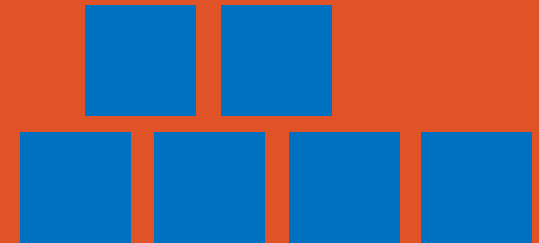
Building Blocks to College



12th grade

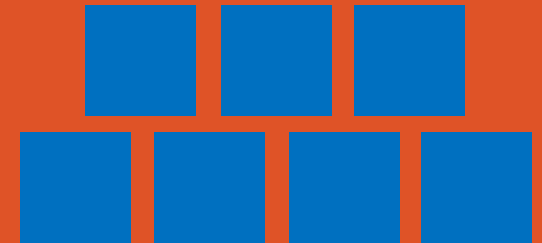
- Keep going for A's and continue to strive for academic excellence.
- Keep attending college fairs in your area. These events are the next best thing to actually visiting universities. Look for a list of our expos www.thecollegeexpo.org. Many of the colleges that attend our expos have rolling enrollment which offers great options for attending college.
- Narrow the application process to a minimum of eight to ten colleges. You can put up to 10 colleges on your FAFSA. Watch the deadlines! Also, look for colleges based on your major or what you want to become as a professional, not because it is the so-called "popular college".
- Make sure you set up a Web Portal account with all the schools you applied to, so you can see your status with that particular college, register for housing, check your financial aid award and scholarships, and vital information on campus tours, special events and important deadlines.
- Finish the financial aid application process, which includes any changes if needed on your FAFSA. Watch the deadlines! Dollars are given away on a first come first serve basis.
- In October or November re-take the SAT and/or ACT if you weren't pleased with your scores on the previous tests and want to do better.
- You should find out what colleges or universities have accepted you by March, no later than April. If you have not heard from a college that you really like by April, contact its admissions office to help expedite a decision.
- Your financial aid award letters should begin arriving in the spring. Respond to the letters immediately!
- When your student aid report (SAR) comes in, make sure all information is correct. Send the universities that have accepted you – your SAR.
- By the end of May you should have finalized your decision on the college or university you will attend. Reply immediately to any questions or requests that it may have.

Building Blocks to College



- Take Advance Placement Examinations in May if they are offered in your area. Consider taking the College Level Entry Program (CLEP) in an area of study that you are particularly advanced in. If you score well on this test, you can earn college credit for a course, and this will save you money on college tuition because less classes will be needed to graduate.
- Work during the summer to put away money for your college needs.
- If you are able to graduate early (at the end of the 1st semester of your senior year in high school) work through the winter and spring, perhaps at an area department store, to put away money for your college needs, or consider taking general education classes at your local community college. Make sure the classes are transferable. This too will save you money on college tuition expenses.
- Assemble everything you will need for going to college from your study gear to your wardrobe.
- Don't stop your community and volunteer work.
- Consult and update your daily planner at least twice a day.
- One evening in late July sharpen your culinary skills and fix a dinner (it can be simple) for your family. This will be your way of saying thanks for all of their help and support before you go to college.
- Plan to take a summer orientation session at your university if it offers it. It will help you prepare in numerous ways for your freshman year.
- Once in college look to get involved in student organization and student government so you can be engaged in your college and also go to the sporting events and games so you can really live the college experience. Try to balance your life and learn time management so you can be successful in college. Have fun!!!

12th Grade Building Blocks (continued)



15 Quick points to summarize for college planning and readiness

- Good grades and test scores are your ticket to get free money to go to college
- Take the SAT and ACT at least 2-3 times, and begin studying before you take each test. You can begin taking these test as early as 7th grade, however it is a great idea to take the SAT and ACT at least once by June of your 9th year, or beginning of 10th grade.
- Start searching for scholarships that fit your profile,
- [scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- financialaid.org/scholarships
- cappex.com
- uncf.org
- tmcf.org
- Our scholarship program partner TALLO and our special code www.tallo.com/ncrf enter our code **NCRF111111** to get access to up to 20 billion in scholarships

Quick points continued..



Make a list of colleges. Choose up to 10 colleges, because 10 colleges can fit on your FAFSA form. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Visit some college campuses as early as you can, but at least by 10th and 11th grade



Get involved on your campus like join a club, play a sport, start a club, run for office, get involved in student government



Start working on your essay, for two things, for your personal statement for your college application, and/or for scholarships. A Career Essay is a really good place to start.



Start working on logging the volunteer hours you have been doing in your community and this is a good thing to include in your essay



Prepare an Academic Resume and a Personal Resume

Quick points continued

- Start thinking about what teachers, administrators, and community leaders you are going to ask for Recommendation letters. Pick people who will say great things about you
- If you are a Senior Start apply for colleges August 1st
- Proofread everything before you submit
- Then also look at applying to accredited private and independent colleges. Many of these colleges have endowment funds and additional funding resources to provide scholarships and grants to help you attend college. Remember there are over 7,000 colleges in the United States, and over 18,000 in the world so there is a fit for everyone.
- October 1st apply for financial aid by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov you can select up to (10) colleges. Also look for scholarships on the website of the colleges you are applying to. Every student has to fill out a FAFSA to get any kind of aid, scholarship, grant, athletic etc.

Quick points continued

- Virtual Learning will be the new normal so get comfortable with it. Parents learn with your students. Plus it benefits students when they become college students

YOUR STUDENT WILL WIN!!!

Remember we are ALL in this together. And many of our students need their hand held to get through. It's okay they will get there. However, with your help and involvement, LOVE and Support, your students will be motivated to stay on track and WILL WIN!!!

The END