

College Admission and Scholarships

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar
www.HomeHighSchoolHelp.com
"Helping parents homeschool high school"

No reason for fear

- Be relaxed, be engaged, be balanced. Parents are the best guidance counselors

Planning High School

- Plan a rigorous curriculum
- Be prepared to meet college requirements
- Use the Planning Guide frequently
- Exceed requirements for big scholarships
- Specialization, delight directed learning
- Work skills, life skills, and character

Planning Guide Rigorous Curriculum for College Preparation	
English	4 years
Math	3-4 years
Social Studies	3-4 years
Science	3 years, one with lab
Foreign language	2-3 years of a single language
PE	2 years
Fine arts	1 year or more
Electives	As needed
Total credits: 20-24 or more	

Preparing for College

Take the PSAT: 10th grade fun, 11th grade profit
Junior year tasks are critical. Plan these steps:

- Fall: PSAT in October, attend college fairs
- Spring: visit colleges, SAT or ACT in spring
- Decide on colleges where you will apply
- Parents complete all high school records

High School Level Tests	
PLAN	Optional in 10 th
PSAT	10 th for fun, 11 th for profit
SAT	Spring of 11 th grade
ACT	Spring of 11 th grade
Subject Tests	
SAT Subject Test	Spring after subject complete
AP: college level	Spring after subject complete
CLEP: college level	Anytime, year round

Finding a College

- First step is attending a college fair
- Research college statistics carefully
- Visit the college and take notes. Visiting a college is the ONLY way to know it's a fit
- Ivy League aspirations: research colleges early, exceed expectations, have a back-up plan
- All students should apply to at least 4-8 colleges, with Reach, Fit, and Safety Schools.

Applying to College

- Complete college applications early, before Thanksgiving in senior year
- Application essays take time; long, self-reflective, technically perfect essays
- Parents complete and send all homeschool records

Getting Scholarships

- National Merit Scholarship: PSAT junior year, junior year SAT, homeschool records
- Private scholarship search: find, filter, format, follow through, file experience in transcript
- Scholarships increase with test preparation, scholarship competitions and interviews
- Count the true cost of colleges, the cost out of pocket.
- Scholarships come in waves during senior year: based on tests, based on need, based on merit

Facing Reality: each situation is unique

- Parents create diamonds: children with character will succeed

Resources

- [The HomeScholar Guide to College Admission and Scholarships](#)
- [Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions](#)