



Dear Parent or Family Member,

A few months ago, we shared information with you about the exciting program that your student was selected to participate in, the Kids2Careers curriculum program. I am pleased to inform you that your student has successfully completed this curriculum! During our time together, we learned about:

- Many different postsecondary career training options, including the different kinds of college degrees they can earn to prepare for their future career;
- Different careers they can pursue that fit their interests and skills;
- The classes they need to take in middle and high school to be college & career training ready;
- Ways they can get help with their schoolwork to make sure they are doing their best;
- The variety of resources available to help them pay for their college & career training education, including scholarships and grants;
- What life is like on a college campus; and, most importantly,
- How college IS possible!

After their participation in this program, your student has expressed interest in going to college or completing other training programs for their future. We encourage you to support your student as they pursue their goal. Completing the Kids2Careers Curriculum Program was the first step in preparing for a brighter future. While getting ready for college & career training is not easy, it is something every student is able to do with hard work and the right information. Your student collected information about education and career options, preparing for college & career training, and financial aid in their *My Path to Success* handbook. Ask your student to share his or her Student Handbook with you so that you can see all the hard work that your student put into learning about college & career training options. This information also will be valuable to you as you help your student continue working towards his or her goal. We've also included a summary of the things they've learned during the course on the next page.

Please review the Family & Student planning resources at: <https://acpe.alaska.gov/Kids2Careers>.

Together, you and your student can work to make their college & career dreams a reality and create the best future for your family.

If you would like more information about college & technical training, careers, financial aid, or grade level preparatory steps, please feel free to get in touch with me. Thank you for supporting your students as they achieve their dream of a college education. Visit: <https://acpe.alaska.gov/Kids2Careers> & <https://alaska529plan.com> for more information on preparing and saving for college & career training.

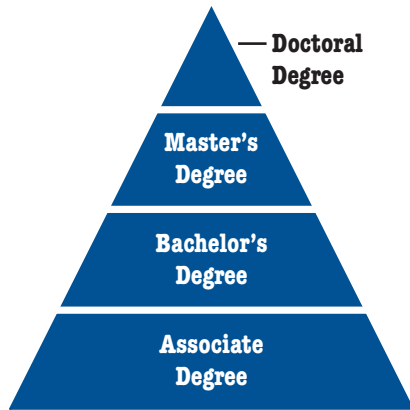
Sincerely,

The Kids2Careers Team



Reviewing What We've Learned: College Is Possible!

Different Postsecondary Degrees Available after High School



In order to be considered for admittance into college, you need to have taken the following high school classes:

English/Language Arts — All four years

Mathematics — Three, preferably four years

Science — Three, preferably four years

Social Studies — Three, preferably four years

World Language — Two, preferably three years

P.E./Health — At least one year, preferably more

Challenging Electives — Whenever possible

Educational Opportunities After High School

- **Apprenticeships, and Technical or Trade Schools** teach skills specific to a job.
- **Community College** is a two-year school. You can earn an associate degree or certification at community college. You can also take classes that may transfer to a four-year college or university.
- A **Four-year College or University** is a school where students work towards earning a bachelor's degree. You also may earn a certificate, and an associate, master's or doctoral degree from a four-year college or university.

Every college-bound student should take the ACT or SAT during the second semester of their junior year of high school. These tests are required for some colleges & scholarships!

Four Types of Financial Aid To Be Aware Of

- **Grants** are financial aid awards that do not have to be repaid. Grants are usually given to the students who need the most money.
- **Scholarships** are also financial aid awards that do not have to be repaid. Scholarships are typically awarded to students based on their achievements.
- **Work-study** is a program that allows students to work to earn money for their tuition. Work-study students have jobs on campus; all work-study money is earned, so it does not have to be paid back after graduation.
- **Loans** are financial aid awards which must be repaid. Different organizations, including the federal government, lend qualified students or their parents money that they will pay back after they leave school.



To be eligible for grants, loans, work-study, and some scholarships, all students need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

Glossary

ACT: a standardized college admissions exam that tests students in English, math, reading, and science, with an optional writing section. Administered several times a year, and traditionally taken for the first time in the spring of a student's junior year.

Academic enrichment: activities that enhance or supplement a student's learning. Academic enrichment are additional learning opportunities that boost a student's knowledge and skills.

Admissions counselor: a college or university employee responsible for making decisions about which student applicants will be admitted to their school.

Apprenticeship: a hands-on employment opportunity where students earn money while learning a certain skill or trade. Students begin part-time on the job and part-time in the classroom, earning more money as they gain experience. Many skilled trades begin through apprenticeship programs.

Associate degree: a degree awarded after approximately two years of full-time study. It is usually equivalent to the first two years of a bachelor's degree program. Associate degrees are awarded by community colleges and some four-year colleges.

Auditory learner: a person who learns best by hearing information rather than seeing or doing.

Bachelor's degree: an undergraduate degree that takes approximately four years of full-time study to complete. Required for some professions and for licensure in certain fields, as well as for admission to advanced degree programs, including law and medicine.

Career: an occupation that usually requires special training

Certification: a document that shows an individual has met specific requirements that qualify them to perform a task or job.

Community college: a two-year postsecondary institution that offers academic programs suited to its particular community. Offers associate degree programs and courses for transfer to a four-year college or university, as well as non-academic courses for personal growth and enrichment.

CTE: career and technical education teaching specific skills for a particular job or profession.

Degree: a certificate that signifies that a student has met the requirements to complete a program of study.

Doctoral Degree: the most advanced postsecondary degree; requires 3–7 years of study and research in addition to a bachelor's degree and, often, a master's degree as well. Often referred to as "terminal" degrees; if a person has a doctoral degree, he or she is considered an expert in that field.

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Education: a process or system of teaching and learning.

Enrichment activities: any activity or program that helps a student gain skills or improve knowledge

Extracurricular activities: any club, team, event, or organized activity that a student participates in outside of their academic coursework.

FAFSA: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is an online form that determines eligibility for financial assistance. Students who do not complete the FAFSA are not eligible for any federal aid, including grants, loans, and work-study.

Financial aid: financial assistance for students interested in pursuing post-secondary education.

Four-year College/University: a postsecondary institution where students can take coursework toward a bachelor's and/or master's degree.

Grade Point Average (GPA): a number that represents the average of all the course grades a student receives in high school.

Grant: a financial aid award that does not have to be repaid; often is need-based.

License: formal permission by the government or another authorized entity to do something. A test is usually required.

Loan: a financial aid award, administered by the federal government or a private company, which must be repaid. Interest is charged during the repayment period. Some loans accrue interest while borrowers are still enrolled in school.

Major: the focus of a student's academic studies; usually in a particular academic subject or professional field.

Master's degree: a degree awarded to students who continue their education 1–3 years beyond their bachelor's degree. Master's degrees are more specialized and usually require completion of some research. Students in these programs typically focus on a specific topic in detail.

Minor: a secondary focus of study, usually in a different academic subject than the selected major. A minor is not required, and may or may not be related to a major area of study. Usually fewer course credits are required for a minor.

PLAN: a standardized "pre-ACT" exam that tests students' abilities in math, science reasoning, English, and reading. Score reports also provide information about course selection and career development.

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Postsecondary: education completed after high school, which could include associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees, apprenticeships, vocational or trade schools, military training, or certificate programs.

PSAT: the Preliminary SAT is a standardized exam that tests a student's abilities in math, critical reading, and writing. When taken in the fall of a student's junior year, serves as the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholar Scholarship Program. A good predictor of how students will score on the SAT Reasoning Test.

Salary: the amount of money a person earns for doing their job.

SAT: a standardized college admissions exam that tests students' abilities in math, critical reading, and writing; administered several times each year. Traditionally taken for the first time in the spring of a student's junior year.

Scholarship: a financial aid award that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are usually merit-based.

Standardized test: tests on which everyone taking the exam answers similar questions on the same content. By making them standardized, the test maker ensures that everyone who takes the test is being measured against the same standard.

Tactile learner: a person who learns best by doing, rather than seeing and hearing.

Technical school: a school that teaches specific skills for a particular job or profession. They are not focused on general education. Technical education courses are also referred to as Career & Technical Education (CTE).

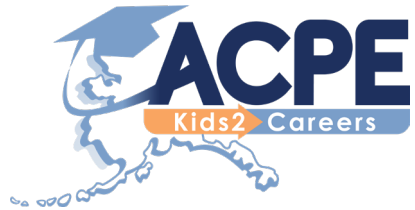
Transcript: the official permanent record of a student's academic career; contains a listing of the courses taken during high school, course grades, and standardized test scores.

University: a postsecondary institution where students can take coursework toward a bachelor's and/or master's degree. Also referred to as a 4-year college.

Visual learner: a person who learns best by seeing, rather than hearing or doing.

Volunteer: donate time or service without being paid. Many individuals volunteer their time to gain unpaid work experience.

Work-study: a need-based federal program that is administered on campus. Eligible students are provided jobs on campus or at a local organization.



Acknowledgements

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ACPE - Alaska's Higher Education Agency, Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska 529, Fairbanks, Alaska

Burlington Boys & Girls Club, Burlington, Vermont

Communities in Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Charlotte, North Carolina

Houston Independent School District, Houston, Texas

Partners4Education, Washington, DC

State University of New York-Cortland, Cortland, New York

Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas

The Education Resources Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, Los Angeles, California

Volunteer Florida Foundation, Tallahassee, Florida

Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

