

Planning for Your Child's Higher Education

I. Discovering the interests

- A. Taking a wide range of high school classes
- B. Shadowing
- C. Personal research

II. Understanding the career paths and goals

- A. BA vs. BS
- B. MS and PhD
- C. Research and Industry

III. High School Classes

- A. Typical sequence
 - Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- B. Other approaches
- C. Learning objectives

IV. College in high school

- A. PSEO
 - attending class at a local college/university
 - great way to get general education requirements out of the way
 - check with the colleges of interest for any conflicts
- B. Tests
 - 1. AP
 - 2. CLEP
 - 3. IB

V. College admissions

- A. Tests
 - 1. PSAT
 - generally taken in 11th grade
 - offered twice in the fall
 - eligible for National Merit Scholarships
 - 2. SAT
 - generally taken in spring of the 11th grade; can be taken again in fall of 12th
 - 3. ACT
- B. High school transcripts
 - requirements vary by school
 - record each class taken
 - grades/learning outcomes
 - dates
 - transcripts also needed for any college work
- C. College visits
- D. Other factors

VI. Opportunities for High School Students

A. Volunteering

- Church
- Hospitals/hospice
- Tutoring
- Other organizations

B. Clubs/Student Organizations

- Honor Societies
- Debate/Mock Trial
- Clubs based on interest or service

C. Sports

VII. Suggestions for research in high school

- Take the classes at a local college/university
- Read the scientific journals
- Perform research at home
- Contact a researcher or local company about working/volunteering in a lab
 - Demonstrate an interest and knowledge of the field
 - Include contact information and resume

VIII. Summer internship suggestions

- Search for REU, SURF, SIP
- In the early fall, research programs of interest
- Request letters of recommendation
- Complete the application by late fall/winter (November/December)
- Have others read your personal statement
 - One general personal statement will often be good for several applications once revisions are made.
 - Keep copies of your application information for each program – you can see any differences between the accepted and rejected applications, and it will help in following applications

IX. Scholarship Suggestions

- Start looking early
- Look for scholarships from local companies
- Look for scholarships in areas of interest
- Research scholarships are available
- Look for scholarships from the university

Resources:

Scholarships

<http://www.fastweb.com> Free scholarship search; requires membership

<http://www.siemens-foundation.org/en/> Research scholarship

<http://www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/Competitions.asp> Scholarship list

http://scholarshipamerica.org/open_scholarships.php Mainly corporate-sponsored scholarships

<http://www.usfirst.org/> Robotics competitions for high schoolers

Note - local libraries often have books with great scholarship listings

Tests

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html> The SAT

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html> The PSAT/NMSQT

<http://www.actstudent.org/> The ACT

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html> For the AP

<http://www.ibo.org/> The IB

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html> CLEP

Summer Internships/Summer Classes

<http://www.training.nih.gov/student/> The NIH summer programs for high schoolers

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/intern.html> List of programs; not just for high school

<http://www.ams.org/employment/mathcamps.html> A list of math summer programs

<http://www.baylor.edu/summerscience/> Baylor's summer program

<http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/summer/> UI's summer programs

<http://www.smdep.org/> Summer medical and dental experience program

<http://people.rit.edu/~gtfsbi/Symp/premed.htm> A lot of bio-related summer research

Other

<http://www.bls.gov> The National Bureau of Labor Statistics. A great overview of any given career, as well as job outlooks and salary information.