

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Can I Do to Prepare for College?

⇒ You can start preparing for college by doing the following.

- ✓ Challenge yourself in school.
- ✓ Develop good study habits.
- ✓ Become involved in extracurricular school and community activities.
- ✓ Know the admission requirements for colleges in your state.
- ✓ Take courses that prepare you for college.
- ✓ Earn college credit in high school.
- ✓ Learn about types of colleges and degrees.

### Can I earn college credit once I am in high school?

Yes! There are several options.

#### 1. Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment

- ✓ Courses that count for both college and high school credit at the same time.
- ✓ May be taught at the high school or at a nearby college.

#### 2. Advanced Placement (AP)

- ✓ Opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting.
- ✓ Taught by high school teachers.
- ✓ Pass exam to prove you do not have to take the related college-level course.

#### 3. International Baccalaureate

- ✓ For students in the final two years of school.
- ✓ Demanding courses that prepare students to take exams.
- ✓ Colleges and universities may accept the high school courses as replacements for college courses.

### What are college majors and minors?

1. A major is an area of study that you focus on while in college. Usually you will study in an area you want to work in some day. High school teaching, law, business administration, and electrical engineering are all majors.
2. A minor is an additional area of study you focus on in college. However, a minor requires less course work than your major. For example, if your major is high school teaching, your minor might be history. Or if your major is business administration, your minor might be marketing.

## **What types of schools or colleges are there?**

### **1. Career and Technical Schools**

- ✓ Require one week to two years of study.
- ✓ Offer certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.
- ✓ Programs focus on teaching skills that lead to a job.
- ✓ Credits usually do not transfer to four-year colleges or universities.
- ✓ Often privately owned, but have fairly low tuition rates.

### **2. 2-Year and Community Colleges**

- ✓ Require up to two years of study.
- ✓ Offer certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.
- ✓ Often funded by taxpayers and fairly low tuition rates.
- ✓ Usually admit anyone who has a high school diploma or GED.
- ✓ Offer general education courses that transfer to a four-year college or university or courses that will prepare you for a job.

### **3. Four-Year Colleges and Universities**

- ✓ Require four or more years of study.
- ✓ Offer bachelor's, master's, doctorate, and professional degrees.
- ✓ Universities offer graduate and professional degrees in law, medicine, and other fields of study.
- ✓ Admissions policies differ. Some require high grades or high test scores. Some accept any student with a high school diploma or GED.
- ✓ Taxpayer-funded colleges and universities are usually more expensive than community colleges, but less than private universities.
- ✓ Privately-owned colleges and universities are usually the most expensive schools. Religious universities may cost slightly less as they usually receive more donations.

## **What are the degrees awarded by schools or colleges?**

### **1. Certificate or Diploma**

- ✓ Requires one to eighteen months of study.
- ✓ Programs of study focus on skills that lead directly to a job.
- ✓ The following occupations often require at least a certificate or diploma to work in the occupation: hairstylists, massage therapists, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), and heavy truck drivers.

### **2. Associate Degree**

- ✓ Requires two years of study.
- ✓ Programs of study focus on general education that transfers to four-year colleges or universities or on skills that lead directly to a job.

- ✓ The following occupations usually require at least an associate degree: veterinary technicians, drafters, engineering technicians, and computer support specialists.

### 3. Bachelor's Degree

- ✓ Requires four to five years of study.
- ✓ The following occupations require at least a bachelor's degree: conservation scientists, fashion designers, elementary school teachers, loan officers, and mechanical engineers.

### 4. Master's Degree

- ✓ Requires two years or more of study beyond the bachelor's degree.
- ✓ The following occupations require at least a master's degree: speech pathologists and audiologists, education administrators, social workers, and mental health counselors.

### 5. Doctoral Degree

- ✓ Requires three or more years of study beyond the master's degree.
- ✓ Doctorate is awarded for mastery of a field of knowledge and the ability to perform scholarly research.
- ✓ A doctoral degree is usually called a Ph.D.
- ✓ The following occupations usually require a doctorate: college and university teachers, astronomers, and zoologists.

### 6. Professional Degree

- ✓ Requires two or more years of study beyond the bachelor's degree.
- ✓ Specialized degree required to work in that field such as law or medicine.
- ✓ The following occupations require a professional degree: lawyers, dentists, chiropractors, family and general practitioners, and pharmacists.

## **What if I don't go to college? Can I get an education or training another way?**

### 1. Join the military.

- ✓ You may be able to learn skills that transfer to jobs after your service.
- ✓ The military will pay for you to take classes while in the service.
- ✓ You will receive money to attend college after your service is complete.

### 2. Participate in an apprenticeship program.

- ✓ An apprenticeship is an agreement between an employer and worker.
- ✓ The employer provides training and pays the worker during the training.
- ✓ The training is taught by other employees or in classes at a college.
- ✓ The worker agrees to learn to do the job.
- ✓ Usually the employee gets a raise when the training is finished.