



**National Association for
College Admission Counseling**

Guiding the way to higher education

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**Families, Counselors and
Communities Together**



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ESSENTIAL III

Charting a Challenging High School Experience

A strong academic program in high school predicts college success better than a student's grade point average or scores on standardized admission tests such as the SAT or ACT. Completing a rigorous high school curriculum has greater impact on bachelor degree completion than any other pre-college indicator of academic preparation, regardless of socio-economic status or race.

Adelman, 1999

Questions

1. What options did you have after high school?
2. Does your child have the same options?
3. What obstacles did you have that your child may find as well?
4. What postsecondary institutions are there in our community?
5. What local resources have you found to help chart your child's educational progress?

Options After High School

College or
University

Community or
Junior College

Trade, Technical,
or Business
School

Military Service

Civilian Service
Opportunities

Gap Year
Programs



Colleges and Universities

Institutions composed of divisions that may be called schools or colleges that offer a wide range of majors and prepare individuals for a wide spectrum of careers

Approximately 2500 four-year accredited institutions

Community College, Junior College and Technical College

Two-year public and private institutions that specialize in college transfer programs, vocational programs, or both

Approximately 1200 community colleges in the United States

Trade, Technical or Business Schools

Privately-owned schools specializing in
trades or vocations

Thousands of schools in the
US

Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

- All core courses must be designated “College Preparatory” – not general or Technical Preparatory
- Verify school / state requirements for graduation as they may vary from what a college requires for admission

Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

English – 4 years

- Literature, Writing/Composition, Speech

Math – 3-4 years

- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry (Analysis, Precalculus), and/or Calculus

Science – 3 years

- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth/Space Science

Social Studies – 3-4 years

- US History, US Government, Economics, World History/Geography

Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

Social Studies – 3-4 years

- US History, US Government, Economics, World History/Geography

Foreign Language – 2-4 years

- Must be of same language

Arts – 1-3 years

- Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Performing Arts

The more families know about their children and about the variety of educational alternatives they can pursue the better able parents and guardians will be to provide quality guidance.



Learn More about Your Child

Individual Characteristics

Aptitude

- The capacity for learning or his or her natural ability or “talent” to do something

Intelligence

- The ability to learn and know

Interests

- The things that individuals like doing, the activities that command their attention and arouse their curiosity

Learn More about Your Child

Individual Characteristics

Personality Traits

- Individual characteristics such as friendliness, courage, or common sense that make one person different from another

Values

- The highly-respected standards that guide a person's life – the principles and ideals that children develop and the way they prefer to do things

School Support

How Guidance Counselors Can Help:

- Monitor achievement and progress in the classroom
- Identify individual learning concerns and find solutions
- Appraise aptitude, intelligence, and other characteristics; interpret findings
- Provide information about high school study options and course offerings

School Support

How Guidance Counselors Can Help:

- Aid students in exploring and understanding educational options
- Teach study skills and motivate students
- Encourage students to maintain an academic portfolio
- Foster extracurricular involvement
- Give students support and guidance

Community Support

Seek assistance from people or programs in the community that can offer aid and expertise in the college admission process

Visit the College Access website to search for a college access program in your area

<http://www.collegeaccess.org/accessprogramdirectory/>