



Tips for high school students while preparing for post-secondary study

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It's tough being in high school as it is but it is even tougher when the time comes for a candidate to make the life-changing decision of selecting a post-secondary institution that best suits their needs. On one hand, there is pressure from parents who want their children to get good grades to enable them to get into the best possible college. On the other hand, the students are often left alone to figure out a college and career path. This can lead to confusion, uncertainty, indecision and frustration for many students - especially those who have given little or no thought to college. Following are some tips that you may need to keep in mind while preparing for college:

- Get the best grades in high school. One thing you have to keep in mind is you are competing for college placement against hundreds of thousands of other students in the country as well as around the world. So, do not get irritated when your parents keep reminding you to work harder to obtain higher grades.
- Get as involved with your high school activities as you possibly can. Selecting the right candidates requires that admissions officers look beyond academic achievement. They may also look at other factors that set you apart from the rest. For example, your involvement in community service, clubs and organizations in the school, etc.

- Select the major that you are most interested in and would like to pursue. Before disagreeing or agreeing with your parents, make sure you collect as much information as you possibly can on the major or field of study you intend to pursue to help your parents understand why you are passionate about it. Ultimately, students and parents have to be on the same page when it comes to college.

- Gather information on your university of choice. It is very important that high school students see their university of choice early. Log on to the college websites to find out more, work hard to understand the admissions requirements, find out how long it takes to obtain a college degree/certificate, what do most of the students do once they graduate from the college, etc.

As you think through a career path and field of study for college, following are some of the top careers for the 21st Century.

- **The Technology Industry.** There are many options in this category, including computer science, systems analysis and database management.

- **The Multimedia & Publishing Industry.** This category covers a lot of careers including video editor, multimedia specialist, graphic design, copy editors, 3-D Animation and others.

- **Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations.** For any organization to succeed in its field, it requires a lot of publicity. These are careers in generating that publicity and exposure for clients. Among the careers one can pursue are market researcher, account manager, media relations coordinator, media consultant.

- **Health care.** Without a doubt, the health care field is filled with careers that can be pursued in any century from nursing to pharmacy, occupational therapist, physical therapist, nutritionist and dietician.

- **Education.** Learning is a life long process. There will always be students enrolling for studies at any given time and while there will also be teachers who will be retiring giving opportunities for others in the field. One can choose to become a teacher in any level from KG to high school, or a lecturer, private tutor, curriculum developer, professional development trainer and special education teacher.

