

Senioritis has Consequences

When the senior year rolls around, some students just want to get through college applications and relax before they head off to the college of their choice. Taking it easy during the senior year may appear to be a nice break, but senioritis is likely to do more harm than good.

According to recent reports, incomplete high school preparation can contribute to academic problems in college. As a result, at least half of all new college students do not have adequate academic preparation, and are required to take remedial or developmental courses. More than one quarter of the freshmen at four-year colleges and nearly half of those at two-year colleges do not even make it to their sophomore year (<http://www.collegeboard.com>).



College Planning Checklist

There are specific things you can do during each year of high school to plan and prepare for college. Use this college planning checklist to keep track of your progress and important application deadlines. To view detailed, month by month suggestions for all high school grades, visit the *Planner Timeline* under *Plan for College* at the College for TN.org Web site - www.college4tn.org.

Juniors

- Make lists of your abilities, preferences and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Read about majors and careers.
- Talk to your counselor about your college plans and attend a college night and financial aid night at your school or other location.
- Use the results from PLAN/EXPLORE to improve your skills and prepare for the ACT.
- Start visiting local colleges. Make a list of those that interest you.

Seniors

- In the fall, complete college applications for at least 4 to 6 schools you would like to attend.
- In the fall, schedule the ACT or retake the ACT if you think you can improve your scores from last year.

Ready for College = Ready for Work

Regardless of whether you choose to enroll in college, enter workforce training or go directly to work,

1. Every student should be prepared to pursue either or both options with a reasonable chance of success.
2. No student's choices should be restricted because of lack of readiness.
3. Every student should leave high school with a ticket to the future (Ready to Succeed, ACT).

- Get organized! Set up your own system of tracking deadlines for making decisions, finishing tasks, and mailing out appropriate materials such as test registrations, college applications, financial aid forms, etc.
- Check with your guidance counselor to find out when college representatives are visiting your school. Meet these representatives to get more information about schools that interest you.
- Check with colleges you apply to about their financial aid application deadlines.
- Visit the top schools on your list. Attend their scheduled "open house" days.
- After January 1, encourage your parents to complete the FAFSA. Submit it before March 1.
- Seek out and submit all scholarship and grant applications -- federal government, state agencies, private foundations, and individual institutions.
- As you begin to receive letters from colleges, organize them. Make your final decision.
- Enjoy your last year of high school! Do not become a victim of senioritis (www.act.org).

College Readiness Offers In-School Youth and College Access Challenge Programs

Northeast State is providing two College Readiness Programs this year. In addition to the In-School Youth Program offered at Dobyns-Bennett and Sullivan Central, East, and South, the College is also engaged in a new College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP). Existing programs offered to assist WIA In-School youth to graduate from high school, be academically ready to meet college requirements and make the connections to available programs and financial aid sources to be able to enter college are now available to other students through CACGP. Program services and activities include college preparation, work experience, graduation assistance, college and career fairs, and adult mentoring. To obtain an application or additional program information, contact the College representatives at the high schools listed below.

Dobyns Bennett
Linda H. Wade, llwade@NortheastState.edu

East High School
Ruth Ann Tipton, ratipton@NortheastState.edu

Central High School
Sally Aldrich, saaldrich@NortheastState.edu

South High School
Erika Adams, emadamscruz@NortheastState.edu

College Readiness Benchmark Scores

Students earning these minimum ACT scores have a high likelihood of being ready to enter collegiate-level courses and earn college credits. For additional information, visit <http://www.act.org/standard>.

ACT test	College course	ACT score
English	English Composition	18
Mathematics	College Algebra	22
Reading	Introductory Social Science	21
Science	Biology	24

Northeast State Community College name change official

Northeast State **Technical** Community College is no more. The name officially was shortened to Northeast State Community College in June when Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen signed the law that changed the names of five community colleges. While the College will continue to offer technical programs of study, the name change does reflect the large number of students who pursue course work and programs of study designed to transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

The Northeast State College Readiness Program

The College Readiness Program is designed to

- ▶ Increase awareness of the demands of postsecondary education,
- ▶ Help students prepare for college-level coursework, and
- ▶ Help facilitate a smooth, seamless transition between high school and college.

Northeast State Community College is one of 45 institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, the sixth largest system of higher education in the nation. The Tennessee Board of Regents is the governing board for this system, which is comprised of six universities, 13 community colleges, and 26 area technology centers. The TBR system enrolls more than 80 percent of all Tennessee students attending public institutions of higher education.

Northeast State is committed to the education of a non-racially identifiable student body. The college does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status in the provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities and benefits. The college complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies and guidelines should be directed to the director of Human Resources.

Northeast State Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Northeast State.

For additional information, contact:

Linda W. Calvert
Northeast State Community College
College Readiness Programs
Collegereadiness@NortheastState.edu
423.323.0222