



7 – 12th Grade

College Planning

Types of Degrees

High School Diploma: You receive this when you complete all requirements up through grade 12. Most jobs and educational programs require that you have this.

Military Training: People often enlist in this organization to obtain specialized training in a certain field of interest and/or to receive help for funding their college education. You must have a high school diploma and be in good physical health to be considered for this training opportunity.

On-The-Job Training: People receive this type of training while they work. Most people who get entry level jobs and have little or no work experience are given this type of training to learn how to do a specific job.

Apprenticeship: People that are interested in learning a new trade often choose this education and training option, this type of post-secondary education combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction. Many people who want to be welders, plumbers, and enjoy working with their hands enter this type of program.

License: Many people choose to get this in order to prove that they are competent in their jobs. Several different occupations require that you have this in order to work. Obtaining this requires that you pass a test and pay a fee.

Associates: You receive this degree after completing a two year college program. Many people also choose to transfer their credits to attend a 4-year college or university after receiving this degree.

Bachelor's Degree: You receive this degree upon completion of a four year college program. Many jobs, such as educators and other professional occupations, require this degree as a minimum requirement for employment.

Master's Degree: This degree comes after a Bachelor's degree and usually takes 2 years of full time college to complete. Many people choose to get this degree to give them a better chance of getting a higher paying job.

Doctorate Degree: This degree comes after a Master's degree and usually takes 2-4 years of full time college to complete. This is also called a professional's degree and it is required for people who want to be medical doctors, dentists, veterinarians, as well as professors in 4-year colleges and universities. You may get this degree in most majors offering a four year degree and/or Master's degree.

Types of Institutions

Vocational, Technical, and Business- Specializes in trades or vocations by offering various courses and occupational programs, i.e. welding, hairstylist, cooking.

Community and Junior Colleges (2 year)- Specialize in college transfer programs often tied to four year colleges.

Colleges and Universities (4 years)- Preparation for professional occupations such as accounting, engineering, and health services.

7th Grade:

- Start thinking about what you want to do after graduation
- Develop good study habits
- Start career exploration

8th Grade:

- Get involved in extracurricular activities
- Become more conscious of GPA
- Take advanced courses

9th Grade:

- Start reading newspaper articles
- Volunteer in your community
- Take challenging core classes
- Keep an academic portfolio and record of extracurricular activities
- Start researching schools and career possibilities

10th Grade:

- Register and take a PSAT/PLAN
- Keep doing everything started in previous years

11th Grade:

- Start researching information about grants, scholarships, and work study programs
- Keep grades up
- Make a list of colleges you would like to attend
- Visit colleges
- Register and take the ACT/SAT

12th Grade:

- Visit and attend colleges and college fairs
- Complete admissions applications, and any other requirements the schools that you are applying to have
- Complete the FAFSA
- By May 1st make final choices and notify school

Documents that should be kept

All awards, papers from career exploration exercises, papers with good grades, tests, PLAN scores, ACT scores, volunteer work, letter of recommendations, and extracurricular certificates should be accessible and kept safely.