

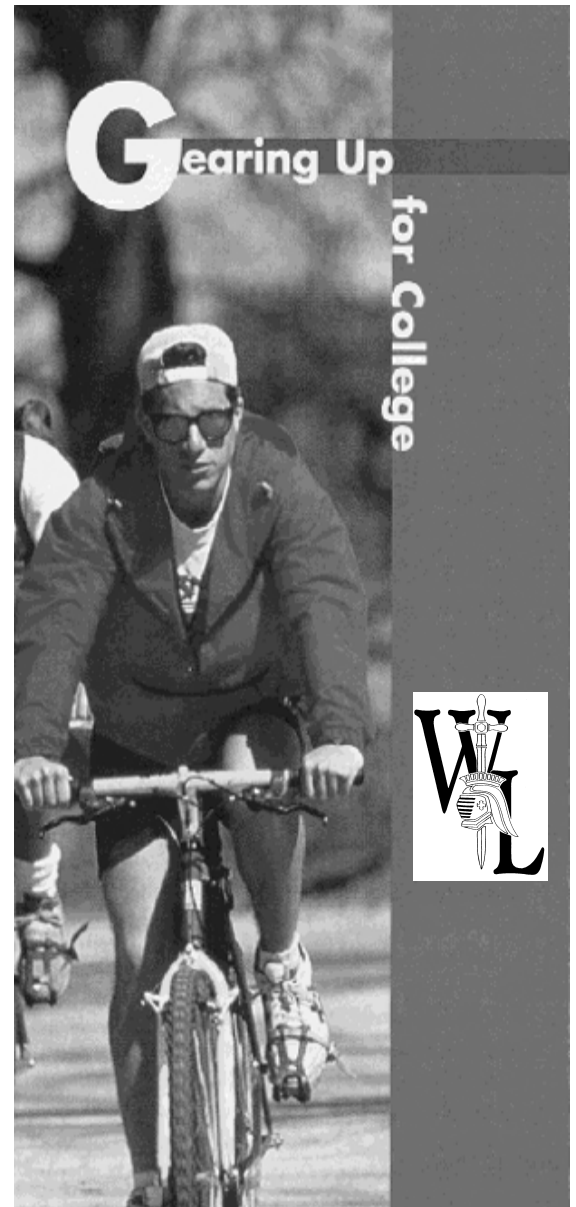
Riding a bicycle and planning for college have a few things in common.

If you choose to ride in first gear, pedaling is easy but you don't get very far.

If you choose to pedal at a higher gear, you will have to pedal harder, but you will reach your destination much faster.

Choosing classes in high school follows the same principle. You can choose courses that will let you pedal easily for now. Those courses do not prepare you for college level work.

If you choose more difficult classes, you will have to work harder, but you will be more likely to reach your destination of college.



College Stats

- Americans over age 25 who hold a college degree: 23%
- Number of schools in US : 3632
 - 78% public 22% private
 - 61% four year 39 % two year
- Number of religious schools: 800
- Most difficult school for admission: Harvard Percent accepted: 11%
- Average distance traveled from home to attend college: 71 miles

The choices you make during high school will affect the options you will have available in the future.

- ◆ You need to earn the privilege to attend a college or university. Schools will look at your grades and test scores to determine IF you are accepted
- ◆ If you choose to work hard and learn how to study while in high school, you will have a wide variety of options for life after high school.
- ◆ Students who 'coast' through high school have very few options. Some of the easiest students to counsel are the students with a 2.0 GPA (C average) and a 16 on the ACT test. They can choose to work or possibly go to community college

If you desire to attend a highly selective college (U of M, Kalamazoo) you are competing against other talented students for admission. Your record should include a minimum 3.5 GPA including honors courses, ACT test scores near 30 or above, leadership in activities, and community service

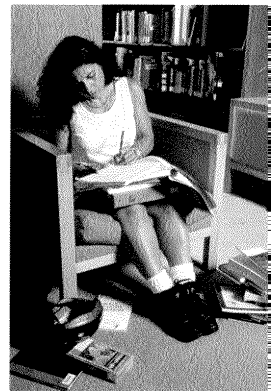
What do I have to do to be admitted?

You need to graduate from high school, get good grades in academic college prep classes, and score well on the ACT assessment.

What do colleges look for?

College admission staffs look for GPA, ACT score, difficulty of classes, activities, leadership, and the quality of the admission essay. Listed are some general minimums to help you plan. Each college sets their own exact standards.

	GPA	ACT
▪ Community Coll	2.0	17
▪ Traditional	3.0	21
▪ Selective	3.5	27



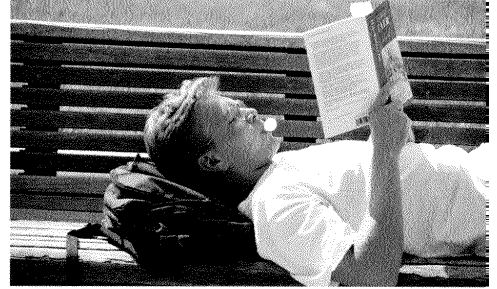
Which high school courses should I take?

The following courses are the **minimum** that you will need to enter a 4-year school. Some highly competitive schools require more.

- 4 years of high school English, including composition and literature.
- 3 years of social science, including history.
- 3 years of mathematics, including algebra and geometry and higher mathematics.
- 3 years of laboratory science, such as IPS, biology, chemistry or physics.
- Two years of a single foreign language

How much does college cost?

	Community	Public	Private
Tuition	\$3000	\$ 9000	\$19000
Room/Board	---	\$ 6000	\$ 6000
Books	\$1000	\$ 1000	\$ 1000
Total	\$4000	\$16,000	\$26,000



How will I pay for college?

More than one-third of all college students depend on some type of financial aid. Aid is available as:

Gift Aid: Scholarships and grants

Self-help: Loans and work-study employment.

Students and their families who need the most help to pay for college usually will qualify for gift aid - grants that do not have to be repaid. For students and their families who need less help, most of the financial aid will be self-help or loan money which must be paid back after college. Many students also work part-time while going to college.

When should I take the ACT?

You should register to take the ACT in the spring of your junior year. The tests are given on Saturday mornings, 5 times per year (in October, December, February, April, and June). Registration forms are available in the Guidance Office. Forms must be sent in approximately one month before the test date. The testing fee is \$28 for 2003-04. You may retake the test the fall of your senior year to improve your score if necessary.

What is class rank?

Class rank used by some colleges to compare you to your classmates. It is determined by comparing the average of your grades to the grade averages of students in your class. Most schools prefer that you rank in the top half of your class or higher.

Which grades are most important?

Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior grades are equally important in the college admission process. Your college admission application which you file during the fall of your senior year will ask for your cumulative GPA from grades 9, 10, and 11. That means your Freshman grades count for 1/3 of your cumulative GPA.

Some colleges will recalculate your GPA to only include your core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) and not count electives (Art, Music, Computer, Phys Ed) or will only count grades 10 and 11.

What should I do to be well prepared for college?

College-level work requires strong skills in reading, writing and mathematics. You should take high school courses that will help you develop skills in these areas. Courses in foreign language are also recommended. Requirements for many college majors go beyond the high school courses generally needed for admission. For example, if you think you might want to major in engineering, you should take chemistry, physics, computer science and four years of math. Majors such as business, allied health, agriculture and many others also require additional high school preparation.

Right now you probably aren't sure which major you will choose in college. This makes it very important to keep your options open by taking more than the minimum number of courses needed for admission.

Should I take an AP class?

AP (Advanced Placement) classes challenge talented students to learn at a college prep level. Three AP classes are available to LHWL students:

- AP US History for Juniors
- AP Calculus AB for Seniors.

Students pay around \$90 to take the AP test in the spring. Students who score a 3,4, or 5 may earn college credit for that course.

What about math classes?

Many colleges will only count Algebra and above as high school level math. Colleges that require 3 years of high school math mean Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra. What if you don't do well in Algebra or Geometry? You may only have the option of a community college.

Are activities & service important?

Colleges are looking for good all-around students. Make sure your record will show service and leadership through your activities. It is more important to make a significant contribution to one activity than to make a minimal contribution to many activities.

WWW SITES

www.actstudent.org

www.princetonreview.com:

www.wiredscholar.com

www.collegequest.com

www.fastweb.com

www.myfuture.com