

A Guide for Students and Parents



The transition from higher secondary school to college is a big step for everyone. There is a fair degree of excitement and apprehension. An excitement because it gives freedom from rigid school discipline and apprehension because it is an exploration into unknown, particularly if you are going away from home.

College-bound youth should begin preparing for post-school education and beyond while they are still in the school by selecting appropriate classes and earning good grades. In addition, they can begin to prepare for and to explore college options available to them.

The college is also a space where you test your boundaries, explore newer areas, make new friends, identify your own strengths and weakness and most importantly build a future for yourself. So don't hold yourself back and be responsible for your own career.



Why go to college?

Here's a simple equation: a college or career school education = more money, more job options, and more freedom. As you get more education, you'll earn more and have more job opportunities.



As one moves upwards in the qualification, newer, more challenging and more rewarding opportunities open up. A professional degree is more lucrative because the opportunities are more satisfying.

A college education is a long-term investment. With careful planning you can find the college and options that work best for your situation and put you on the path to success.



“College preparation” is about more than the classes that you take. It’s also about developing the skills that will help you to succeed in life. For instance, as you balance studying and having fun, you’ll be practicing time management; and as you save for college, you’ll be learning money management.



The funds spent by your family on your education is its investment, with calculated risk, hoping that you shall put in your best efforts in doing whatever you are expected to do. The returns will depend on how effectively you invest your time and efforts to supplement your family’s trust in you.



Your entire future could be dependent on your performance in these four years of education. So ensure that you understand the importance of your time and see that every moment is spent on incremental value addition. You may even keep a diary to keep a record what you have learnt on that day. It is like a small step every day but together it will lead you to the height of success where you want to be.

Here is a checklist for you...

To Do: CHECKLIST

All Year

- Attend all lectures and practicals.
- Read as much as you can, not only in your area but also in other engineering disciplines. Engineering is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary.
- Develop lateral thinking habits, collect information and analyse it and use it in new area.
- Take active interest in doing experiments because they allow you to test all theoretical principles taught in the class.
- Work hard all the way to graduation—all-semester grades are important
- Develop skills in at least one professional area and practice it every day.
- Choose friends who will add value to you and complement your skills
- Seek internship in industry and live projects to work on.
- Be observant of your environment. Where others complain can be an opportunity for you to take up project.
- Take a project of your interest that could be useful to society or has novel application and complete it
- Start building prototypes, small one first but aim for big picture
- Stay involved in after-hour college activities, and seek leadership roles, if possible.
- Be competitive and take part in competitions, conference, training programs.
- Think of becoming entrepreneur than seeking job to serve others

Exploring Your Career Options

A college or career education can give you the skills needed to pursue a career that really interests you. You need to identify where your interest is and follow to do list as above. Read about technology developments in area of interests, corresponding industries and prospects in future when you shall graduate



Know your learning style

- Are you a visual, auditory, or tactile learner?
- Are you an extrovert or an introvert?
- Are you a concrete thinker or an intuitive thinker?
- Do you prefer to do the things with own hand?
- As an Engineer, you need to dream and built, making your hands dirty.

As you set career goals, it is helpful to know your learning style so that you can adjust your study habits to be most productive and build on your strengths.

At the following website, you can read about learning styles in general and take short tests to discover your own learning style:

- www.calstatela.edu/faculty/jshindl/plsi/

Become academically prepared for college

Take classes that will prepare you for college entrance requirements and earn good grades. Develop study skills that work for you. You need to identify subjects whose knowledge is essential in your discipline and related areas. Look also at opportunities in other areas too.

Don't get boxed in. Think always out of box.

Assess your skills, interests, and personality as you consider potential fields of study to pursue.

Selecting a college, a major field of study, and courses is easier if you have career areas in mind. It is also important, however, to keep your mind open to new areas of study and employment as you learn new things.

You can take some online free tests, if possible. Use the results of these tests as guidelines though.

You may still succeed in chosen field by sheer hard work, determination and commitment to excel. It is common for people to wind up in careers that are perfectly suited to them that they hadn't even considered before they entered college.

Besides seeking advice from family members, teachers, and career guidance counsellors, you can expand your ideas about career options at the following websites:

You can assess your skills and learn about careers at

- www.iseek.org/careers/skillsAssessment
- www.princetonreview.com/careers-after-college.aspx
- <http://online.onetcenter.org/skills/>
- <http://my.monster.com/cmi/JobSkillsAnalysis.aspx>
- mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/skills.htm

Use technology to maximize your participation, productivity, and independence in learning.

Computer and network resources are essential in many college and work settings. Computer-related assistive technology makes it possible for people to use these powerful tools.

Take advantage of opportunities in college to learn about and use computer and network technologies.

Read the publications and, if possible, view the video presentations, such as on www.instructable.com



On Line Courses

There are numerous free online courses. You can add skill set through them by spending, say one hour per week online,. This knowledge never goes waste. And challenge yourself by taking tests of these courses and earning certificates.

Find role models and mentors.

Engage in interactions with peers and adults during the process of preparing for college, attending college, and finding a career. Networking can occur through professional organizations, friends, and family, online and in person.



In a Nutshell.

- Know yourself. Conduct an in-depth evaluation of your strengths, abilities, skills, and values.
- Research all of your different options for colleges and courses.
- Plan, organize, and evaluate your needs so that support systems can work together
- Be wise about the credit system, especially the first semester (when it is easy to be overwhelmed). Your performance in all semesters is counted.
- Take some supplementary training courses that look like fun, as well as more challenging to add value to yourself.
- Request aid from your professors. Don't be intimidated by them. They are there to help.
- Take some time to enjoy the social life on campus—it is a good way to meet new people and make friends.



Guide for Parents



The Technology Landscape is changing rapidly and is becoming more competitive. It demands continuous education, and developing newer and newer skills. What worked for then young engineers 20 years ago, shall not work for engineers graduating four years down the time lines. Challenge your wards to develop into more responsible professional and most importantly into good human beings. Be firm with their studies and don't expect the short cuts to work in long run.

- ❖ Be available for your kid whenever he/she needs you
- ❖ Just admitting your kid into a college does not complete your responsibility. Please ensure to review his progress on regular basis. Please get involved even if you do not know the field.
- ❖ Make sure that you visit him/her regularly, check on his team members and see the atmosphere is conducive for his/her growth as an individual.
- ❖ You are investing your savings and time in your kid. Please see that he/she is developing every day to be an independent individual and most importantly a good human being.
- ❖ It is a very competitive world. Professional success depends on Performance and NOT on degree certificates. Please emphasis on him/her to be different from others to stand out in a crowd.
- ❖ Update yourself in the area of technology and try to learn what is new in the field so that you too can have meaningful discussion with your ward.

