Guiding the Way to Higher Education
Families, Counselors, and Communities Together
ESSENTIAL III

Charting a Challenging High School Experience
A college and career ready student possesses the content knowledge, strategies, skills, and techniques necessary to be successful in any of a range of postsecondary setting. Success is defined as the ability to complete entry-level courses at a level of performance that is sufficient to enable students to continue to the next courses in their chosen field of study. Not every student needs exactly the same knowledge and skills to be college and career ready. A student’s college and career interests help identify the precise knowledge and skills the student needs.

Conley, 2015
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 1500 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 academic 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
Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

Social Studies (3 – 4 years)

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Characteristics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aptitude</strong></td>
<td>• The capacity for learning or his or her natural ability or “talent” to do something</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Intelligence</strong></td>
<td>• The ability to learn and know</td>
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<td><strong>Interests</strong></td>
<td>• The things that individuals like doing, the activities that command their attention and arouse their curiosity</td>
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Learn More about Your Child
Learn More about Your Child

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<th>Individual Characteristics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personality Traits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Individual characteristics such as friendliness, courage, or other natural tendencies that make one person different from another</td>
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<td><strong>Values</strong></td>
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<td>• 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</td>
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School Support

How School 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 School 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 NACAC Directory of College Access & Success Programs website to search for a college access program in your area