



MODULE FIVE

College in the Future

Module Outline

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Graduating college students with diplomas. Photography. Encyclopedia Britannica ImageQuest. Web. 1 Apr 2015.
http://quest.eb.com/search/154_2891972/1/154_2891972/cite

College is not something you just arrive at; everything you do in high school adds to your college experience. Many students expect to leave college on the back burner until it is absolutely necessary to deal with it; however, starting to think about and plan for college and a career as early as ninth grade can make a monumental difference in the success of the student in college. When students come to high school, they need to be given an idea of a timeline for their college success. The following timeline may be given directly to students to outline a sample timeline they should follow to prepare for graduation, college, and careers.



TIMELINE ESSENTIALS:

FOR PREPARING FOR GRADUATION, COLLEGE, AND CAREERS

9TH GRADE:

- Focus on grades and learn how to study early to prepare yourself for later (easier to keep grades up than to try to pull them up later and GPA is extremely important in high school)
- Think about possible careers you'd like to do for the rest of your life
- Take the classes you need in order to be prepared for college and your career
- Challenge yourself (don't take the minimum or be content with average)
- Think about how you will pay for college (scholarships, grants, loans, work study, personal savings)
- Use the FAFSA4caster (www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to start planning early for finances
- Make a budget to live by
- Start saving money for college
- Learn to ask questions
- Ask for help when you are struggling
- Learn keyboarding and computer skills
- Learn how to take good notes
- Learn how to write, edit, and proof your work
- Learn how to be a prepared test taker

10TH GRADE

- Think about the career and college plans you have
- If you have questions about careers/degree programs, talk with an adult or consider speaking with a college admissions representative or someone from the specific department on the college campus in which you are interested
- Shadow someone in a career field in which you are interested
- See if your school offers a career assessment test
- Practice good study skills
- Improve your writing skills
- Attend a college fair if possible
- Research standardized tests and decide what tests you need to take for college
- Continue working on a financial plan for college
- Find summer employment
- Create a budget and savings plan for yourself



11TH GRADE

- Take the ACT (spring of junior year or earlier)
- Visit college campuses you are considering attending
- Settle on a career field and possibly on a career (if you have questions about a career, consider job shadowing someone in that career)
- Research colleges and visit campuses
- Take standardized tests
- Study up on the types of financial aid available to you
- Remember that financial aid is usually based on need not grades; applying early maximizes chances for aid
- Start searching for scholarships
- Use the FAFSA4caster to estimate your aid eligibility

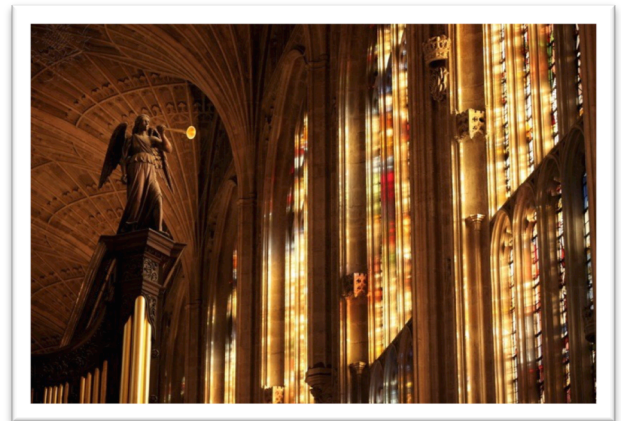
12TH GRADE

- Apply early in the fall to the colleges you are considering
- Apply early for financial assistance (more scholarships are available earlier)
- Complete the FAFSA as soon as you can in January
- Decide on a college in the spring and let colleges you will not attend that you will not be attending



Choosing a College

As juniors and seniors start to think about colleges, they will begin to wonder how they will ever be able to choose a college out of those available. If the student is Adventist and has been encouraged to always attend an Adventist college or university, they will at least have the field of possible colleges narrowed down. However, those from secular homes or with goals other than remaining in the Adventist system will have to narrow down a vast pool of colleges and universities before they can identify where they will consider going. When choosing a college, students should look at the programs offered, size and/or location, type (public, state, community, private, religious association, etc.), and cost.



Kings College Choir Rehearse 'A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols'. Photography. Encyclopædia Britannica ImageQuest. Web. 1 Apr 2015. http://quest.eb.com/search/115_3811471/1/115_3811471/cite

Looking Attractive to Colleges

Extracurricular

Extracurricular involvement is one of the best ways to increase scholarship opportunities. Encourage students to get involved with intramural programs, music groups, sports teams, journalism, yearbook, art, tutoring, and other non-credit groups on their school campus. Being able to show a college that the student is involved in the school will play into the student's scholarship favor; colleges are looking for students who will best represent their college to their own community, so they are willing to spend more money to get active students committed to coming to their college.



Portrait of girl smiling on soccer field . Photography. Encyclopædia Britannica ImageQuest. Web. 1 Apr 2015. http://quest.eb.com/search/154_2892453/1/154_2892453/cite

Leadership

In addition to extracurricular involvement, students who are leaders on campus whether in spiritual, extracurricular, or academic areas will always stand out to college recruiters. Students should be actively



encouraged as early as the ninth grade to become involved in the positive leadership of the groups available on campus. Through leadership roles, students can learn and build confidence, gain responsibility, grow as communicators and negotiators, develop various skill sets like problem-solving and management, and add significantly to their resume. Coming out of high school, students rarely have much material to add to their resumes and highlight themselves to potential employers. Leadership involvement can provide valuable resume material as well as provide recruiters with added incentive to get these students onto their college campus.

Academics

Colleges are impressed by students who learn early how to buckle down and study right in order to get good grades. Students struggling in ninth grade need support in order to learn these skills, especially since academics are important to even the initial acceptance of students into college. Aside from GPA, colleges may also look at student performance in a specific area of academics depending on the declared major of the college applicant (i.e. English, science, or mathematics class scores). This can also apply to the grades students receive in extracurricular classes like art, music, or even PE courses. Encouraging students to achieve solid grades is always a good idea that will pay off when students get closer to college.

Spiritual

Guidance counselors in the non-religious sector rarely discuss the spiritual aspect of looking attractive to a college campus. However, Adventist colleges and universities as well as some other college and university campuses place a high value on spiritual involvement of students. Recruiters and admissions officers for Adventist colleges look for students who are actively involved in the spiritual atmosphere of their high schools. These students may be involved in song leadership, church program involvement, coordination of Sabbath School classes or Bible study groups, mentoring, or even church leadership roles like deacons/deaconesses or involvement in church youth groups and programs like vacation Bible school or Adventurers/Pathfinders. Even on non-Adventist campuses, students with these types of involvements usually attract attention that focuses on their capacity to be positive and involved leaders in their community, which is a powerfully attractive attribute looked for by any college.



Close up of two hands in praying position. Photography. Encyclopædia Britannica ImageQuest. Web. 1 Apr 2015. http://quest.eb.com/search/154_2885088/1/154_2885088/cite

Of course, there are other ways to look good to colleges, but these are the overarching themes that generally attract and gain higher amounts of attention from colleges. Remember, more attention from a college usually relates to higher scholarship amounts and other incentives given by a college to attempt to gain the student. It hardly needs to be stated that students who are able to show their involvement in multiple areas will naturally stand out even more than those who focus on developing only one area of their lives in high school.



Outside of school involvement, students can do several things to make them generally more well-rounded individuals. Learning how to they study best can serve students well as they start to navigate the different academic realms of college; making a daily schedule and learning to follow it will also pay off exponentially in college. Students can also round themselves out by going to the library, reading daily newspapers and magazines, discussing current events with family or friends, and continuing to build up their vocabulary by looking up words they don't know. All of these suggestions add to the development of the student and increase their attractiveness to colleges.

No matter what grade level, students can start to prepare for their future by starting to think about what type of college they'd like to attend (technical, community, two-year, four-year, university, college, etc.), find a summer job, and start saving for college. They can also focus on their performance in high school and start preparing themselves for marketability to colleges and scholarship providers. All in all, students in grades nine through twelve all have important objectives to complete before graduation arrives.