

# College & Career Planning for Parents

## Partnering for your student's future.

As a parent, you play a critical role in your child's academic and post-secondary success. Whether your student is exploring careers, planning for college, or unsure of their next steps, your guidance and encouragement matter. Below you'll find resources and timelines designed to help you stay informed and involved every step of the way.

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## College Planning by Grade Level

**Start early and stay informed.** Here's what students and families should focus on each year:

### 9th Grade

- Encourage good study habits and consistent attendance
- Explore extracurricular activities and volunteer opportunities
- Begin conversations about interests, strengths, and goals

### 10th Grade

- Take the PSAT in October for practice
- Research careers and college majors using tools like *My Next Move*
- Begin building a student résumé (activities, achievements, service)

### 11th Grade

- Take the SAT in spring
- Attend college fairs, info sessions, and schedule campus visits
- Start creating a list of potential colleges and post-secondary options

### 12th Grade

- Finalize college list; keep track of deadlines
  - Request letters of recommendation early
  - Complete applications and scholarship forms
  - Continue career exploration and consider job-shadowing or internships
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## College Application Support

- Use platforms like **Common App** or **UCAS**

- Write personal statements early and revise
  - Request transcripts through GWA's Registrar
  - Track deadlines and submission dates carefully
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## Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Learn about the **CSS Profile** (for some private colleges)
  - Explore scholarship opportunities for international students
  - Use free scholarship search tools like:
    - Fastweb.com (for U.S. and international students)
    - Scholarships.com (for U.S. and international students)
    - Internationalscholarships.com (specific options for international students)
    - Scholarshipportal.com (for studying in Europe)
    - DAAD.de (for studying in Germany)
    - Educationusa.state.gov (for studying in the U.S.)
    - Goabroad.com (for students looking to study, volunteer, or intern abroad)
    - IEFA.org (for global financial aid opportunities including loan options)
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## Career Exploration Tools

Help your student discover their passions and strengths:

- [My Next Move](#): interest-based career search
  - [O\\*NET Online](#): Deep dive into job data
  - Internships, part-time jobs, and volunteering
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## International Baccalaureate (IB) Opportunities

**Get a head start on college while still in high school.**

The IB program is a rigorous, internationally recognized curriculum that can provide students with college-level academic experience, and may even lead to college credit.

- **IB Diploma and Course Students:** Many colleges and universities award credit or advanced placement for high scores (typically 5-7) on Higher Level (HL) IB exams. Some also recognize Standard Level (SL) exams.
- **College Credit:** Policies vary widely by institution. Be sure to check the IB credit policy for each college your student is considering.
- **Academic Recognition:** IB coursework is highly valued in college admissions for its depth, structure, and global focus.

 *Helpful Resource:* [IB Credit Recognition by University](#)

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## **Tips for Parent Support**

- Ask open-ended questions about goals and interests
  - Help manage timelines, but encourage independence
  - Support mental well-being; college planning can be stressful
  - Attend school workshops and counseling events
  - Schedule counseling meetings to discuss academic, social, and personal needs
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## **Upcoming Events & Deadlines**

Stay updated with:

- Parent Newsletters
  - College Application Workshops
  - Parent Breakfast and Coffee Sessions
  - Meet the Counselor at Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - University Visits to GWA
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## **We're Here to Help!**

If you have questions or need personalized support, don't hesitate to reach out to our Counseling Team. We're here to support you and your student through every step of the journey at GWA.