

Prepare Your Children for College

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1. Start preparing your child for college early (from 6th grade)

2. Talk with Your Child about:

- Careers she/he is considering and why?
- About Careers that she/he may have not considered and why?
- About his/her dreams and allow her/him to dream big without being critical
- About things she/he likes to do and things she/he is good at

Note: Don't be surprised if your child change his/her mind many times about what career to pursue.

3. Don't make decisions for your child.

Your child needs to choose a college based on his/her individual abilities, interests and personality. Assist your child in decision making process and let them feel that you are there for them.

4. What do they need to do in High school?

- Volunteer activities
- Shadowing activities
- Community services
- Extracurricular activities
- Attendance/Punctuality
- College Enrichment programs

5. 9th and 10th Grade

- Meet with School Counselor
- Find out about prep courses for ACT/SAT
- Find out about classes that give college credits
- Have open communication and conversation regarding college/ payment plans etc. with your child

6. 11th Grade

- Ask your child if any college related information has received from school
- Attend College fairs and financial aid events with your child
- Research regarding the type of education or courses required for the interested career
- University/College visits
- ACT/SAT tests
- Research for scholarship options

7. Summer Vacation before the Senior Year

- Ask your child to make a list of interested colleges (Not more than 10).
- Gather information from those college websites regarding their specific admission requirements.
- Print out the previous year's application, essay topics, etc. for a quick reference
- Collect information regarding scholarships
- Make a binder and save collected information (use different tabs for each college)
- Prepare for ACT/SAT tests if your child decides to retake the test.

8. 12th Grade

- Narrow down the college lists to 5 (Keep at least 2 back up colleges)
- Discuss and research about direct entry programs and the requirements
- Discuss regarding in state or out of state interests and why?
- Help the child to make decisions between community colleges or universities
- Continue with campus visits (Talk to other students and parents about their colleges)
- Attend financial events with your child
- Child should be asking teachers for recommendation letters
- Instruct your child to make professional email ID, decent Facebook postings, etc.
- FAFSA application, transcript requests, draft essays, etc.
- Prepare a 1-2 page CV.
- Do not get involved in any kind of crime/violence activities

9. 12th Grade – November, December

November- Early application deadlines
Apply to direct entry programs if applicable
Proof reading applications and essays

December- Start coordinating the paperwork
Transcript requests from the school
Remind teachers for recommendation letters

12th Grade-January and February

- Final retake of SAT and ACT in January and February
- Income tax filing if you have everything you need
- Begin filling out FAFSA
- Complete essays and have someone proof read them
- Complete applications for all colleges
- Make copies of all applications and save them in the binder
- Last application fell in the mail box, time to celebrate with your child, vacation

10. Follow up

- Check the status of applications
- Consult colleges by phone if necessary
- Note the names of people who your child talk to
- Pay attention to all the mails
- Encourage your child to send “Thank you” note to those who wrote recommendation letters or assisted them in proof reading applications/essays

11. After Receiving the Acceptance Letter

- Check housing and meal plans, transportation services, shopping facilities, bank services, etc.
- Help your child to organize a file to keep track of summer mailings, orientation, housing, course registration, finance, etc.
- Check with the college regarding summer courses, place outs, etc. (Check with college to ensure that they will accept the credits)
- Check with school to make sure if the final transcript is mailed out.
- Find out about tuition payment program.
- Find out about the orientation schedule. Please plan to attend the orientation with your child. This is a great opportunity for parents to obtain many important information.

12. Ready to move in

- Shopping for supplies (check the college website for list of recommended supplies)
- Packing
- Class registration and selection of classes (With the moving in excitement sometimes students forget to register for classes)
- After everything is done, sit down, hug your child and have a good cry and laugh.
- “Yes... we did it together.....”
- Go over all the master pieces your child has created over the years.
- If possible take time off and celebrate with your family and have fun!

13. Moving in-Another most fun part

- Check the moving in schedule with admission counselor
- Unpack and help them to organize after moving in
- Meet the roommates and their parents if possible
- Drive around with your child to check the neighborhood
- Find out from school – Emergency numbers, safety tips, security availabilities, transportation services, etc.
- Check out transportation to come home- Bus stands, airport etc.
- Order books
- Last minute shopping

- Go for lunch or dinner with your child
- If you are planning to stay overnight, make sure hotel reservation is done in advance

14. Financial Plan

- Meet with the admission counselor, finance officer, and create a plan for the payments
- Encourage your child to take all the opportunities in getting scholarships
- Visit the bank, get debit card, check book, etc. for your child
- Find out the payment plans, deadlines, late payment fine, etc.
- Discuss with your child regarding the allowance and expenditure
- Prepare a draft budget plan with your child

15. Challenges in the Campus

- Peer pressure
- Time management
- Keeping up with grades
- Finance
- Alcohol and drugs
- Underage drinking
- Lack of boundaries
- Home sickness

References

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/pdf/parentpreparingguideeng.pdf>

<http://www.education.com/reference/article/10-ways-successfully-prepare-your-child/>