



BUILDING TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE

A COLLEGE PLANNING
GUIDE FOR STUDENTS
AND THEIR FAMILIES

PREPARED BY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF SCIENCE

What's Inside

Inside this guide, you will find useful information and tips on preparing for college and becoming a successful applicant for college admission and financial aid.

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Introduction

This guide provides useful information and tips on preparing for college and becoming a successful applicant for college admission.



Why Attend College?

Choices for a lifetime

When you think about your future, what comes to mind? A good job? Independence? Financial security? Perhaps you know just what you want to be when you grow up. Or, you may not have any idea at all. That is okay—most students are unsure about their plans for the future. But college is the key to the kind of life you want.

A college education can mean the difference between having to stay in a minimum-wage job or moving into a well-paying career that you enjoy. A college education gives you choices, provides you with a range of job possibilities, and allows you to be in a better position to help your family and community.

Even if you are not sure what you will do as an adult, plan and prepare to go to college. What you learn will help you get the most out of life.

Like most students, you are probably interested in music and movies, making friends, and figuring out how to make the most of your time in school. That's good, but it is also important to start planning for your future. Today, in fact!

A college education pays off

College graduates earn higher salaries than adults who only have a high school education. But college is not just about money and earning potential; it is also about having choices. College graduates typically have greater opportunities for self-fulfillment and career advancement.

More Education = Greater Earning Power

CHRIS IS A TEACHER. CHRIS WILL EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A WEEK'S WORTH OF GROCERIES FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR AFTER WORKING ONE DAY.

JORDAN IS A DAY CARE ASSISTANT (NO COLLEGE). JORDAN MUST WORK ALMOST THREE DAYS TO BUY THE SAME GROCERIES.

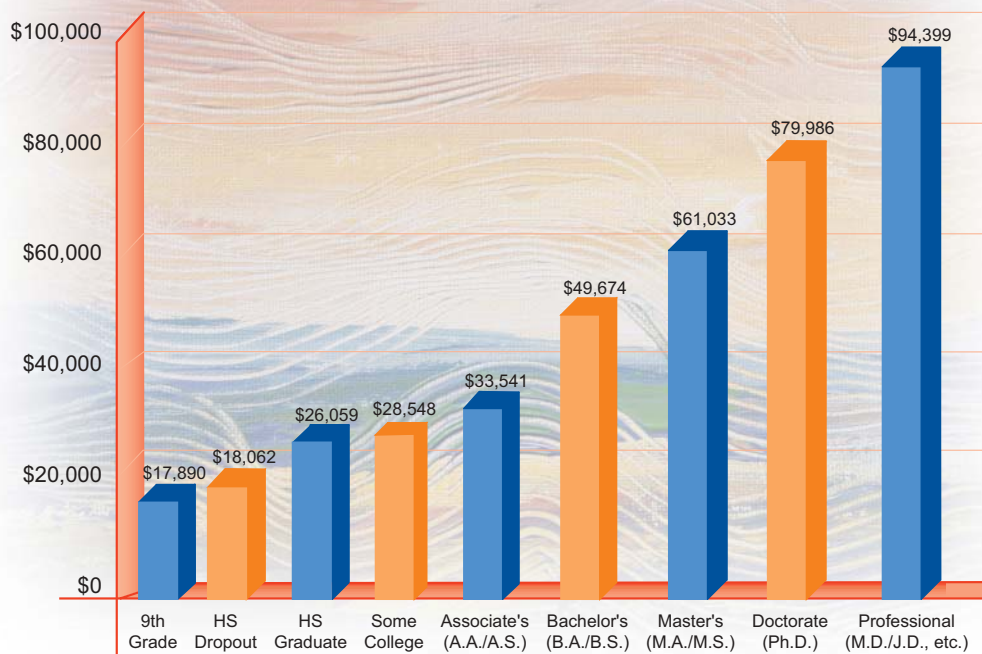
Live Up to Your Potential

Employers need people with skills. The more skills employees bring to their jobs, the more they are able to contribute, and the more they are rewarded. That's why an accountant makes more money than a cashier and a veterinarian makes more than a pet groomer. All of these jobs are essential; some just require more education, training, and responsibility.

But skills aren't just about earning wages, they are also about building on your knowledge base and contributing to society. Your skill level will determine the activities you will pursue during most of your work week.

College builds career skills

AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION



Source: Current Population Survey, March 2002. (Numbers in thousands. People 15 years old and over as of March of the following year.)

Paying For College

This section explains the process that millions of students go through to apply for financial aid so they can complete their college education.



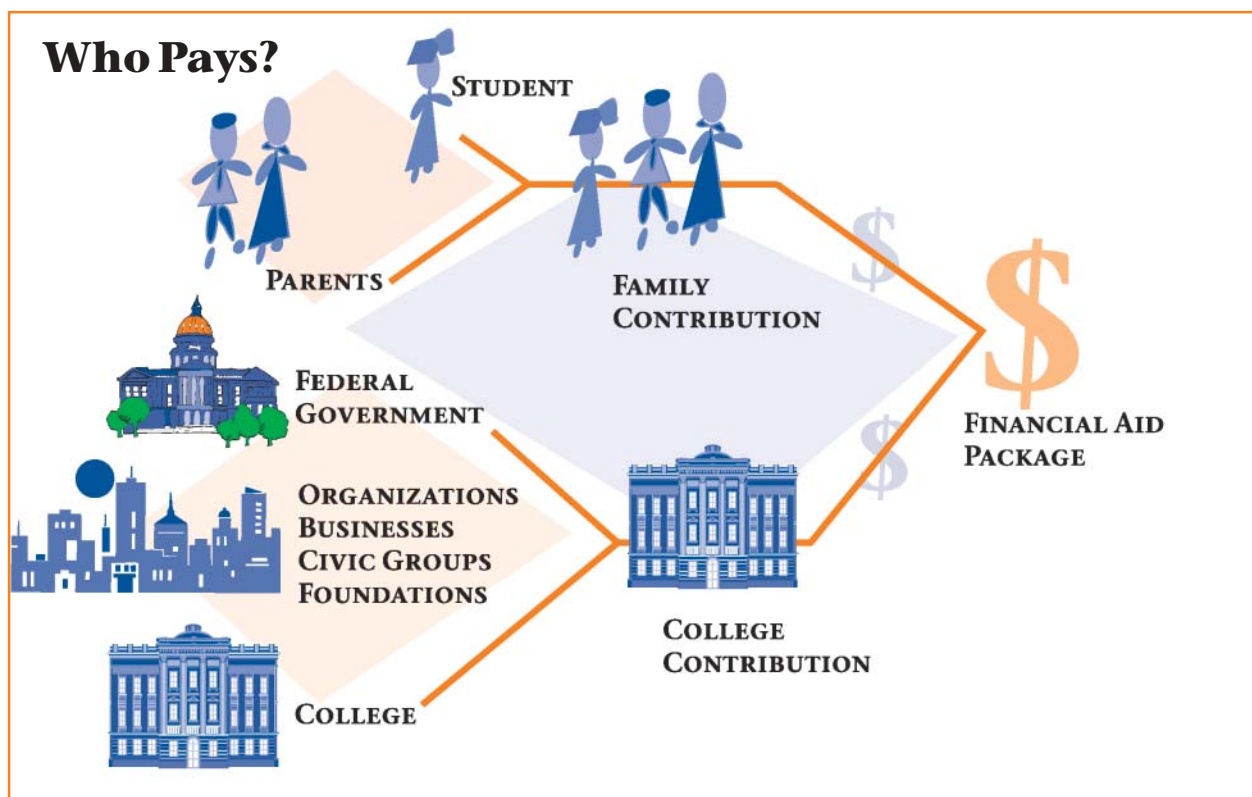
You Can Afford to Go to College

Financial Aid & the FAFSA

College is expensive but you don't have to pay all the expenses yourself. The tool that students and colleges use to work out the financial plan is a financial aid form called the FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (see page 12). This application divides the contribution to college expenses between the family of the student and the college or other institutions.

College expenses include tuition, room and board, books and supplies, health insurance, and travel between college and home.

The family contribution is broken into two parts – parents and students. After their financial information is assessed, the parents' and student's financial contribution are decided and are combined into the family contribution. This means that both the student's financial worth (such as savings accounts, etc.) and the parents' financial worth are considered when computing college



contributions. In cases where a student is no longer dependent on parents, only the student's resources are considered in the financial plan.

In addition to the family contribution, colleges typically will contribute. Colleges and institutions support the cost of attending college with grants, student loans, and/or scholarships (see page 10). The family can also negotiate with the financial aid office to obtain the best financial aid package and the family's payment schedule.

If a student wants to attend college but the parents are not willing or able to contribute to the expenses, the student can become independent and then re-apply when eligible. Students are classified as **independent** based on factors such as age, living apart from parents without support, and marital status. These classification criteria vary from state to state and you should check with your state's department of education for more information on how your state classifies students as dependent or independent.

You can learn more information about students in your state at the U.S. Department of Education Website at www.ed.gov/erod, then click on "state search."

College and Institutional Contributions

Resources are there for those who need them

College costs are considerable and they are on the rise each year. Financial assistance funds exist to help students and their families. These funds are used by the college to decrease the student's payments. They include:

- Grants
- Loans
- Scholarships
- Work-study Programs

Grants

are funds that directly support the student but **do not have to be repaid** or earned. Universities and the federal government offer a variety of grant programs.

Loans

are funds that may be borrowed by the student, and in some cases by the parent, which **must be repaid** over 10 or more years after the student leaves school. Most loans come with low interest rates and favorable repayment terms that lead to low monthly payments.

Scholarships

are awarded to students based on merit or need, or sometimes both, and **do not have to be repaid** or earned. Colleges and universities have their own scholarships that they award to eligible students. Religious organizations, civic groups, foundations, and businesses offer scholarships too. You can find out more about available scholarships by talking with a high school counselor or checking at the local library.

Work-study Programs

give students the opportunity to work in university and off-campus jobs. Students earn money to cover some of their college expenses.

Family Contributions

The “Expected Annual Family Contribution” is the amount that the student and family are expected to contribute towards college expenses. This amount depends on a number of factors. For example, is the student receiving support from his/her family? What is the family’s income? What is the student’s income? What is the family’s net worth? What is the student’s net worth? Does the family have more than one student attending college at the same time? Does the student have dependents?

Using this information, there are financial aid calculators (such as www.finaid.org/calculators/finaidestimate.phtml) that allow students to determine how much money the family is expected to contribute, what the college expenses will be (including tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and health insurance) and how much additional financial aid will have to be obtained in the form of student loans, grants, or scholarships (see page 10 for definitions and more information on these different types of financial aid).

For example, using the financial calculator listed above, a family of 4 with one student attending a public college and an annual gross income of \$20,000 might have an expected annual family contribution of \$0, meaning that all of the student’s college expenses should be paid from grants, scholarships, and other financial aid given through the college. The same family of 4 with an annual gross income of \$75,000 might have an expected annual family contribution equal to the entire cost of attending a 4-year public college.

Moreover, the amount proposed by the college’s financial aid office is negotiable and families should discuss their needs and expectations with college officials to obtain the best financial aid program possible.

For more useful planning information, visit the College Board Web site, www.collegeboard.com. To learn more about federal aid, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243 or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

What will my family contribute?

Factors to Consider:

- Financial aid is negotiable.
- Family assets will affect your financial aid package.

How to Apply for Aid

The **Free**
Application for
Federal
Student **A**id
(FAFSA)
covers it all

Applying for
financial aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be filed free of charge. It is used to determine aid offered by both federal and state funds. Students must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or refugees to qualify for federal and state aid. Students and their parents should begin to think about applying for financial aid and collecting the necessary forms and supporting documents during November of the student's senior year in high school. Applications are usually due between March 1 and June 30 during the student's senior year but can be submitted as early as January 1. Completing the FAFSA form before the priority deadline will ensure the highest level of financial aid.

More students than ever qualify for some type of financial assistance. Most financial aid programs are available to students with demonstrated financial need, although some programs are available to students strictly on the basis of academic achievement. Student loans and part-time jobs are available to all students regardless of need. The federal government's Student Gateway Web site, www.students.gov, provides access to resources for students planning for their education. Public service opportunities offer students a way to serve their country or help in the community in exchange for college money. Americorps and ROTC are good examples of such public service programs. You can receive more information about Americorps by linking to www.americorps.org or calling (800) 942-2677.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. FAFSA is a mandatory form that must be completed to receive financial aid.

Not filling out the FAFSA is a huge mistake.

Other useful site: www.studentaid.ed.gov

Financial Timeline



The following suggested timeline will help families and students who are applying for financial aid. You may want to read pages 32 – 33 to better understand the college application process, which begins in student’s junior year.

SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR

November

of the student’s senior year

- ✎ Contact the financial aid offices of the schools that you have applied to for school code numbers.
- ✎ Begin to collect the documents and information required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The following information should be collected:
 - Social Security numbers for the child planning to attend college and parents, alien registration card, and driver’s license number (if applicable)
 - Most recent W-2 forms
 - Most recent tax return forms
 - Most recent records for untaxed income (Welfare, Social Security, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or Veterans Benefits)
 - Bank statements for past year
 - Mortgage information for past year
 - Business or business farm records
 - Most recent stock, bonds, or other investment asset statements

January or February

of the student’s senior year

- ✎ Send the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or complete the online version of this application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Keep a copy of everything you submit to FAFSA or any school.
- ✎ Send the required forms to the Financial Aid Office of the school that you plan to attend in the fall.

June

of the student’s senior year

- ✎ At this point, you should receive a student aid report and an award letter from your accepting institution. Any difference will have to be obtained by a student loan or work-study program. You should begin to complete the required applications for the student loan and/or work-study program.
- ✎ Most colleges and universities have payment plans that allow tuition costs to be paid over time. Check with the school that you plan to attend to find out about these payment plans.
- ✎ **June 30 is the deadline for Federal aid.** State deadlines vary, so apply early for the best possible aid.

Where to Go for Financial Answers

Who to talk to

Resources for help and information about financial aid for college expenses include:

- ✎ Your high school guidance office
- ✎ Your state's education commissioner's office
- ✎ The Financial Aid Office at the school you plan to attend
- ✎ Teachers at the school you plan to attend may be aware of special grants and scholarships offered only by the school
- ✎ Alumni from the school you plan to attend who live in your area
- ✎ Other parents in your area who have children attending college
- ✎ www.studentaid.ed.gov



Doing Your Homework

Students and their families should be partners from the beginning of the student's school life.



Your Best Partner

Parents and students working together

An emphasis on education begins in the home. Numerous studies have shown that families play the most critical role in their child's academic success. Expectations of good grades and a concern for homework well done represent values that families should reinforce. These values will reward children in the classroom for years to come and help them succeed in life.

There are many things that families can do at home on a daily basis that will help children succeed. Most teachers agree that reading is the single most important skill for academic success.

- ✎ Read with your children. Encourage them to read for fun and discuss what they read.
- ✎ Talk with your children about school and everyday events.
- ✎ Supervise homework and provide your children with a quiet place to work. Make sure they complete their assignments.
- ✎ Encourage your children to write.
- ✎ Provide learning experiences outside of school. Parks, museums, zoos, and historical sites offer good learning experiences.
- ✎ Communicate to your children that education is important and encourage them to do their best in school.
- ✎ Observe what your children watch on television. Talk with them about the programs they watch.
- ✎ Promote good discipline and a positive outlook.
- ✎ Show affection to your children and express interest in their school progress and their development as individuals.

- ✍ Encourage exercise, proper amount of sleep, and good nutrition.
- ✍ Help your children get their own library cards. Encourage them to use the resources offered at the public library.
- ✍ Promote a solid attendance record in school.
- ✍ Meet regularly with teachers.
- ✍ Attend school functions to show that education is a family priority.
- ✍ Be a model of sound values, not just in your words but in your actions.

“The best teacher is not necessarily the one who possesses the most knowledge, but the one who most effectively enables his students to believe in their ability to learn.”

—Norma Cousins
The Heart and Wisdom of Teaching
compiled by Esther Wright



Success Begins Early

What students and families should do

Children in families who are actively involved with their education are much more likely to be successful in life.

The following section can help parents understand what their children should be learning as they progress through the second half of elementary school. The topics mastered in grades 3 through 6 serve as the foundation for what students will learn in later grades.

Students in grades 3 through 6 are expected to study and master academic material subjects both at home and at school. They should work hard on all their assignments and tests. They should ask the teacher when they have questions.

Families should request and read all the materials the school publishes for families. Families should also ask their children's teacher or principal about any aspects they don't understand.

Elementary School Years



What to Read at Home

Grades 4-6

Home Reading Ideas for Intermediate Students

BEVERLY CLEARY BOOKS – Long time favorites, great messages, and current topics

BRIAN JACQUES SERIES – Great fantasy literature

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA SERIES – by C.S. Lewis

EYEWITNESS BOOKS AND VIDEOS – Especially the videos with an added section at the end that shows the behind the scenes of the making of the videos

THE FUDGE SERIES – by Judy Blume

HARRY POTTER SERIES – by J. K. Rowling – Parents enjoy as much as children

ROALD DAHL BOOKS – Imaginative, creative, and just plain fun

SHEL SILVERSTEIN BOOKS – Poetry everyone loves

Grade 4

ABEL'S ISLAND

by William Steig

ALL ABOUT SAM

by Lois Lowry

THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE

by Louise Erdrich

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

by E.B. White

DEAD LETTER

by Betsy Byars

A GUIDE DOG PUPPY

GROWS UP

by Caroline Arnold

IN THE YEAR OF THE BOAR

AND JACKIE ROBINSON

by Bette Bao Lord

JIM UGLY

by Sid Fleischman

LILY'S CROSSING

by Patricia Reilly Giff

THE PAPER AIRPLANE BOOK

by Seymour Simon

PIPPY LONGSTOCKING and

the series by Astrid Lindgren

SHILOH

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

STORIES JULIAN TELLS

by Ann Cameron

TWENTY AND TEN

by Claire Huchet Bishop

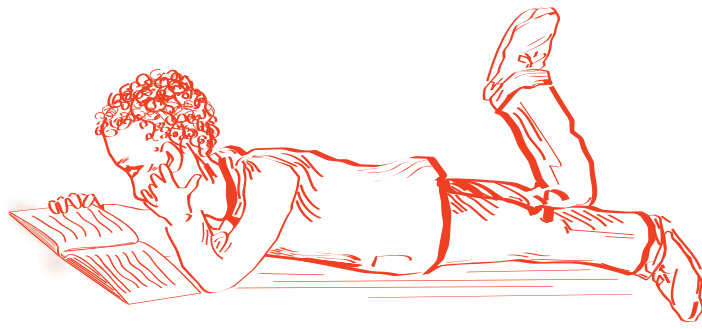
THE WHIPPING BOY

by Sid Fleischman

WINN-DIXIE

by Kate DiCamillo





Grade 5

BIGGER

by Patricia Calvert

BINGO BROWN AND THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

by Betsy Byars

THE BOGGART

by Susan Cooper

CASTLE

by David Macaulay

THE CASTLE IN THE ATTIC

by Elizabeth Winthrop

EXPLORING THE TITANIC

by Robert Ballard

THE FACTS AND FICTIONS OF MINNA PRATT

by Patricia MacLachlan

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER

by Elaine L. Konigsburg

THE GREAT BRAIN

by John D. Fitzgerald

ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

by Scott O'Dell

THE LONG ROAD TO GETTYSBURG

by Jim Murphy

THE MAN WHO WAS POE

by Avi

MANIAC MAGEE

by Jerry Spinelli

ME, MOP AND THE MOONDANCE KID

by Walter Dean Myers

MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH

by Robert C. O'Brien

MY WAR WITH GOGGLE EYES

by Anne Fine

NUMBER THE STARS

by Lois Lowry

THE SECRET GARDEN

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

TUCK EVERLASTING

by Natalie Babbitt

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS: HOW THEY INVENTED THE AIRPLANE

by Russell Freedman

JOHNNY TREMAIN

by Esther Forbes

OUT OF THE DUST

by Karen Hesse

RIBBONS

by Laurence Yep

ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY

by Mildred Taylor

SIXTH GRADE SECRETS

by Louis Sachar

THE SLAVE DANCER

by Paula Fox

SMALL STEPS: THE YEAR I GOT POLIO

by Peg Kehret

SPACE STATION SEVENTH GRADE

by Jerry Spinelli

THE SPANISH SMILE

by Scott O'Dell

THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE

by Avi

VOICES AFTER MIDNIGHT

by Richard Peck

WALK TWO MOONS

by Sharon Creech

WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963

by Christopher Paul Curtis

WRINKLE IN TIME

by Madeleine L'Engle

Grade 6

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES and the series by Lucy Maud Montgomery

ANNE FRANK, BEYOND THE DIARY: A PHOTOGRAPHIC REMEMBRANCE

by Ruud Van der Rol

THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC

by Jane Yolen

DICEY'S SONG

by Cynthia Voigt

ESPERANZA RISING

by Pam Munoz Ryan

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

by Russell Freedman

THE GREAT AMERICAN GOLD RUSH

by Rhoda Blumberg

Middle School and High School Years



Getting On Track

Take the right courses in Middle School, Grades 7 – 8

It is extremely important for you to get a head start in the 7th and 8th grades and take courses that will get you ready for the college preparatory courses you will need in high school.

Foreign language and math courses completed in 7th and 8th grades may be used to meet high school college-prep requirements. Taking the highest level courses available in math and science during middle school will prepare you for all of your academic courses in high school and allow you to be eligible for a wide range of upper level elective classes. For example, Algebra 1 should be taken during middle school (eighth grade typically) to allow you to take advantage of higher level math classes in high school.



Chart Your Course For Success

Use this worksheet to keep track of your Middle School coursework

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS	7th GRADE	8th GRADE
MATHEMATICS Pre-Algebra; Algebra 1 (students should take the highest level math classes they can take to be ready for high school and college level courses)		
SCIENCE Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science (students should take as many laboratory science classes as they can to prepare for high school and college level courses)		
LANGUAGE ARTS Students should take the highest level English/Language Arts classes they can take.		
FOREIGN LANGUAGE Students should consider taking a foreign language course as early as possible.		
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		
ELECTIVES		

Stay On Track

Take the right courses and work hard to do well

As a general rule the courses you take in grades 9 through 12 will determine your college admission options.

Studies show that if students take algebra and geometry early—starting in the 8th and 9th grade—they are more likely to go on to college than students who don't.



The following is a sample college preparatory program. Take as many Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses as you can. Take the AP Examinations at the end of courses in which you have done well. The high school can provide students with the Approved Course List that indicates which courses meet college admission requirements. If you have the option, apply to a school that has an International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.

9th Grade

Geometry
Laboratory Science
(Biology*)
Language Arts
Foreign Language
Health/Elective
Physical Education

10th Grade

Algebra II Trigonometry
Laboratory Science
(Earth Science*)
Language Arts
Foreign Language
World History

11th Grade

Pre-Calculus
Laboratory Science
(Chemistry*)
Language Arts
Visual/Performing Arts
College-Prep Elective

12th Grade

Calculus/Advanced Math
Laboratory Science
(Physics*)
Language Arts
U.S. Government/
Economics
College-Prep Elective

*The order in which laboratory science classes are taken depends on your state curriculum and/or your preference.

Accept the Challenge

Challenge yourself with demanding course work.

Honors courses – Whenever possible, take courses designated as Honors-level courses. The work will challenge you more and it will also help you prepare for the rigors of college classes.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses – Your school will offer AP courses in some subjects. Students who take these courses may decide to register and pay for an AP examination in that subject. Scores earned on AP exams earn university credit. Students with passing grades on the AP exams may be given credit without tuition cost for an applicable course. Another possibility is the college could waive a required course so the student can advance more quickly.

Stay involved and broaden your talents – As your time and talents permit, participate in school and community activities where you can enjoy the value of interacting with others. At your school, join the science or drama club or work with a teacher to start such a club; if the chess club is small, give them a hand – join them and help them become more competitive. Form a science bowl team with four other students and compete in your local event. Convince a teacher to start an art appreciation club or other club for which you and your friends have a high enthusiasm. Try community theater or other opportunities where you can expand your horizons in an interesting and enjoyable environment.

Take
advanced
classes and
work hard

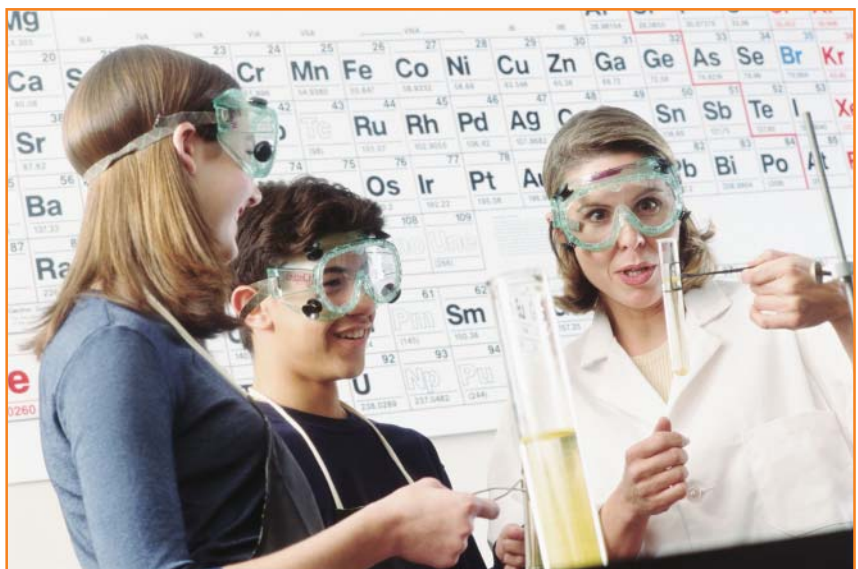
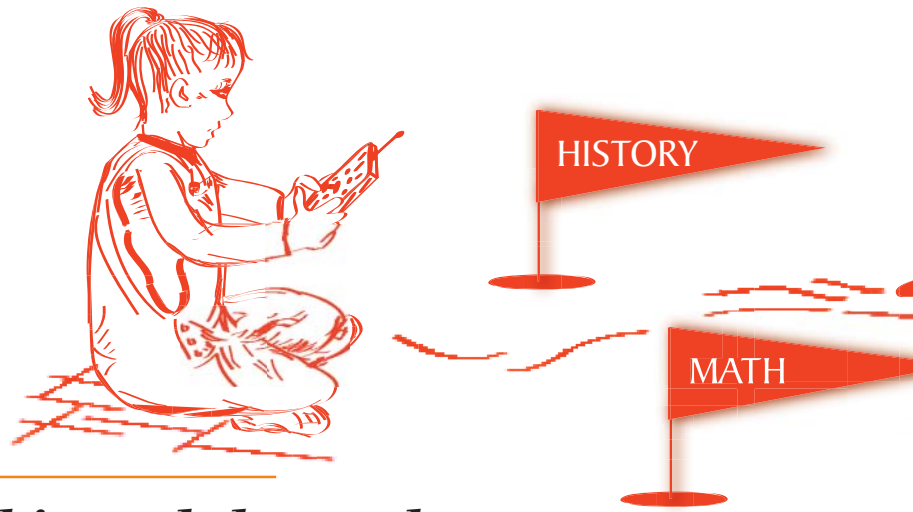


Chart Your Course For Success



Use this worksheet to keep track of your High School coursework

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS	9TH GRADE	
	Fall	Spring
HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE U.S. History; Civics; American Government; World History, Cultures, and Geography; European History 2 years required		
ENGLISH (language of instruction) Composition, Literature (American, English, World, etc.) 4 years required		
MATHEMATICS Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Integrated Math, Calculus (do not include arithmetic and Pre-Algebra) 3 years required; 4 years recommended		
LABORATORY SCIENCE Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, Integrated Science with Lab, Marine Biology, Physiology, Anatomy, etc. 2 years required; 3 years recommended		
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (second language) French, German, Spanish, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, etc. 2 years required; 3 years recommended		
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS Dance, Drama, Music, or Visual Arts 1 year required		
COLLEGE PREPARATORY ELECTIVES (academic electives) Include only courses that are college preparatory electives. (Do not list courses such as physical education, typing, driver education, health or pep squad.) 1 year required		

* Individual school districts may have different requirements and recommendations.

Test at Your Best

Practice, practice,
practice!

College Admission Tests

PSAT – Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test – The PSAT is a “practice” test used to predict a student’s performance on the all-important SAT I. The PSAT also gives students a chance to become familiar with the testing format of the SAT I. Juniors taking the PSAT will be included in a pool for consideration of the prestigious National Merit Scholarship.

SAT I – Scholastic Achievement Test – Scores on this test help colleges and scholarship programs compare your academic preparation and ability with other students. Taken in two parts on the same day, the Verbal Test and the Math Test each take about three hours to complete.

SAT II Subject Test – These one-hour tests measure your knowledge and skills in particular subjects and your ability to apply that knowledge. They fall into five general areas: English, history and social studies, mathematics, sciences, and languages.

ACT – The ACT Assessment is designed to assess high school students’ general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

Required college
admission
tests

Community Colleges	none required*
Independent and Private Colleges	ACT or SAT I
Most State Universities	ACT or SAT II
Many Demanding Public and Private Universities	ACT or SAT I, and 3 SAT II Exams

* May have placement tests for math and English classes

Colleges and universities have different testing requirements. Some may accept your highest score, while others may accept an average of all tests of the same type taken.

Be sure to register for tests at least six weeks before the test date. Late registrants may be redirected to an alternate test site. You can talk to your guidance counselor to learn about registering for tests.

October – Some high schools offer a “practice” PSAT * to freshmen. Be sure to take advantage of this first chance to take the test in a practice mode.

October – Take the PSAT test again as a practice test.

June – If you did well in your Laboratory Science class, take the SAT II Subject Test for that subject.

October – Take the PSAT test for National Merit Scholarship consideration.

April or May – Take the SAT I or ACT.

May or June – Take the SAT II tests in writing, math, and a third subject area you have studied in your junior year. If applicable, take AP Subject Exams.

October – Retake the SAT I or ACT if you desire.

November or December – Retake the SAT I or SAT II if you desire.

May – If applicable, take AP Subject Exams.

Take your tests on time

9th Grade

10th Grade

11th Grade

12th Grade

* It is not unusual for many students to take the PSAT as early as the seventh grade.



College Application Timeline

The following suggested timeline will help parents and students who are applying for college:

YEAR JUNIOR YEAR JUNIOR YEAR JUNIOR YEAR JUNIOR YEAR JUNIOR YEAR JUNIOR

December

of the student's junior year

- ✎ Begin collecting data for colleges/universities of interest.
- ✎ Browse schools at www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/index.asp
- ✎ What to consider when choosing a school:
 - Does the school offer majors/programs in areas that interest you?
 - Does the school offer extracurricular activities that interest you?
 - Do you prefer to attend a university with a large student body or a smaller college?
 - What is the faculty to student ratio?
 - Where is it located?
 - What is the cost?
- ✎ Create a folder for each school with:
 - Application
 - Deadlines
 - Location
 - Essay topic
 - Recommendation forms
 - Cost

✎ Take SAT I, SAT II, ACT

- Each school will specify which tests are necessary for applying.

January

of the student's junior year

- ✎ Contact schools of interest and set up dates to visit in the spring.

May

of the student's junior year

- ✎ Narrow down college selections. In deciding which schools to apply to, consider the same factors that you used when you were researching schools back in December and narrow your scope to five or six schools.

June

of the student's junior year

- ✎ Retake exams if necessary.
- ✎ Begin filling out applications.
- ✎ Begin writing application essays.

YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR SENIOR YEAR

September

of the student's senior year

- ✍ Contact teachers and guidance counselors and request recommendations.
- ✍ Ask English teacher to proofread entrance essays.

October

of the student's senior year

- ✍ Request transcripts be sent to schools (Your high school is usually required to send the transcript and recommendations).
- ✍ Finalize applications and make sure you have enclosed all materials you are responsible for:
 - Essay
 - Application
 - Application fee

November

of the student's senior year

- ✍ Send in all applications to ensure receipt by or before the priority deadline.
 - Deadlines are usually in December.
 - Keep a copy of everything you submit to schools.

Overview of DOE and Office of Science

Strategic Goals

The Department of Energy's overarching mission is to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex. The Department has four strategic goals towards achieving the mission.

- ✧ **DEFENSE STRATEGIC GOAL:** To protect our national security by applying advanced science and nuclear technology to the Nation's defense.
- ✧ **ENERGY STRATEGIC GOAL:** To protect our national and economic security by promoting a diverse supply of reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy.
- ✧ **SCIENCE STRATEGIC GOAL:** To protect our national and economic security by providing world-class scientific research capacity and advancing scientific knowledge.
- ✧ **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC GOAL:** To protect the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the environmental legacy of the Cold War and by providing for the permanent disposal of the Nation's high-level radioactive waste.



Within the Department of Energy, the Office of Science supports a broad array of basic and applied research, and operates a variety of unique scientific facilities to support the Department's energy and national security missions. It also supports research in areas such as climate change, genomics, and life sciences. The Office provides more than 40 percent of total federal funding for basic research in the physical sciences, and serves as the principal federal funding agency for research in high-energy physics, nuclear physics, and fusion energy sciences. It also contributes to a vital and diverse national scientific workforce by providing national laboratory research opportunities to students and teachers.

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