



College Next
Imagine Your Possibilities

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE: Middle and High School Students

Anyone who wants to go to college can make it a reality. Everyone has choices. Whether the choice is a **community college, public university, or private college or university**, early preparation will help you get there. Below are suggestions to help families prepare for college.

▶ Middle School (7th through 8th grades)

- Explore different careers. Ask family and friends what they do for a living. Find out what kind of training and education they received.
- Study hard to improve skills in language, math and critical thinking.
- Ask your counselor what courses will help prepare you for college.
- Visit colleges and universities that are near your home.
- Stay focused on your studies and work hard to get good grades.

▶ High School (9th through 11th grades)

- Discuss your academic plans with your counselor.
- Prepare for the university entrance exams by taking the PSAT.
- Ask your teachers, family members and friends who have attended college about their experiences.
- Get involved with various activities where you can excel and balance with your school work.
- Gather information about the different types of schools. Attend college fairs, write for brochures, and begin scheduling visits with college admissions advisors.
- Take the ACT or SAT.
- Discuss the costs of colleges that interest you with your parents. Remember that financial aid is usually available.
- Find out about available scholarships and grants.
- Use the Internet to help with college research. Go to www.CollegeNext.org

▶ How can parents help their children prepare for college?

- Recognize school as a form of work.
- Encourage school activities, i.e. sports, leadership, etc.
- Encourage students to seek help from their teachers and counselor.
- Encourage good study habits.
- Monitor the use of TV, video games, Internet and cell phones.
- Praise your child's efforts in school.
- Become involved in your child's school work.
- Express appreciation for effort.
- Build a relationship with your child's counselor and teachers.
- Encourage your child to take college preparation courses early in high school.
- Talk to your child about college and careers - the sooner the better.

▶ High School (12th grade)

- Stay focused on your studies and work hard to get good grades.
- Decide which college characteristics and environment are important to your success.
- Apply to those campuses that will best fit your needs.
- Schedule to retake the SAT or ACT, if needed.
- Apply for financial aid by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) postmarked by the advertised deadline.
- Complete your applications for scholarships and grants.
- Find out about campus housing and application deadlines for the dorms.
- Forward all documents needed to complete your application process – send final transcripts.
- Be prepared to make a decision should you be accepted at more than one college.



Questions? Call us.
1-877-ITS POSSIBLE