

# COLLEGE READINESS FOR PARENTS: GETTING YOUR STUDENT READY FOR COLLEGE



Academic Readiness	Financial Readiness	Admissions Readiness	Career Readiness	Personal and Social Readiness
<p><b>Establish a growth mindset</b> Help your child understand that intelligence is not fixed and that with effort and support he or she can get smarter even in subjects that don't come easily.</p> <p><b>Read, read, read</b> Point out words on signs to preschoolers. Spend 20 minutes a day reading to or with your child, or have older students to read silently.</p> <p><b>Establish time for homework</b> (without TV, cell phones and other distractions.)</p> <p><b>Stay connected with school</b> Attend parent-teacher conferences. Keep informed about your child's progress. Ask your school if your child's test scores indicate he or she will be college ready in math, writing and reading. Choose challenging courses for your child.</p> <p><b>Avoid the senior slump</b> Enroll your child in at least one class that offers college credit such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College in the Schools, Project Lead the Way.</p>	<p><b>Start saving early.</b> See <a href="http://www.mnsaves.org">www.mnsaves.org</a> for savings plan ideas.</p> <p><b>Learn about the options</b> available to your child beyond savings and budgeting for financing his or her postsecondary education</p> <p><b>Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops</b> with your child. Help your child research college scholarships.</p> <p><b>Complete a sample FAFSA financial aid form</b> to get an estimate of college costs. Most students receive some form of financial aid.</p> <p><b>Help your child prepare a budget for college.</b> Determine how much he or she plans to spend on housing, food, supplies, and entertainment during college.</p> <p><b>Determine a plan</b> to cover the cost of one term at a postsecondary institution. Complete a FAFSA in January of your child's senior year.</p> <p>For help, see 'Paying' at <a href="http://www.getreadyforcollege.org">www.getreadyforcollege.org</a></p>	<p><b>Begin college planning early</b> Find out about different types of colleges in your area. For help, see 'Preparing' and 'Selecting' at <a href="http://www.getreadyforcollege.org">www.getreadyforcollege.org</a></p> <p><b>Explore the academic requirements</b> for the type of institution your child wants to attend. Typically four-year colleges require: 4 years of math (algebra II) 4 years of English 3 years of science (biology and chemistry/physics) 2 years of foreign language 4 years of social studies 1 year of art</p> <p><a href="http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/fresh.html">http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/fresh.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.mnscu.edu/students/admissions/index.html">www.mnscu.edu/students/admissions/index.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/audiences/prospective.php">www.mnprivatecolleges.org/audiences/prospective.php</a></p> <p><b>Have your child take the ACT or SAT test</b> at the end of the junior year, or early senior year.</p> <p><b>Visit college campuses and college fairs</b> with your child</p> <p><b>Submit applications in fall</b> of your child's senior year.</p>	<p><b>Discuss with your child the benefits of postsecondary education</b>, including its connection with income and quality of life, and how it can help them achieve their career goals.</p> <p><b>Find out your child's career interests.</b> Ask your child: What will he/she be doing 5 years from now? Ten years from now?</p> <p>Talk to a school counselor about career interest inventories that can help your child find careers that fit his or her interests.</p> <p><b>Look at your child's hobbies</b> and co-curricular activities – talk about related jobs.</p> <p>Talk with a school counselor or teacher about the <b>classes and college education needed to prepare for this career.</b></p>	<p><b>Establish a growth mindset</b> – remember that effort produces intelligence.</p> <p><b>Praise your child's effort and persistence</b>, especially when facing challenges.</p> <p><b>Help your child set goals</b> regarding his or her behavior, time management and academic work.</p> <p><b>Tell your children</b> how much you value education, and show your pride in their achievements.</p> <p><b>Encourage your child to seek help</b> when needed from peers and teachers, and form study groups.</p>

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