

High school students have many questions about the college application process, what it takes to be a successful college student, and how to begin thinking about their careers.

In College and Career Preparation I, students obtain a deeper understanding of what it means to be ready for college. Students are informed about the importance of high school performance in college admissions and how to prepare for college testing. They know the types of schools and degrees they may choose to pursue after high school and gain wide exposure to the financial resources available that make college attainable.

Career readiness is also a focus. Students connect the link between interests, college majors, and future careers by analyzing career clusters. Students come away from this course understanding how smart preparation and skill development in high school can lead into expansive career opportunities after they have completed their education and are ready for the working world.

Students who complete College and Career Preparation I have the basic skills and foundation of knowledge to progress into College and Career Preparation II, the capstone course that provides hands-on information about the transition from high school to college and career.

The course is based on the American School Counselors Association National Standards for school counseling programs.

Length: One Semester

UNIT 1: PREPARE FOR COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL

LESSON 1: THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Discuss: Get Acquainted

Get to know your classmates and discuss your school and career interests.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: The Value of a High School Degree

Learn about the value of your high school degree and how it can help you continue your education at college or get a job immediately after high school.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: The Value of a College Degree

Learn about the expanded personal and career options you will have after earning a college degree.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: The Value of Careers

Learn the difference between a job and a career, and how to find a career that is personally fulfilling.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: The Value of Financial Stability

Evaluate the benefits of a high school degree and a college degree and learn about the career and financial opportunities each offers.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS

Study: High School Requirements

Learn about your high school's graduation requirements.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: High School Grades

Learn about the meaning of grade point average, class rank, and test scores, as well as how these numbers influence your collegiate opportunities.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: High School Transcripts

Learn how your grades, your attendance, and other elements of your high school career are notated on your high school transcript.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: Thinking about College

Think about the value of an education and the effect it will have on your future.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 3: HIGH SCHOOL PORTFOLIO

Study: High School Rigorous Coursework

Learn to identify the differences between core and elective classes and between electives and accelerated classes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: You Can Learn Just as Much after School

Discover what extracurricular activities and community service options are available and how they affect your acceptance into college. If you work, learn how your after-school job can help pave your road into college.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Discovering More Resources

Use the Internet to find other resources and activities — even jobs.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 4: HABITS OF A SUCCESSFUL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Study: Study Tips

Learn tips on how to maximize your study time for the best results in your classes.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Smart Homework Habits

Learn successful habits to use when completing your homework so that you retain the information you are learning.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Homework on Homework

Write an essay in which you explain why good studying and homework habits are vital.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 5: PREPARE FOR COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL WRAP-UP

Review: Prepare for College in High School

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Prepare for College in High School

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Prepare for College in High School

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Prepare for College in High School

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 2: COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

LESSON 1: TYPES OF COLLEGES

Study: Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges

Learn what it is like to be a college student and what the college's campus culture might be like.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Vocational School

Learn what it is like to be a student at a vocational school.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Look into Some Colleges

Use the Internet to learn more about the colleges, schools, and programs that are available.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: TYPES OF COLLEGIATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

Study: Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees

Learn what coursework you will need to earn a bachelor's or associate's degree, as well as how to transfer from a community college to a four-year college.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Certification Programs and Apprenticeships

Identify examples of programs that provide you with certificates for vocational careers and job opportunities. Learn about the courses you can take to earn certificates and how to secure apprenticeships.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: Programs and Degrees

Now that you have a better idea of what college programs and degrees are available, talk to your peers about which ones have sparked your interest.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 3: ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE SCORES

Study: College Entrance Requirements

Learn how to become eligible to attend college, as well as how your grade point average, test scores, and class rank determine your eligibility.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Planning to Learn More

Write an action plan that takes into account what you've learned about getting into college.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE WRAP-UP

Review: College Knowledge

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): College Knowledge

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): College Knowledge

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 5: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: College Knowledge

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 3: TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS

LESSON 1: THE EXPLORE AND PLAN TESTS

Study: The EXPLORE Test

Learn the purpose of the EXPLORE test, its content, and how it is scored.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: The PLAN Test

Learn the purpose of the PLAN test, its content, and how it is scored.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: Standardized Tests

Write your thoughts about what taking standardized tests means to you and what your concerns are about taking them.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: THE PSAT

Study: The PSAT

Learn the purpose of the PSAT, its content, and how it is scored.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: EXPLORE, PLAN, and PSAT

Learn more about how these pretests will help you prepare for the ACT and SAT and reach your goals for after high school.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 3: TEST-TAKING SKILLS

Study: Test-Taking Skills

Learn test-taking skills for each of the college assessments so that your knowledge is reflected in your scores.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: Talk to the Test

Talk to your classmates about preparing for and taking the tests you've been learning about.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 4: TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS WRAP-UP

Review: Testing and Assessments

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Testing and Assessments

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Testing and Assessments

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 5: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Testing and Assessments

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 4: FINANCIAL AID

LESSON 1: HOW WILL I AFFORD COLLEGE?

Study: Scholarships

Learn about the different types of scholarships available and how your skills and personal traits can help you secure them.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Grants

Learn the ins and outs of grants, which are funds you don't have to pay back and are based on your family and financial background.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Loans and Work-Study

Learn about different loan options for college, as very few students can pay for college with only the money in their bank accounts.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Helpful Resources

Use the Internet to learn more information about scholarships, grants, and loans.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: COST OF COLLEGE**Study: College Costs and Savings**

Learn about the cost of attending various institutions and how to get the degree you want without breaking the bank.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: Dollars and Sense

Talk about college costs with your peers and think about how you will afford to attend.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 3: SAVING FOR COLLEGE**Study: 529 Plans and Other Early Tuition Options**

Learn ways to set aside college funds years in advance and even pay for college now at today's lower tuition rates.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Planning to Pay

Create a plan that will allow you to pay for your education.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: FINANCIAL AID WRAP-UP**Review: Financial Aid**

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Financial Aid

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Financial Aid

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 5: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Financial Aid

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 5: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

LESSON 1: CAREER CLUSTERS

Study: The 16 Clusters

Learn about the 16 career areas, or clusters, and how they relate to your interests and potential college majors.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: Relating to the Clusters

Write about how the career clusters apply to you.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS

Study: Applying Your Knowledge

Learn how you will apply what you learn in high school and college to the work world.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: What Do You Know?

Talk with your classmates about applying skills and knowledge from school to the work you will do in the future.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 3: TALENTS AND HOBBIES

Study: Make What You Like What You Do

Learn to highlight your talents and strengths and how they can be used in your future career(s).

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Assess Your Learning

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Making a Career for Myself

Write an essay about how you will apply your skills, knowledge, strengths, and talents to the job that's right for you.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WRAP-UP

Review: Career Opportunities

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Career Opportunities

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Career Opportunities

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 5: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Career Opportunities

Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 6: COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION I WRAP-UP

LESSON 1: COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION I WRAP-UP

Review: College and Career Preparation I

Prepare for the semester exam by reviewing key concepts covered in this semester.

Duration: 3 hrs Scoring: 0 points

Exam: College and Career Preparation I

Take a computer-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in this semester.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 80 points

Final Exam: College and Career Preparation I

Take a teacher-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in this semester.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 40 points