



The High School Years - *Continuing Your Journey*

Author: Jill Boone

President of Insights On Education Home School Association

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Courses to Teach

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While each state and college will vary on what is required - you should be able to allow your child some areas of interest. That is going to assist in shaping who they become as adults. Sorry, Biology is one of those must teach courses. However, if your child is not interested in Physics you may wish to consider Anatomy as one of the Lab Sciences you teach in high school.

Colleges and Universities are changing rapidly in what they require from graduating seniors. While SC Dept. of Ed. shows three (3) sciences listed as required in high school, they do not commonly state they should be three (3) Lab Sciences. More and more higher institutes are seeking students with this extra Lab Science - Physical Science is not considered a Lab Science. It is a wise idea to contact any college of choice to see exactly what is required for admissions by the 10th grade year to ensure you tailor your schooling appropriately. The senior year is not the time to realize you need an extra required course or two.

During the eighth grade year you really should sit down with your child and ask the all familiar question: *What do you want to be when you grow up?*

You'll either get a bunch of ideas or none at all. Either way - now is the time to get started mapping out the high school years. It is fine that your child has not decided his/her future in the eighth grade! They will more than likely have a better grasp of their future in the last two years of high school.

During the next four years there are approximately 24 credit courses needed for high school graduation. Let me just state for the record, I used the word approximately and actual on purpose for several reasons. First, often times I hear from families that read the SC Home School Law verbatim and insist that nowhere in the law does it state things like: Biology, Government or even a foreign language. Well, they are correct, the SC Home School Laws do not state those courses specifically. Could you graduate your child without those specific courses. I suppose you could just teach the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature; - but would that be the proper way to educate your child if he/she wishes to go on to college?

State standards are just that - standards. Standards that are in place for several reasons. Colleges expect students to have knowledge in these areas - SAT/ACT tests are designed to test general knowledge in these areas. Even if you don't take the SAT or ACT in high school, your college of choice may require you to take an entrance exam. The exams are also based on knowledge in these areas. I would highly stress that you use the SC Home School Law as the minimum base of education and seek what is needed by your college of choice to ensure all requirements are met. Even if they do not wish to continue on through college right after high school - they may later on as adults.

Lastly, parents need to understand that it is all right to graduate with *more than* the 24 typical credits. In the case your child has taken a few extra courses, his/her transcript should reflect that. Most colleges view extra courses positively as it reflects a student willing to learn academically. It should be stated that *fluff* courses are *not* viewed positively by colleges as it shows poor use of time. That time could have been spent on courses geared towards a specific knowledge or area of study.

As you begin mapping out your child's high school years - you are mapping out their future. Seek assistance from other parents that have students in or done with high school. Request admissions requirements from colleges and consider purchasing a current SAT or ACT prep book.



Portfolio

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In the SC Home School Law you will notice that keeping a portfolio is one of the mentioned requirements. Up until now you more than likely kept records of this and that as your child's portfolio. In high school it will take on an entire new meaning. Think of it as a professional scrapbook. I used the word professional so you have an idea of its overall presentation. Portfolios will be a tool you use to 'sell yourself' to the college admissions officer during an interview.

Your portfolio should be very tidy, well typed, colorful with examples of what specific projects and awards were earned during high school. Say for example, your child placed high in a county-wide science fair for his/her project on solar energy. You would want your child to write a brief essay on his/her project and include color pictures of him/her working on and presenting their project. Also include any awards in the portfolio. If the award is too big-include a picture of your child with the award.

Organizing the portfolio is very important and you have several options. Some sort and divide by grade level and others by subject. Either way is acceptable; however, if you were a college admissions officer and you had a science scholarship to offer - wouldn't you want to see the science section together?

You may wish to attend a portfolio conference or read more on portfolios for high school students to familiarize yourself with the various way to maintain work samples.

It is possible to not keep any extra special portfolio for your child - if your child's transcript can reflect some of the highlights from high school.



SAT and ACT Testing

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Many home schooling families have strong feelings towards your typical standardized tests. You may need to put those feelings aside and realize the importance of these tests.

- *The SAT and ACT are tests used by colleges to measure performance and knowledge.*
- *Most scholarships are awarded based on test scores from the SAT and ACT tests.*
- *Colleges often require the SAT or ACT as one of their admissions requirements.*

In addition to the above, these tests will reinforce what "mom" says as far as grades. If you do your own transcript and list all courses at near 100% in all subjects - wow you have a smart kid! However, if your SAT or ACT score does not reflect nearly that type of performance your child's college may not believe your child is that perfect.

[Yes - some students do not do well on the SAT and it is recommended that they try the ACT as it tests with different methodologies. Yes - some student just don't test well; however, an admissions officer will not accept that response.]

The testing should support your child's knowledge during high school. Personally, I would recommend that your child find the test that works for them and take it several times. There are many ways to study for the tests and it would be possible to offer as a high school credit course. Please ensure that whatever tool you use for studying for any of the above tests is current study material. The SAT, for example, recently changed from 1600 as a perfect score to a 2400. The analogies are out but the essay is in and worth 800 points. Test prep courses will also assist in strategy and will allow your child to become familiar with the test before taking the actual one.

In South Carolina the scholarships awarded by the state use the Math and Critical Thinking (Verbal) sections only (at this time). I mentioned above to take the test several times, here is way. For example, on the first test you scored a 380 on math and a 700 on Critical Thinking your combined score is 1080 for these sections - not quite enough for the state scholarships offered currently. So you studied for months in math and on the next test you scored a 700 on math but your Critical Thinking dropped to 380 for a total score of 1080 (again). Don't worry - you may choose the best Math and best Critical Thinking from either score. Personally, I would suggest taking the Math score from the second SAT and the Critical from the first SAT for a combined new score of 1400 for these areas.

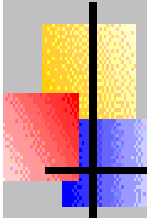
Tests are offered at different times throughout the year and it is wise to check directly with www.collegeboard.com (SAT) or www.act.org (ACT) directly for actual deadlines and testing dates.

SAT: *taken directly at a public school, private school, or college and grades sent to parent*

ACT: *taken directly at a public school, private school, or college and grades sent to parent*

PSAT: *taken directly at a public school or private school and grades usually sent to school where tested*

Insights On Education High School Code: 410881



High School Credits

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SC State Requirement for public school students: 24 credits for graduation

SC Home School Law course requirements: *the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature;*

Think outside the box. Go with what is typically expected from colleges - 24 credits in specific areas.

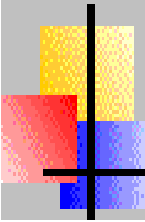
What is a High School Credit?

To earn a high school credit your child must use high school level material for a minimum of 135-150 hours of instruction of any specific course. Courses that are 75 hours would be considered half credit courses.

Yes, you will need to keep track of the hours to ensure proper credit is issued for all high school courses. Your child's transcript will reflect specifically the amount of credit earned for each subject taken over the next four years. This can be done in your planning for that subject or you may wish to have your child record time spent on work for each subject. Please note, when your child shows enough time spent on a subject that would warrant a full course credit but yet they are still on chapter 2 - the content was not covered and you should can not issue a credit for this course since it was not completed. The course as well as the time are necessary to ensure proper credit. Confusing? Lets say you are teaching Algebra I and you plan to spend 1 hour per day for 5 days = 1 school week. Doing the math your child has accumulated 5 hours in this course. You do this for 36 weeks and you have a full credit (5 hours x 36 weeks = 180 hours). Both content and time invested would warrant a full course credit.

Your child may earn high school credit in middle school - *please check with your association or option **before starting any courses** to ensure they will recognize those courses and issue proper credit to your child.*

In SC your high school student may earn college credit while in high school - mostly from technical colleges and only in the Junior and Senior years. Check with your local technical college for courses offered.



Specific High School Credit Courses

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Understanding just how much of a specific course you should teach during high school.

Below is a chart showing current graduation requirements using SC Dept. of Ed. standards.

High School Course:	Track I	Track II
English	4.0	4.0
Math	4.0	4.0
Science	3.0	3.0
US History / Constitution	1.0	1.0
Economics	0.5	0.5
Government	0.5	0.5
SS	1.0	1.0
Physical Education	1.0	1.0
Computer Science	2.0	1.0
Foreign Language	2.0	1.0
Electives	5.0	7.0
Total Credits Needed	24.0	24.0

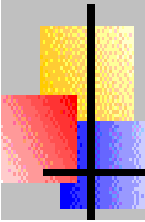
You will notice that for both Track I and Track II it shows 4.0 credits needed for English. This means that English should be taught each of the four years in high school.

PE shows 1.0 credits needed. This means that you can take PE one time - anytime during the high school years.

Track I shows courses typically required by most colleges for admissions. You will note that a second year of Computer Science and Foreign Language is listed - thus making the required number of electives 5.0. Colleges are very specific in these areas and it can not be stressed enough that you check with your college of choice to ensure that you have met their requirements in these areas. Some colleges have begun to require a 3rd year of the same foreign language for students desiring specific degrees.

Science is another key area, although it lists 3.0 credits needed you may not realize that 3 LAB sciences need to be taught. Physical Science is not a recognized Lab Science at most colleges. Yes, you can earn a credit in high school for this course - but your college of choice may not accept that credit in science and your child may have to take a non-credit course in that subject to prepare for a college Lab Science. Again - check with your college of choice.

The following page will help you to see what courses are common in each credit subject area.



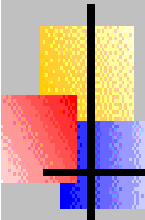
Recording Credits Earned

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Below is from the IOE High School Credits Earned Log and it will help you not only map out when you will take what course during high school but ensure proper courses are covered by subject field.

You have the option as a home school parent to teach other or additional courses not shown on the matrix below.

High School Credit Courses	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
English					
English (with Composition and Vocabulary)					
American Literature					
British Literature					
World Literature					
Other					
Math					
Algebra I					
Algebra II					
Geometry					
Precalculus					
Calculus or Trigonometry					
Business or Consumer Math					
Advanced Math					
Other					
Social Studies					
World Geography					
World History					
American History with US Constitution					
American Government					
Economics					
Other					
Science					
Physical Science					
Biology - Lab Science					
Chemistry - Lab Science					
Physics - Lab Science					
Anatomy - Lab Science					
Other					
Physical Education					
Computer Science					
Foreign Language					
Electives					
<i>Total Credits Earned by Grade Level</i>					
<i>Total Credits Earned at Graduation</i>					



Tracking Remaining Credits / Courses

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Here is another way to tracking high school credits and keep up with what is remaining.

Course (Track I)	9th Grade		10th Grade		11th Grade		12th Grade	
	Taken	Remaining	Taken	Remaining	Taken	Remaining	Taken	Remaining
English (4)	1.0	3.0						
Math (4)	1.0	3.0						
Science (3)	1.0	2.0						
US History with Constitution (1)	0	1.0						
Economics (0.5)	0	0.5						
Government (0.5)	0	0.5						
Social Studies (1)	1.0	0						
Physical Education (1)	1.0	0						
Computer Science (2)	0	2.0						
Foreign Language (2)	1.0	1.0						
Electives (5)	1.0	4.0						
Total	7.0	17.0						

The sample above shows courses completed in the 9th grade year.

Example:

- *One PE Credit was issued leaving none remaining.*
- *One math credit was issued leaving three remaining.*
- *7.0 total credits were issued in 9th grade leaving 17.0 credits remaining.*



Calculating GPA

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Let the fun begin!

Understanding how to calculate your child's GPA is not too complicated - just very tedious. Most home school associations will do this for you as part of your membership. If they do not, you may wish to change associations to one that offers this benefit to its members. The UGS GPA is now required for all state scholarships.

For a few years now SC has required transcripts reflect the UGS GPA and/or the standard 4.0 GPA (we probably all know that one). Now, most colleges will only accept the UGS GPA on transcripts - not the 4.0 GPA. To ensure your child's transcript is accurate you must keep excellent records.

Keep all final course grades for all high school credit courses. Not just a letter grade but actual percentage grades. If you choose to create your transcript, you should list as least the following major parts:

- student: name, address, date of birth, date of graduation, male/female, SSN
- parents: name, telephone number
- school: name, address (yes - name your home school for your child's transcript. If nothing else use your last name and put Academy afterwards.)
- academic performance by grade level (list each course by grade level to include letter grade, percentage, credits earned and UGS GPA points
- Extra curricular activities / achievements in high school
- Overall UGS GPA, credits earned and class ranking (ranking is not based on your specific home school but rather ranking of your child within your home school association or option.)
- Validation signatures from both parents/teachers and association information

(If you make or create your own transcript - you may or may not be able to obtain any signature from your association. Ask for it - if you do not get one, submit transcript with proof of home schooling through that association OR print association name and contact information on your transcript.)

Calculating 4.0 GPA

To calculate the GPA on the 4.0 scale you will need to assign a number point for each letter grade issued in high school. (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) Now, you will divide this number into the total number of credits earned to get your GPA on the 4.0 scale.

Calculating the UGS GPA

Here is where it gets real fun! For each percentage you will assign a number point, total them all up and divide by the number credits earned to get your UGS GPA scale. Each course is weighted differently (College Prep, Honors, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment) however, most normal courses will use the CP or College Prep number points. Example: 98% = 4.62, 93% = 4.00 etc. For a complete listing of UGS GPA points please search the SC Dept. of Ed. website / Commission of Higher Learning section.

UGS = Universal Grading System



Making the Most of High School

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Checklist for Making the Most of High School

- Take classes recommended for college preparation. SC Home school laws are the law, but you need to really thing "outside" the box.
- Use testing information (SAT, ACT, PSAT, etc.). Examine your scores and take extra courses or get tutoring assistance for weaker academic areas early in high school. You can take the SAT and ACT again.
- Establish goals for each school year. Talk to your college or colleges of choice about what you should be doing to prepare for attending their institution.
- Explore careers through research and experiences. Use a career counseling program and job shadow or do internships in careers you are interested in pursuing.
- Surf the Internet for information on education and career planning.
- Take a college entrance exam during your junior year.
- Never stop learning. Education is a lifelong pursuit.

Freshman Year

- Find out how to make the most of high school
- Plan challenging high school courses
- Find out why you should go to college - how will it benefit you in the long run for the career you wish to follow.
- Become familiar with college entrance requirements - contact ALL potential colleges, even those out of price and travel range.
- Join/continue extracurricular activities that will benefit you and enhance your college career.
- Take a standardized test to assist in identifying any weaknesses and start working now on those areas.
- Attend summer camp at a college to experience a college-like atmosphere
- Continue/start saving for college
- Research College costs, grants, and scholarships in and out of state.

Sophomore Year

- Continue to take and plan challenging high school courses
- Think about what kind of education/training different careers require
- Take PLAN or PSAT (PLAN is the pre-ACT test)
- Review test results with your parents and review/revise course goals to include areas of weakness shown on tests (if any).
- Start collecting college information.
- Visit colleges and talk with college students
- Be ready with a list of questions to ask on your campus visit
- Continue/start saving for college
- Join/continue extracurricular activities



11th Grade Checklist

The High School Years: *Continuing Your Journey*

Junior Year (Month by Month Schedule)

SEPTEMBER

- Confirm your courses for your junior and senior years have the right balance of rigor and challenge to get into a competitive college.
- If you have not already done so, be sure to be registered for the October PSAT.
- Step up your involvement in one or two organizations. It's not the number of organizations you belong to, but that you have leadership experience that matters the most.
- Begin keeping track of your community service activities and hours.
- Start collecting materials for your portfolio and begin identifying accomplishments and achievements you will list on your resume.

OCTOBER

- Take the PSAT.
- Talk with teachers, family members, and other adults you respect about the colleges they attended.
- Begin the career exploration process with some assessment tests.

NOVEMBER

- Keep your focus on your grades. You'll want your grades for this entire junior year to be as strong as possible.
- Continue your research in potential colleges and careers.
- Continue gathering materials for your resume and portfolio.

DECEMBER

- Once you receive your PSAT scores, make plans for how to maximize the good and plan to improve the rest.
- Look ahead to the spring and summer and begin mapping out the dates for your other standardized tests: AP Placement Exams, ACT, SAT I, SAT II.
- Stay focused on grades.

JANUARY

- Continue your research on potential colleges and careers.
- Consider asking to job shadow one or more people you know to learn more about those careers firsthand.
- Stay focused on grades.

FEBRUARY

- Schedule meeting with your guidance counselor to discuss possible college choices.
- Begin to focus on the key 10 to 15 colleges that are a good fit (based on your academics and career choice).
- Stay focused on grades.

MARCH

- Develop (if you haven't already) a file for each of the schools on your list.
- Start learning about scholarships and grants.
- Brainstorm and research rewarding summer jobs, internships, or scholarship opportunities.
- Stay focused on grades.

APRIL

- Plan now to assure a challenging senior year of courses.
- Register for the May and/or June SAT tests.
- Consider visiting some of the colleges on your list.
- Begin identifying teachers who may be willing to write recommendations letters for you.
- Begin reviewing for SAT.

MAY

- Take AP Placement Exams if you have taken AP courses.
- Firm up your summer plans, including visits to other colleges on your list.
- Push yourself hard to end the year with solid grades.

JUNE

- Take the SAT I or SAT II.
- Continue contemplating various careers and colleges & Visit colleges



12th Grade Checklist

The High School Years: *Continuing Your Journey*

Senior Year (Month by Month Schedule)

SEPTEMBER

- Read: High School Seniors: Preparing for Your Next Step After High School
- Familiarize yourself with our list of College Admissions Do's and Don'ts.
- If you have not held any leadership positions while in high school, now is the time to step up and assume leadership of one of those organizations.
- Review college materials, college guidebooks, and other resources to narrow your college list. Use our College Planning Resources to find all the online guides you'll need.
- Begin to finalize list of colleges with your family and guidance counselor.
- Consider visits, overnight stays, and interviews at your top college choices. Visit (personally or virtually) any colleges you have not already seen.
- Register for one last shot at the SAT or ACT if you haven't taken one of them yet -- or if you aren't happy with earlier scores. And be sure to take the SATII tests, if required.
- Begin thinking about teachers who would be willing to write strong letters of recommendation on your behalf.
- Begin brainstorming ideas for your college essays.
- Request (or download from college's Website) any applications that you do not have. Be sure to review each college's application requirements carefully.
- Attend college fairs for one final review of college choices.
- Be sure your senior year mix of classes still includes challenging, college-prep courses
- Stay focused on grades.

OCTOBER

- Finalize list of college choices to reasonable number, ideally with one or more "stretch" schools and one "safety" school.
- Create a file for each of your college choices -- and keep all materials organized.
- Consider creating a master schedule of all your application deadlines.
- Begin working on drafts of your college essays.
- Start working on college applications.
- If you have a clear "first choice" college, consider applying for early decision.
- Have standardized testing service send your scores to your list of colleges.
- Stay focused on grades.

NOVEMBER

- Finalize drafts of your college essays, but only after numerous edits, rewrites, and reviews by people you trust (family, friends, teachers).
- Complete college applications and put packets in the mail.
- Be sure your guidance counselor knows your final list of colleges, as well as your preferences.
- Request key financial aid and scholarship information from your list of colleges.
- Stay focused on grades.

DECEMBER

- If you applied for early decision to a college, expect notification this month.
- If not completed, finish and mail remainder of college applications.
- Start detailed financial aid search, including outside sources for scholarships and loans.
- Stay focused on grades.



12th Grade Checklist - Final Semester

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Senior Year - Final Semester

JANUARY

- If applying for financial aid, get started on preparations by obtaining a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
- Stay focused on grades.

FEBRUARY

- Complete the FAFSA, if possible. (You'll need your family's/guardian's tax records.)
- Keep track of your college applications; be sure all schools have received all your materials.
- Stay focused on grades.

MARCH

- College decision letters begin arriving.
- Celebrate your acceptances, decide about your wait lists, and deal positively with your rejections.
- Finalize financial aid applications.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

APRIL

- Make decision about college choice from among the colleges that accepted you.
- Notify all colleges (that accepted you) of your final decision.
- Submit tuition deposit to your college of choice.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

MAY

- Be sure to submit paperwork for room and board.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

JUNE

- Celebrate your high school success!
- Send thank you notes (if you haven't already) to everyone who helped you this year.
- Start planning for college.
- Watch college's summer deadlines (orientations, housing options, registration, etc.) closely.

JULY

- Register for fall courses at your college.
- Begin preparing for your new adventure.



College Admissions Do's and Don'ts

The High School Years: *Continuing Your Journey*

College Admissions Do's and Don'ts

by **Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D.**

While every college or university has its own requirements for admission and its own unique set of criteria for selecting candidates for admission, following these general guidelines should help all college applicants be better prepared to tackle the admission application process.

- **Don't** wait until the last minute to begin the application process; the earlier you start, the better off you'll be. And do read the application instructions carefully to be certain you are following directions and including everything each college requests.
- **Do** familiarize yourself with the college admissions timeline.
- **Do** continue to take challenging and advanced courses your senior year in high school. And do continue to earn good grades in those courses.
- **Do** attend college fairs, use college source books, and take advantage of college-related Web sources to learn about as many colleges and universities as you can.
- **Do** develop a set of criteria (entrance requirements, reputation/ranking, location, costs, majors, etc.) for developing your list of colleges.
- **Do** work on narrowing down your list of colleges to a reasonable number.
- **Do** research each college or university to determine entrance requirements, fees, and due dates of applications.
- **Do** consider making campus visits to the colleges that most interest you.
- **Do** include a mix of colleges in your final choice that include at least one or two "stretch" schools, some number of good fit schools, and perhaps one "safety" school. But don't sell yourself short when considering your list of schools.
- **Don't** panic if you don't score as well as you hoped on the standardized tests (SAT, ACT). But do plan on taking them again and attempting to perform at a higher level.
- **Do** commit the most time to writing, editing, and rewriting your college essays. And do have at least one other person proofread your final drafts..
- **Don't** just ask the popular teachers to write letters of recommendation for you. Instead, do ask teachers who really know you, your interests, and your potential.
- **Do** consider early decision or early action programs if you have one college that seems a perfect fit for you. But don't apply for one of these programs if you are undecided about your choice of colleges.
- **Do** keep track of all the deadlines for each college or university -- and do be sure to get your applications in before those deadlines. Make a simple chart to track: scholarship deadlines, college fairs and admissions, etc.
- **Don't** allow yourself to fall into the dreaded senior slump. Many colleges will ask to see at least some of your senior grades before making an admissions decision -- and some may wait on the decision until they see all your senior grades.
- **Do** stay involved in volunteering and community service activities. While they look good on a college application, they are also providing you with valuable skills and experience you'll need when it's time to apply for internships and jobs while in college.
- **Do** carefully review each application packet before you seal and mail it to be sure you have all the correct materials for each college.



Life After High School

The High School Years: *Continuing Your Journey*

Life After High School

article by Jill Boone, President of Insights On Education Home School Association

Your last year of high school! While it may be very easy to get lost in the moment of celebration and dreaming of your future this should be a very focused time of reflection and preparation. What you do in the next few months after graduation will mold your future. During your Senior year and Senior summer is the time to make some of your tougher decisions - they will be most helpful to you in college and into your adult life. Take time to really read, think and plan your personal After High School Plan based on the following key areas.

I: Don't Limit Your Education

Statistics from the Dept. of Labor show that approximately three out of five high school graduates will go on to attend college. Companies that seek employees for management or advancement seek those with college degrees. Even if you have dreams of becoming an actor - get a back up degree in an alternative field. Ten years from now (or even two years) you may find it hard to go back to college for your degree. Have you ever heard the phrase: The World Is Your Oyster? You will shape your future with all decisions you make in life - including higher education of some form. We can't look into a crystal ball to see what the future will hold in store for us, but it is much harder to look back and wish you had taken the opportunities you were given.

Take some time to research what jobs are in demand and trends of various fields if you are uncertain what career you are interested in. Being a doctor may not always be a reality - but other medical related field that are in demand may be. Consider viewing the Occupational Outlook Handbook (current information) at your local library or online at http://www.quintcareers.com/occupational_outlook_handbook.html

II: Put Your College Plans Into Motion

Late in your Junior year you should already have an idea of the field you wish to study and possibly the college you wish to attend. Contact all schools (of interest to you) that offer that degree for admissions and requirement information. Map out a plan for what it will take to be there in the Fall after graduation. Share you plans with your family and even your guidance counselor - listen to their advice. Set up a meeting with several of the colleges on your list and get their first hand knowledge of your plan and adjust accordingly to suite their specific requirements.

III: Stay Focused

Often times you will be ready to just let the Senior year slide. Don't! This is on of the most important years of school for you so far. Your final year in high school will be a introduction for you for college life. The demand for your school work performance is high, admission and scholarship deadlines are at every corner (most requiring essays and additional work on your part). Ensure all required courses are completed or in progress to avoid any surprises. In May - your graduation will be the end of your first portion of schooling and the beginning of your future.



Life After High School - *Continued*

The High School Years: *Continuing Your Journey*

Life After High School (*Continued*)

article by Jill Boone, President of Insights On Education Home School Association

IV: Push Yourself

If you are one of the many that have a light senior load consider your courses and options carefully. During the Senior (possibly Junior) year of high school is the time to take major tests for college admissions, Advanced Placement courses/tests and even some college courses. Stay active and push yourself to really do well in all courses, activities and other involvements. Colleges that are looking for community involved students and athletic schools are focusing mainly on current involvement. If you have not already been involved with volunteering in your community - now is great time to start. You will be more likely to continue your involvement at this state in your life simply because you are nearing adulthood and can comprehend the benefits of volunteerism. Stay 'out there' your final year, you will be glad you did.

V: Steady Progress - Endurance

Remember the first portion about mapping out a plan. Review it often and adjust accordingly. Try your best to even out the goals for a steady progress rather than a fast achievement. If you put certain activities or goals into one or two months - you will burn out and not be motivated for the next goal or goals left on your list. It may be a good idea for you to review your list with someone as soon as you feel like giving up or hear yourself saying "I don't feel like doing that right now." You need to be motivated and encouraged by all around you.

VI: Reflections

Sometime during your final semester or even shortly after graduation, take time for yourself to reflect and set new goals for your future. By now you probably know what college you will be attending in the fall and what degree you will be working towards. But what about after college? Write down several goals for possible jobs, places to live and financial goals. Every Spring Break in college you should revisit them and revise your plan of action if necessary. After graduating college you will be so high on life and anxious to get started in your career you will long forget any of these reflections. Here is a way to remember them: every time you file your taxes and wonder what you did with all that money you made - reflect on your future goals.



Encouragement and Support

The High School Years: *Continuing Your Journey*

Now that high school is upon you and your child - *take a deep breath and pray!*

You will get through and not every day will be perfect. Set your goals for high school early and stay focused on the end of the journey.

Motivation is very important not only to you but your child during this time. Seek outside encouragement and support from other families and recently graduated students.

As one that has endured two rounds of high school with four more up and coming.....

You don't have to be just like the next person.

*Find what works for your family,
do it well and stick with it!*

