

# EARLY COLLEGE PLANNING NEWSLETTER



2007

**College Access and Preparation Programs (CAPP)**

## What's inside this Early College Newsletter:

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Visit our website at <http://capp.mwcc.edu> for detailed program information.

Dear Parents,

Here is our Early College Planning Newsletter for middle school families. It has important information about what you and your child can do NOW to prepare for a college education.

When your child graduates from high school, most job applicants will need some type of training and/or education. This newsletter and our upcoming Planning for College Begins Now evenings will provide an excellent building block to help your child succeed in school, college and beyond.

Sincerely,

Pati Gregson, Associate Vice President  
Access and Transition

*“In the future, three out of four jobs will require some education beyond high school.”*

# Why Going to College is Important

**A two-year or four-year degree is becoming more and more important for unlocking the doors to economic and educational opportunities in America today.**

Getting a college education requires a lot of time, effort and careful planning by families and students, but it provides knowledge and skills students will use for the rest of their lives to help them succeed in whatever they undertake.

**Get (and keep) better jobs.**

Because the world is changing rapidly and many jobs rely on new technology, more and more jobs require education beyond high school. Three out of four jobs in the future will require some education beyond high school (career/technical school, community college, or college/university). With a two-year or four-year college education, your child will have more jobs from which to choose.

**Earn more money.**

On average a person who goes to college earns more than a person who does not. Someone with a two-year associate degree earns more than a high school graduate. (See chart on page 7 for salary comparisons.)

**Get a good start in life.**

A college education helps your child acquire a wide range of knowledge in many subjects, as well as advanced knowledge in the specific subjects in which they are most interested.

College also trains students to express thoughts clearly in speech and in writing, to make informed decisions, and to use technology-useful skills on and off the job!



## A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES: PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR COLLEGE

**Encourage your child to challenge him or herself academically, develop good study habits, and become involved in school and community-based extracurricular activities.** A positive school experience that is both academically challenging and rich in extracurricular activities is important in itself and as preparation for college.

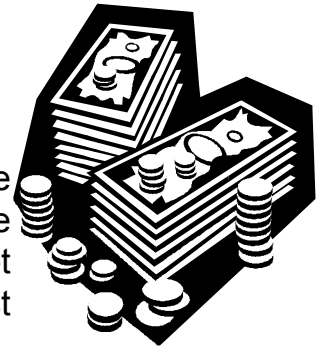
**Discuss career and college options with your child and encourage his or her aspirations.** Many students assume that higher education is not for them or that the jobs they are interested in don't require college. Today, some form of formal post-secondary education or training is required for almost every well-paying job. With \$60 billion in financial aid available, college is possible for almost every American. So encourage your child to aim high, explore all the options, and plan to attend college.

**Make sure your child starts on a college preparatory track in middle school.** If students don't take the right courses in middle school, they may be shut out of the college preparatory track in high school. The U.S. Department of Education recommends that middle school students take Algebra I in 8th grade, Geometry in 9th grade, and English, Science, and History or Geography every year. Foreign language, computer, and visual or performing art classes are also recommended. From: [www.CollegelsPossible.org](http://www.CollegelsPossible.org)

### FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

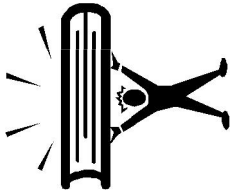
You may be wondering how much college will cost and how your family will be able to afford it.

Perhaps you think that college is out of reach or that it is too expensive. If that is the case, America's colleges and universities have three encouraging words for you: "College Is Possible!" Many people are frightened by the thought of the high tuition "sticker price." They are not aware that over \$60 billion in grants, scholarships, and low-interest loans are awarded to students every year. College is definitely possible for almost every American, with planning, preparation and the right information.

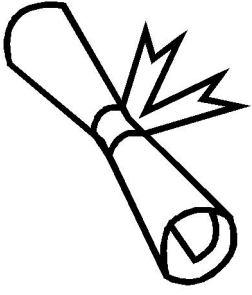


#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Most financial aid is awarded on the basis of need. Financial need is the difference between what it costs to attend college and what a family can contribute. The amount a family can contribute is determined by the federal government and the college your child wants to attend. Financial aid can also be based on how well your child performs in school, their participation in sports, and any other significant achievements.



# EARLY COLLEGE PLANNING WORD SEARCH



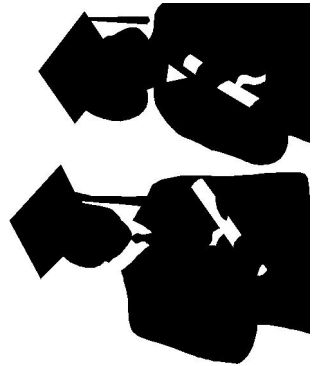
See if you can find these words in the word search puzzle.

Hint: The words may be spelled horizontally, vertically, diagonally or even backwards!

T K P R S C O C L C G D E N D Y  
 M A J O R L A T E S M O M L R T  
 C O L L E G E P R E P R R A N I  
 S T L L E F F E U R S P M P O O S  
 A S O R A G C M E L T I U S I R  
 C L U M Y N R A M E I T S H T E  
 D A Y P R E V E E E U O R E A V  
 H W R H M E R R E W N R E E C I  
 F C N E O A G Y N O I Y L L U N  
 Z E B V E E C I M I O L E B D U  
 L N N A D R L S F L N X C E E M  
 M A T C Y S S N O E G C T N R I  
 B A C H E L O R S I E H I F E T  
 E C E U A M E A K R K O V N H P  
 B L O L S A L A R Y O Z E O G E  
 L L V O H U N T A O F Y S A I U  
 F I N A N C I A L A I D C R H I  
 R E E U A A B L R M I N E M I T  
 H T N Y A M O L P I D C O T Y T  
 X S C H E D U L E E T T H E A M  
 C I G R A D U A T I O N E H G A

- BACHELORS
- CAMPUS
- CAREERS
- COLLEGE PREP
- DEGREE
- DIPLOMA
- DORMITORY
- ELECTIVES
- FINANCIAL AID
- GRADUATION
- HIGHER EDUCATION
- MAJOR
- SALARY
- SCHEDULE
- UNION
- UNIVERSITY

**COMPLETE THIS WORD SEARCH AND BRING TO YOUR GEAR UP OR TALENT SEARCH COUNSELOR FOR A TREAT**



# EXAMPLES OF JOBS REQUIRING COLLEGE PREPARATION

The following require a college degree for an entry-level position in that field.  
Higher levels of education may be needed for advancement.

## Two Years of College (Associate Degree)

Computer Technician  
Surveyor  
Registered Nurse  
Dental Hygienist  
X-ray Technician  
Commercial Artist  
Engineering Technician  
Automotive Mechanic  
Administrative Assistant  
Social Worker  
Refrigeration Technician

## Four Years of College (Baccalaureate Degree)

Teacher  
Accountant  
FBI Agent  
Engineer  
Journalist  
Insurance Agent  
Pharmacist  
Computer Systems Analyst  
Dietitian  
Writer  
Investment Banker

## More Than Four Years (Graduate Degree)

Lawyer  
Doctor  
Architect  
Scientist  
University Professor  
Economist  
Psychologist  
Dentist  
Veterinarian  
Geologist  
Public Policy Analyst

HIGHER

EDUCATION OPTIONS

**Two-year Colleges/Community Colleges** - offer an *Associate's Degree* (2 year) or a certificate (1 year) and prepare students either for a skilled job or for transfer to a four-year college.

**Four-year Colleges and Universities** - offer a *Bachelor's Degree* and prepare students for a variety of professional careers and graduate school programs.

**Graduate/Professional Schools** - offer advanced degrees for students who have received a bachelor's degree such as:

- *Masters Degree* - requires one or two years of full-time college level study beyond a bachelor's degree to provide advanced scholarship in a subject for academic or professional careers
- *Doctoral Degree* - generally requires a master's degree and then research to complete a thesis paper demonstrating mastery of knowledge in a subject
- *Professional Degree* - highly specialized degree for careers such as law and medicine

# Massachusetts State College and University Minimum Admissions Standards

Below is a list of high school courses that are necessary to be accepted to any state college or university in Massachusetts. Plan ahead! Required classes start in the 9th grade.

Required High School Courses (1 course is equal to one year of study.)

**English** 4 courses

**Mathematics** 3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or comparable course work)

**Sciences** 3 courses (including two with laboratory work)

**Social Sciences** 2 courses (including one in U.S. History)

**Foreign Languages** 2 courses (in the same language)

**Electives** 2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)

CHECK OUT THE NEXT COLUMN FOR DETAILS ON REQUIRED COURSES!

\*Note: Additional courses may be required for graduation. In some cases, High School Graduation requirements may not be the same as college admission standards. See your CAPP Academic Counselor or school guidance counselor for more information.

## TO PREPARE FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND:

**Algebra I (in eighth grade) and Geometry (in ninth grade) or other challenging math courses that expect students to master the essentials of these subjects.** Algebra and geometry form the foundation for the advanced math and science courses colleges want their students to take, and give students the skills they need to succeed on college entrance exams, in college math classes, and in their future careers.

**English, Science and History or Geography Every Year.** Together with math, these courses make up the "core" -- the basic academic classes every student should take every year, in middle school and in high school.

**Foreign Language.** Many colleges require their students to study a foreign language for at least two years, and some prefer three or four years of one language. Taking a foreign language shows colleges that a student is serious and willing to learn the basics plus more, and shows employers that he or she is prepared to compete in the global economy.

**Computer Science.** Basic computer skills are now essential, and more and more jobs require at least a basic knowledge of computers. Make sure you take advantage of any opportunities the school offers to learn to use computers.

**The Arts.** Many colleges view classes in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens your understanding and appreciation of the world. It is also well known and widely recognized that the arts contribute significantly to your intellectual development.

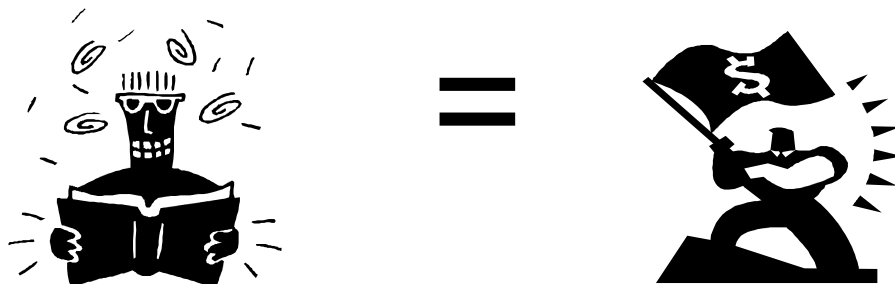
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)



**How Does Education Pay? This table shows you the more education you have the more money you can earn, which lowers your chances of being unemployed. Take a look below:**

Unemployment rate in 2005 (percent)	Education Attained	Median Weekly Earnings in 2005	Median Yearly Earnings in 2005
1.6 %	Doctoral Degree	\$1,421	\$73,892
1.1 %	Professional Degree	\$1,370	\$71,240
2.1 %	Master's Degree	\$1,129	\$58,708
2.6 %	Bachelor's Degree	\$937	\$48,724
3.3 %	Associate's Degree	\$699	\$36,348
4.2 %	Some college, no degree	\$653	\$33,956
4.7 %	High School graduate	\$583	\$30,316
7.6 %	Some high school, no diploma	\$409	\$21,268

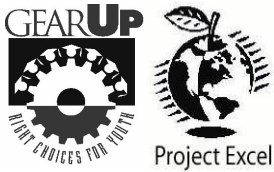
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## **SAVE THE DATE FOR EARLY COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHTS!**

### **LEOMINSTER**

Southeast Middle School - March 1, 2007

Samoset Middle School - March 7, 2007

Skyview Middle School - tbd (ask your CAPP counselor)

### **FITCHBURG**

Memorial Middle School - March 25, 2007

B.F. Brown Middle School - April 25, 2007

Academy Middle School - March 29, 2007

### **WINCHENDON**

Murdock Middle School - tbd (ask your CAPP counselor)

**CHILDCARE and FOOD will be provided so come on down!**

**For more information regarding CAPP or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Pati Gregson, Associate Vice President of Access and Transition or Kristin Sweeney-Moore, Executive Director of CAPP, at 978-630-9248.**