

Guiding the Way to Higher Education

Families, Counselors, and
Communities Together

The logo for NAACAC, featuring the letters 'NAACAC' in a blue, sans-serif font. The 'A's are stylized with a blue swoosh that connects them, creating a sense of flow and unity.

NAACAC

ESSENTIAL III

Charting a Challenging High
School Experience

NACAC

A college and career ready student possesses the content knowledge, strategies, skills, and techniques necessary to be successful in any of a range of postsecondary setting. Success is defined as the ability to complete entry-level courses at a level of performance that is sufficient to enable students to continue to the next courses in their chosen field of study. Not every student needs exactly the same knowledge and skills to be college and career ready. A student's college and career interests help identify the precise knowledge and skills the student needs.

Conley, 2015

Questions

1. What options did you have after high school?
2. Does your child have the same options?
3. What obstacles did you have that your child may find as well?
4. What postsecondary institutions are there in our community?
5. What local resources have you found to help chart your child's educational progress?

Options After High School

College or
University

Community or
Junior College

Trade, Technical,
or Business
School

Military Service

Civilian Service
Opportunities

Gap Year
Programs



Colleges and Universities

Institutions composed of divisions that may be called schools or colleges that offer a wide range of majors and prepare individuals for a wide spectrum of careers

Approximately 2500 four-year accredited institutions

Community College, Junior College and Technical College

Two-year public and private institutions that specialize in college transfer programs, vocational programs, or both

Approximately 1500 community colleges in the United States

Trade, Technical or Business Schools

Privately-owned schools specializing in trades or vocations

Thousands of schools in the US

Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

- All academic core courses must be designated “College Preparatory” – not general or Technical Preparatory.
- Verify school / state requirements for graduation as they may vary from what a college requires for admission.

Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

English (4 years)

- Literature, writing/composition, speech

Math (3 - 4 years)

- Algebra I, geometry, algebra II, trigonometry (analysis, precalculus), and/or calculus

Science (3 years)

- Biology, chemistry, physics, earth/space Science

Required/Recommended Pre-College Coursework

Social Studies (3 – 4 years)

- US History, US Government, Economics, World History/Geography

Foreign Language (2 – 4 years)

- Must be of same language

Arts (1 – 3 years)

- Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Performing Arts

*The more families know
about their children and
about the variety of
educational alternatives
they can pursue the better
able parents and
guardians will be to
provide quality guidance.*



Learn More about Your Child

Individual Characteristics

Aptitude

- The capacity for learning or his or her natural ability or “talent” to do something

Intelligence

- The ability to learn and know

Interests

- The things that individuals like doing, the activities that command their attention and arouse their curiosity

Learn More about Your Child

Individual Characteristics

Personality Traits

- Individual characteristics such as friendliness, courage, or other natural tendencies that make one person different from another

Values

- The highly-respected standards that guide a person's life – the principles and ideals that children develop and the way they prefer to do things

School Support

How School Counselors Can Help:

- Monitor achievement and progress in the classroom
- Identify individual learning concerns and find solutions
- Appraise aptitude, intelligence, and other characteristics; interpret findings
- Provide information about high school study options and course offerings

School Support

How School Counselors Can Help:

- Aid students in exploring and understanding educational options
- Teach study skills and motivate students
- Encourage students to maintain an academic portfolio
- Foster extracurricular involvement
- Give students support and guidance

Community Support

Seek assistance from people or programs in the community that can offer aid and expertise in the college admission process.

Visit the NACAC Directory of College Access & Success Programs website to search for a college access program in your area

www.casp.nacacnet.org.