

What is College and Career Ready?

Simply put, “college and career readiness” refers to the content knowledge and skills high school graduates must possess in English and mathematics – including, but not limited to, reading, writing communications, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving – to be successful in any and all future endeavors. Of course, readiness for college and careers depends on more than English and mathematics knowledge; to be successful after high school, all graduates must possess the knowledge, habits and skills that can only come from a rigorous, rich and well-rounded high school curriculum.

What is “COLLEGE” ready?

College today means much more than just pursuing a four- year degree at a university. Being “college ready” means being prepared for any postsecondary education or training experience, including study at two- and four-year institutions leading to a postsecondary credential (i.e. a certificate, license, Associates or Bachelor’s degree). Being *ready* for college means that a high school graduate has the English and mathematics knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial coursework.

What is “CAREER” ready?

In today’s economy, a “career” is not just a job. A career provides a family-sustaining wage and pathways to advancement and requires postsecondary training or education. A job may be obtained with only a high school diploma, but offers no guarantee of advancement or mobility. Being *ready* for a career means that a high school graduate has the English, and mathematics knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in the postsecondary job training and/or education necessary for their chosen career (i.e. technical/vocational program, community college, apprenticeship or significant on-the-job training).

Is ready for COLLEGE and ready for CAREER the same thing?

With respect to the knowledge and skills in English and mathematics expected by employers and postsecondary faculty, the answer is yes.

- ▶ Thirty five years ago, only 12% of U.S. jobs required some postsecondary training or an associate’s degree and only 16% required a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- ▶ Nearly eight in ten future job openings in the next decade in the U.S. will require postsecondary education or training. Forty-five percent will be in “middle skill” occupations, which require at least some postsecondary education and training, while 33% will be in high skilled occupations for which a Bachelors degree or more is required. By contrast, only 22% of future job openings will be “low skill” and accessible to those with a high school diploma or less.
- ▶ While the U.S. still ranks 3rd in the adult population (25-64 year olds) with an associates degree or higher among 30 countries, we now rank 10th among 25-34 year olds with a two-year degree and above. Competing countries are catching up to – and even outpacing – the U.S. in the educational attainment of their new generation of adults.
- ▶ Higher levels of education lead to elevated wages, a more equitable distribution of income and substantial gains in productivity. For every additional average year of schooling U.S. citizens complete, the GDP would increase by about 0.37 percentage points – or by 10% – over time. (The American Diploma Project)

Senior Year 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.collegefortn.org.

During the fall semester, the high school senior should:

- ✓ Complete college applications for at least 4 to 6 schools you would like to attend.
- ✓ Schedule the ACT or retake the ACT if you think you can improve your scores from last year.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- ✓ Consider taking dual enrollment courses.
- ✓ Check with colleges you apply to about their financial aid application deadlines. Some scholarship deadlines occur in October, November and December.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Enjoy your last year of high school! Do not become a victim of senioritis (www.act.org).

Why Go to College?

Whether you are uncertain about going to college or you just need some reassurance you're on the right track, here are a few reasons to go to college:

- Every bit of education you get after high school increases the chances you'll earn good pay. Most college graduates earn more money during their working years than people who stop their education at high school earn.
- The more education you get the more likely it is you will always have a job. According to one estimate, by the year 2028 there will be 19 million more jobs for educated workers than there are qualified people to fill them.
- Continuing education after high school is much more important for your generation than it was for your parents' generation. Today most good jobs require more than a high school diploma. Businesses want to hire people who know how to think and solve problems.
- Education beyond high school gives you a lot of other benefits, including meeting new people, taking part in new opportunities to explore your interests, and experiencing success. (www.actstudent.org/college)

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.

For additional information, contact:

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 College Readiness Programs
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If you are interested in College Now, check out the new link for High School students on the College's Web page – www.NortheastState.edu.

Degree	Average Salary
Professional degree	\$119,009
Doctoral degree	\$92,863
Master's degree	\$67,898
Bachelor's degree	\$54,689
Associate's degree	\$37,990
Some college	\$31,421
High school graduate	\$29,448
High school dropout	\$19,915

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 data

College Readiness High School Contacts

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Northeast State Community College is one of 45 institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, the six 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 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.