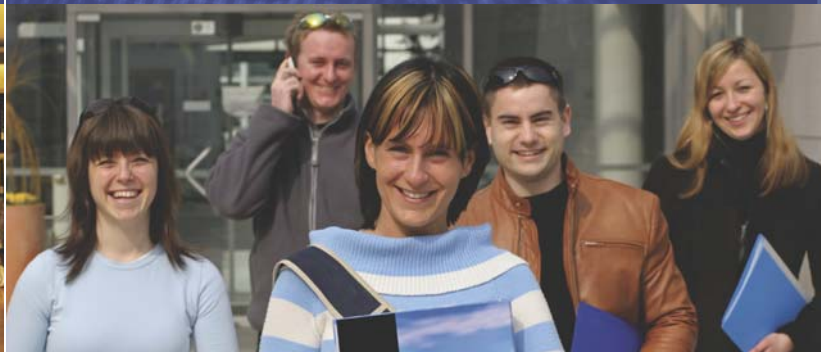


# The College Journey



2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

This outreach effort was sponsored by:



# Parental Support

## You Play a Crucial Role in Your Child's Journey Toward College

Providing for the future of our children is the top priority of any parent. One way to ensure their success is through education. Simply put, more education equals more options. You can help your children start their college preparation as early as elementary school and your support and guidance throughout middle school and high school are critical to helping them achieve their goals and dreams. This publication is designed to help you and your child navigate this journey as well as provide useful tips and guidelines to help you on your road to a brighter future.

Legend:

• Student Track

• Parent Track

### Elementary & Middle School

- Seek out academic challenges.
- Attend school regularly.
- Develop good study habits.
- Become involved in school and community-based extracurricular activities.
- Discuss career and college options with your child.
- Encourage your child to aim high and explore all options.
- Plan ahead for high school.
- Take Algebra I in eighth grade.
- Plan to take Math, English, science, and history or geography every year in high school.
- Plan to take a foreign language, computer, and visual or performing arts classes.
- Stay in touch with your school counselor to keep up with changing college requirements.

### High School

- Meet as a family with your guidance counselor to map out your child's high school curriculum.
- Seek out academic challenges.
- Become involved in school and

community-based extracurricular activities.

- Familiarize yourself with the college admissions and financial aid processes.
- Help your child research and make a list of colleges that he or she would like to attend and research them early.

### Financial Aid

- Start researching types of financial aid early. The major types of aid are grants (do not need to be repaid), scholarships (do not need to be repaid), student employment, and student loans (must be repaid).
- The U.S. Department of Education publishes The Student Guide which can be found at [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html) or you can request it by phone at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Another great source of information is EdFund's *Fund Your Future Student Financial Aid Workbook* which can be found at [www.edfund.org/pdfs/i-2.4.pdf](http://www.edfund.org/pdfs/i-2.4.pdf) or you can request it by phone at 1-877-

2EDFUND.

- Apply early. This means January of your senior year of high school.
- Most forms of financial aid (grants, some forms of employment and loans) require the student to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be found online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or you can request it by phone at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Attend all college nights and financial aid workshops offered at your high school or in your area. You may hear something you didn't know a second time around.
- You can list up to 10 colleges on your FAFSA, so be sure to send it to all schools to which you've applied for admission.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant: These new grant programs are available for students eligible for the Pell Grant. There is no additional application required: at the time you complete the FAFSA you will be asked a series of questions. If you are eligible for the grants your college will notify you. The ACG is available to high school graduates who completed a "rigorous" high school curriculum, and provides additional grant funding the first and second years of college. For more information go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/AcademicGrants.jsp>. The



National SMART Grant is available to students in their third and fourth year of college who carry a 3.0 grade point average and major in specific science, math, engineering, technology and foreign language programs. For more information go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/SmartGrants.jsp?>

- Find out the scholarship deadlines for the colleges at which you've applied for admission. Sometimes the scholarship application is combined with the admissions application; sometimes scholarships require a separate application.
- Don't forget to request high school transcripts – leave yourself plenty of time to request high school transcripts if a scholarship requires them.
- Research all types of scholarships. Contact your high school counselor, keep an eye on announcements in your local paper, and research on the Internet. A popular scholarship web site is [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) which matches you with scholarships for which you should apply.

### ROTC Scholarships & Military Academies

Contact your senators or Congressional representative regarding a nomination if you are applying for a military academy. You can also visit [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com) for information on ROTC scholarships.

### What Kinds of Jobs Can You Get with a College Education?

One of the major benefits of acquiring a college education is having more jobs from which to choose. Talk to your child and ask about what kinds of professions interest him or her.

Two-Year College (Associate degree)

- Automotive Mechanic
- Computer Animation
- Dental Hygienist
- Heating, Air, and Refrigeration Technician
- Medical Laboratory Technician

- Registered Nurse
- Four-Year College (Bachelor's degree)
- Anthropologist
  - Biomedical Researcher
  - Civil Engineer
  - Journalist
  - Registered Nurse
  - Teacher

More than four years (graduate and professional degrees)

- Dentist
- Lawyer
- Pharmacist
- Physician
- Scientist
- Veterinarian

A great source for this type of information is the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) which is free of charge to all Nevada residents. The NCIS is a computer-based system that combines a wealth of career, education and labor market information into one comprehensive exploration tool. Visit [www.nvcis.intocareers.org](http://www.nvcis.intocareers.org) and click on the NCIS icon for more information: username: ncis; password: Nevada

As students mature and learn more about the requirements of different professions, they will be in a better position to make a degree program decision.

### College Requirements

#### Basic Community College Requirements

- High school graduate
- At least 18 years old

#### Basic State College Requirements

- High school graduate
- At least 18 years old
- GPA score of at least 2.0

#### Basic University Requirements

- High school graduate
- ACT/SAT completion
- At least 18 years old
- GPA score of 3.0 (weighted) in the required high school courses for admission



The best way to prepare for meeting the costs of college is to begin saving early. Set aside money each month, to build a college fund.

One innovative option is the **Nevada College Savings Plan** (also

known as a "529 plan").

With the Nevada College Savings Plan, you

can open an account on behalf of a

designated beneficiary. Your contribu-

tions can be invested in Prepaid Tuition

Contracts (which allow you to lock in

your tuition expenses at the current

year's rate for future attendance), or

contribute to professionally managed

investment portfolios. Call the Office

of the State Treasurer toll free for more

information at (888) 477-2667 or at

[www.nevadatreasurer.gov](http://www.nevadatreasurer.gov). You can also

contact your personal financial institu-

tion and inquire about what college

tuition savings plans they may offer.

### The State of Nevada's Millennium

**Scholarship program** provides financial

support to Nevada's high school grad-

uates who plan to attend a Nevada col-

lege or university. Students can view the

latest program and eligibility require-

ments at [www.nevadatreasurer.gov](http://www.nevadatreasurer.gov).

You may receive up to a maximum award

of \$10,000 for undergraduate course-

work during the years following your

high school graduation. There is no ap-

plication form to complete. If you meet

all Millennium Scholarship requirements

upon high school graduation, your

school or district will submit your name

to the Office of the State Treasurer. You

will receive award notification in the

summer after your graduation. Policy

guidelines can also be obtained by call-

ing 1-888-477-2667.

**State of Nevada High School Courses Recommended for College & the Millennium Scholarship**

**History & Geography / 2-3 years (required)**

- Civics
- Geography
- U.S. Government
- U.S. History
- World History
- World Cultures

**Foreign Language / 2-3 years**

- French
- German
- Japanese
- Latin
- Russian
- Spanish

**Mathematics / 3-4 years (required)**

- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Precalculus
- Calculus

**English / 4 years (required)**

- Composition
- American Literature
- World Literature

**Laboratory Science / 2-3 years (required)**

- Biology
- Earth Science
- Chemistry
- Physics

**Visual & Performing Arts / 1 year**

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

**Appropriate Electives / 1-3 years**

- Communications
- Computer Science
- Statistics
- Economics
- Psychology

*It is highly recommended that Nevada high school students take math and English composition in their senior year.*

**CONTACTS**

**College of Southern Nevada**

(702) 651-4060 *Admissions*  
 (702) 651-4047 *Financial aid*  
[www.csn.edu](http://www.csn.edu)

**Great Basin College**

(775) 753-2102 *Admissions*  
 (775) 753-2399 *Financial aid*  
[www.gbcnv.edu](http://www.gbcnv.edu)

**Truckee Meadows Community College**

(775) 673-7042 *Admissions*  
 (775) 673-7072 *Financial aid*  
[www.tmcc.edu](http://www.tmcc.edu)

**Western Nevada College**

(775) 445-3277 *Admissions*  
 (775) 445-3058 *Financial aid*  
[www.wncn.nevada.edu](http://www.wncn.nevada.edu)

**Nevada State College**

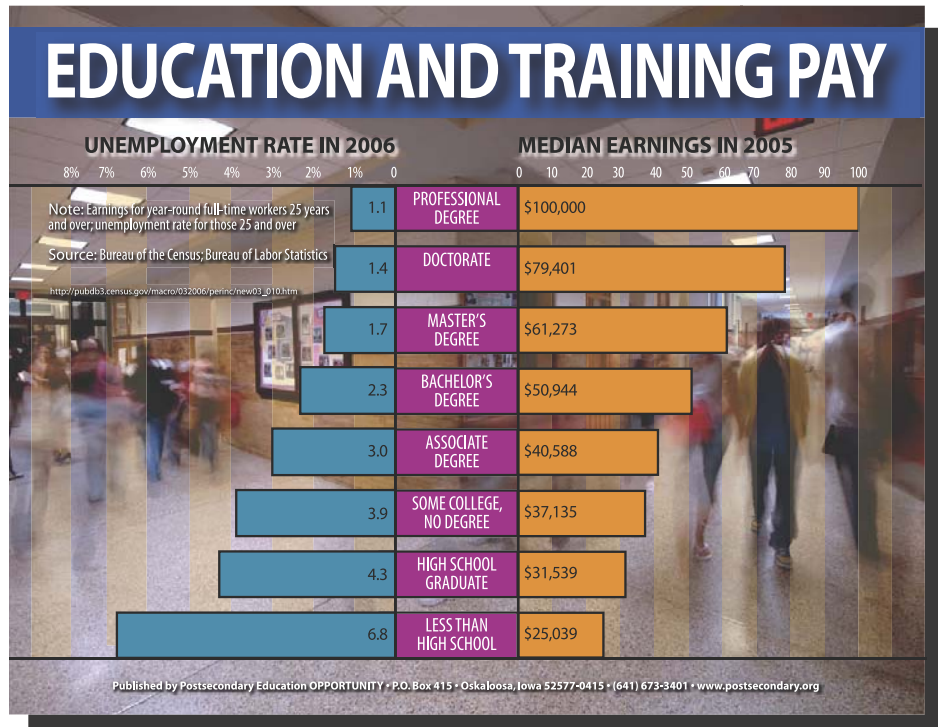
(702) 992-2130 *Admissions*  
 (702) 992-2150 *Financial aid*  
[www.nsc.nevada.edu](http://www.nsc.nevada.edu)

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

(702) 774-8658 *Admissions*  
 (702) 895-3424 *Financial aid*  
[www.unlv.edu](http://www.unlv.edu)

**University of Nevada, Reno**

(775) 784-4700 *Admissions*  
 (775) 784-4666 *Financial aid*  
[www.unr.edu](http://www.unr.edu)



**Apprenticeship Programs**

Apprenticeship programs are the path to a well-paying career that affords an excellent benefits package. These programs combine classwork with paid on-the-job training. Students earn while they learn. A solid foundation in math and English is necessary for high school students. Technical courses such as Pre-Veterinary Medicine, 3-D Animation (to name a few) are also beneficial. For further information, please reference the Occupational Handbook at [www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/).

Nevada's community colleges have established partnerships with the trade union apprenticeship programs. Most JATC (Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee) apprenticeships offer college credits during their training. In most cases, these college credits are paid for by the apprenticeship programs and not the student-apprentices.

**Partnership Programs Union**

- Bricklayers & Tile Setters, JATC  
 Southern: (702) 876-6563  
 Northern: (702) 876-6563
- Carpenters, JATC  
 Southern: (702) 452-5099  
 Northern: (775) 856-4660
- Electrical, JATC  
 Southern: (702) 459-7949  
 Northern: (775) 358-4301

**Iron Workers, JATC**

Southern: (702) 643-7991  
 Northern: (916) 428-7420

**Laborers, JATC**

Southern: (702) 452-9410  
 Northern: (775) 856-3660

**Operating Engineers, JATC**

Southern: (702) 643-1212  
 Northern: (775) 575-2729

**Painters & Allied Trades, JATC**

Southern: (702) 438-2611  
 Northern: (775) 323-0567

**Plasters/Cement Masons, JATC**

Southern: (702) 452-8809  
 Northern: (702) 452-8809

**Plumbers & Pipefitters, JATC**

Southern: (702) 459-3473  
 Northern: (775) 359-2229

**Sheet Metal Workers, JATC**

Southern: (702) 632-3014  
 Northern: (775) 331-6393

**Stationary Engineers, JATC**

Southern: (702) 385-5005  
 Northern: (775) 358-3939

**Teamsters, JATC**

Southern: (702) 651-0344  
 Northern: (775) 348-6060

**Non-Union**

- Assoc. of Builders/Contractors  
 Southern: (702) 227-0536  
 Northern: (775) 358-7888
- Nevada Child Care Apprenticeship Program  
 Southern: (702) 486-1476  
 Northern: (775) 448-5276
- TEACH-Early Childhood Nevada  
 Northern: (775) 448-5203

# How to Get into College

A step-by-step guide to attending a Nevada university, state college or community college

## GRADE 6

- An early start will develop good study habits that will return positive results throughout your high school years.
- This is the time for you and your family to look ahead and start to create a pathway that will lead you to college.
- Encourage your child to challenge him or herself academically, attend school regularly, develop good study habits, and become involved in school and community-based extracurricular activities.
- Visit the middle school counselor and discuss if college preparatory classes are offered.
- Math, English, science, history or geography should be taken every year of middle school. These subjects form the core of academic preparation for college.
- Attend college information day programs at your school to find out about Nevada colleges and universities.
- Develop a savings plan for college.

## GRADE 7

- Continue keeping your grades high and put special effort into math and English.
- Take a foreign language.
- Visit a college campus.
- Continue to save for college using your savings plan.
- Discuss career and college options with your child and encourage his or her aspirations to aim high and to explore all options.
- Make sure that your child starts on a college preparatory track in middle school and junior high school. If students don't take the right courses in middle school, they may be shut out of the college preparatory track in high school.
- If your child is struggling in college preparatory coursework, now is the time to find the appropriate tutor!
- This is the time for you and your family to look ahead and start to create a pathway that will lead you to college.
- Visit the middle school counselor and discuss if college preparatory classes are offered.
- Math, English, science, history or geography should be taken every year of middle school. These subjects form the core of academic preparation for college.
- Attend college information day programs at your school to find out about Nevada colleges and universities.

## GRADE 8

- If you have not yet taken algebra, now is the time.
- You should also begin to explore the many college and career information resources available on the Internet by using your home computer, or accessing a computer at your school or local library.
- Take a foreign language.
- Take the ACT EXPLORE assessment test.
- Think about college expenses. The best way to prepare for meeting the costs of college is to begin saving early. Set aside money each month, starting now, to build a college fund.

## GRADE 9

- As a high school student, you will begin to take on more of the college planning work.
- Develop a student planner of courses you will need to take to graduate and be eligible for college admission. Use the *High School Courses Recommended for College* chart in this guide. Your student planner should also include projected SAT and ACT test dates, and identify the grade point average you will need to meet current admission requirements.
- You will want to attend high school open houses, meet with your high school counselor, and become familiar with all the college admissions and financial aid processes.
- The Nevada Millennium Scholarship is your financial passport into Nevada colleges and universities. Become familiar with eligibility requirements by visiting [www.nevadatreasurer.gov](http://www.nevadatreasurer.gov).
- Attach to your planner a list of your activities, awards, community service, and other unique educational experiences. This will serve as the beginning of a resume that you can use when writing college and scholarship applications.
- Coursework should include algebra or geometry, English, social studies, biology, and a foreign language.
- You may wish to explore the opportunities offered at community college high schools. Students attend them during their junior and senior years of high school and take both high school and college courses. Students may graduate high school with college credits completed.
- Take ACT EXPLORE assessment test.
- Continue to save for college using your savings plan.

## GRADE 10

- Your student planner should be updated to include completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes and upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- Meet with your high school counselor to confirm that you are on the right track. Remember that college requirements and application deadlines might have been updated since creating your student planner during the prior year. You should request updated information annually.
- Take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) to help prepare for the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) in high school.
- Some high schools offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. AP courses are college-level courses and they help prepare you for college-level work while still in high school. Students who take AP courses are often more prepared for the academic challenges presented in college. Check with your counselor to see if your high school offers AP courses and exams and how you might earn college credit.
- Stay aware of the requirements for the Nevada Millennium Scholarship.
- In addition to the placement exams, you will be required to pass the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). Your high school will provide you with information on test dates, retakes, and test content. You must achieve passing scores in reading, math, science, and writing sections in order to receive a standard diploma.
- As your college fund continues to grow, begin to investigate federal, state, and private financial aid.
- Visit local campuses, take visitor tours and ask the guides about their college experiences.
- Your coursework should include geometry or algebra II, English, social studies, chemistry, and a foreign language.
- Take ACT PLAN assessment test.
- Help your child research and make a list of colleges that he or she would like to attend. Start to investigate price, distance from home, and curriculum.

## GRADE 11

- Update your student planner to include completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes and upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- Your coursework should include advanced math, physics, social studies, and English.
- Maintain "As" and "Bs". Your Nevada Millennium Scholarship depends on it.
- Nevada's colleges and universities offer courses for dual credit. That means when you take a recognized college course you receive both high school and college credit. Talk to your counselor to see if your high school has a dual credit agreement with your local university or community college.
- Consider taking AP (Advanced Placement) classes.
- Check if your school offers the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This practice test helps prepare you for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). A student who does well on this test, and who meets many other academic performance criteria, may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Talk to your guidance counselor, or call the National Merit Scholarship Program office directly at (847) 866-5100.
- Now is the time to create a list of potential colleges that you would like to attend. Send letters or emails to the colleges on your list requesting information, and evaluate the materials with your parents. Remember, the Millennium Scholarship is your financial passport into Nevada's colleges and universities.
- Attend college fairs and sessions with college representatives at your school to get more information. All Nevada colleges and universities have programs for visiting high school students. Try and make an appointment to attend a campus tour.
- Schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor to learn more about the college's financial aid opportunities. Be sure to bring your parents – their participation is important and everyone will gain very valuable information.
- Take your college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) in the spring or summer. You will get the results back in time to see if you need to retake the test in the fall of your senior year. Registration for exams is at least one month in advance, or sooner. Add test scores to your student planner when received. Prepare for the ACT or SAT by reviewing books with testing tips and sample questions. These can be found in bookstores, libraries, and schools, or accessed on the Internet. Attend a workshop on how to prepare for the exam. Financial aid may be available for some workshops and test fees. Find more information about these tests by visiting their websites at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT).
- Apply for a Social Security Number since it is required on many college and financial aid applications.
- Continue your research on federal, state, and private scholarships by finding out what awards students in your school and community are receiving.
- Make sure your child takes any required college admissions tests and submits all admissions, financial aid, and any campus housing paperwork on time. It is crucial that you are aware of the submission deadlines. They vary among schools and are subject to change.

## GRADE 12

- Make sure you will have completed at least four years of math (including at least algebra I, II and geometry), four years of English, three years of science (with at least two years in a laboratory science), and three years of social studies.
- **Early August:** Update your student planner to include completed 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes and upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- Review transcripts with your counselor to ensure that they are accurate and you are meeting all of your college preparatory and Nevada Millennium Scholarship requirements. Review your college plans and evaluate them in light of your test scores and junior year grades.
- Continue the college application process. You and your family should meet with your guidance counselor to become familiar with the college admissions and financial aid processes. *Some universities and colleges have fall deadlines while others are in the spring. Setting up a calendar with all the various tasks and deadlines associated with the application process will be very helpful to submit paperwork on time. Set aside plenty of time to draft, edit, and re-write application essays.*
- Register for ACT or SAT if you either did not take the test last year, or if you have decided to retake the test.
- Continue to visit and obtain information on the colleges or universities that you have included on your potential list.
- **Early October:** Note all college application deadlines and file yours accordingly. If you want to live on campus, and have not already done so, complete a housing/meal plan application.
- **December:** Begin researching the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available through your high school or on the internet at the U.S. Department of Education site ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)). The site will also provide financial aid and eligibility information and can calculate an estimated financial aid package.
- Work with your parents to complete the FAFSA form on or as soon after January 1 as possible. Send it no later than February 1 to be considered for the maximum amount of available awards. You should receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the financial aid processor. If you have not received your SAR within four weeks after you file your FAFSA form, call 1-800-4FED-AID to inquire about your application status.
- **January:** Request that your high school send the transcript of your first semester senior year grades to the colleges to which you've applied.
- **February/March:** Monitor your applications to make sure that all materials are sent and received on time. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy. If necessary, correct any inaccurate items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor. When a corrected SAR is returned to you, review and keep a copy for your records. If a college requests your SAR, submit it promptly. Do this even if your SAR says you are not eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant, as the college may be able to offer you other aid based on the information in that report.
- **April:** Review your financial aid award letters with your parents; be sure that you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid offered.
- Review all college acceptance letters. Decide on the one college that you will attend and send in your tuition deposit. Notify all other colleges in writing, no later than May 1, that you have selected another school. Other applicants will be hoping to receive your spot.
- If you are on a college waiting list, notify the admissions office and let them know that you are still interested.
- **May:** Work with your parents to establish a budget for your books, supplies, and living expenses. Determine how much of that budget grants and scholarships will cover, how much your parents will contribute, and how much you will need to supply.
- **June:** Request that your high school send a copy of your final transcripts to the college you will attend.
- Notify the college of any private grants or scholarships you will receive, as this may affect your other financial awards.
- Find out when payment for tuition, room, board, etc. will be due.
- Be sure to understand how financial aid will be disbursed and whether you can defer bill payment until the funds are available.
- Devise a budget with your child and determine how much will be covered by financial aid, how much you'll provide, and how much your child will contribute by working and/or borrowing.
- **July/August:** Look for information from your new college about housing, orientation, course selection, etc.
- Receive your Millennium Scholarship award in the mail.
- Pack for college and look forward to a stimulating and rewarding experience!

## Legend

● Student Track ● Parent Track

## Additional Copies

This brochure is available online at [www.nevada.edu/gotocollege](http://www.nevada.edu/gotocollege) or by contacting the Nevada System of Higher Education at (775) 784-4901

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- Help your child research and make a list of colleges that he or she would like to attend. Start to investigate price, distance from home, and curriculum.

## GRADE 11

- Update your student planner to include completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes and upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- Your coursework should include advanced math, physics, social studies, and English.
- Maintain "As" and "Bs". Your Nevada Millennium Scholarship depends on it.
- Nevada's colleges and universities offer courses for dual credit. That means when you take a recognized college course you receive both high school and college credit. Talk to your counselor to see if your high school has a dual credit agreement with your local university or community college.
- Consider taking AP (Advanced Placement) classes.
- Check if your school offers the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This practice test helps prepare you for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). A student who does well on this test, and who meets many other academic performance criteria, may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Talk to your guidance counselor, or call the National Merit Scholarship Program office directly at (847) 866-5100.
- Now is the time to create a list of potential colleges that you would like to attend. Send letters or emails to the colleges on your list requesting information, and evaluate the materials with your parents. Remember, the Millennium Scholarship is your financial passport into Nevada's colleges and universities.
- Attend college fairs and sessions with college representatives at your school to get more information. All Nevada colleges and universities have programs for visiting high school students. Try and make an appointment to attend a campus tour.
- Schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor to learn more about the college's financial aid opportunities. Be sure to bring your parents – their participation is important and everyone will gain very valuable information.
- Take your college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) in the spring or summer. You will get the results back in time to see if you need to retake the test in the fall of your senior year. Registration for exams is at least one month in advance, or sooner. Add test scores to your student planner when received. Prepare for the ACT or SAT by reviewing books with testing tips and sample questions. These can be found in bookstores, libraries, and schools, or accessed on the Internet. Attend a workshop on how to prepare for the exam. Financial aid may be available for some workshops and test fees. Find more information about these tests by visiting their websites at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT).
- Apply for a Social Security Number since it is required on many college and financial aid applications.
- Continue your research on federal, state, and private scholarships by finding out what awards students in your school and community are receiving.
- Make sure your child takes any required college admissions tests and submits all admissions, financial aid, and any campus housing paperwork on time. It is crucial that you are aware of the submission deadlines. They vary among schools and are subject to change.

## GRADE 12

- Make sure you will have completed at least four years of math (including at least algebra I, II and geometry), four years of English, three years of science (with at least two years in a laboratory science), and three years of social studies.
- **Early August:** Update your student planner to include completed 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes and upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- Review transcripts with your counselor to ensure that they are accurate and you are meeting all of your college preparatory and Nevada Millennium Scholarship requirements. Review your college plans and evaluate them in light of your test scores and junior year grades.
- Continue the college application process. You and your family should meet with your guidance counselor to become familiar with the college admissions and financial aid processes. *Some universities and colleges have fall deadlines while others are in the spring. Setting up a calendar with all the various tasks and deadlines associated with the application process will be very helpful to submit paperwork on time. Set aside plenty of time to draft, edit, and re-write application essays.*
- Register for ACT or SAT if you either did not take the test last year, or if you have decided to retake the test.
- Continue to visit and obtain information on the colleges or universities that you have included on your potential list.
- **Early October:** Note all college application deadlines and file yours accordingly. If you want to live on campus, and have not already done so, complete a housing/meal plan application.
- **December:** Begin researching the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available through your high school or on the internet at the U.S. Department of Education site ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)). The site will also provide financial aid and eligibility information and can calculate an estimated financial aid package.
- Work with your parents to complete the FAFSA form on or as soon after January 1 as possible. Send it no later than February 1 to be considered for the maximum amount of available awards. You should receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the financial aid processor. If you have not received your SAR within four weeks after you file your FAFSA form, call 1-800-4FED-AID to inquire about your application status.
- **January:** Request that your high school send the transcript of your first semester senior year grades to the colleges to which you've applied.
- **February/March:** Monitor your applications to make sure that all materials are sent and received on time. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy. If necessary, correct any inaccurate items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor. When a corrected SAR is returned to you, review and keep a copy for your records. If a college requests your SAR, submit it promptly. Do this even if your SAR says you are not eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant, as the college may be able to offer you other aid based on the information in that report.
- **April:** Review your financial aid award letters with your parents; be sure that you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid offered.
- Review all college acceptance letters. Decide on the one college that you will attend and send in your tuition deposit. Notify all other colleges in writing, no later than May 1, that you have selected another school. Other applicants will be hoping to receive your spot.
- If you are on a college waiting list, notify the admissions office and let them know that you are still interested.
- **May:** Work with your parents to establish a budget for your books, supplies, and living expenses. Determine how much of that budget grants and scholarships will cover, how much your parents will contribute, and how much you will need to supply.
- **June:** Request that your high school send a copy of your final transcripts to the college you will attend.
- Notify the college of any private grants or scholarships you will receive, as this may affect your other financial awards.
- Find out when payment for tuition, room, board, etc. will be due.
- Be sure to understand how financial aid will be disbursed and whether you can defer bill payment until the funds are available.
- Devise a budget with your child and determine how much will be covered by financial aid, how much you'll provide, and how much your child will contribute by working and/or borrowing.
- **July/August:** Look for information from your new college about housing, orientation, course selection, etc.
- Receive your Millennium Scholarship award in the mail.
- Pack for college and look forward to a stimulating and rewarding experience!

## Legend

● Student Track ● Parent Track

## Additional Copies

This brochure is available online at [www.nevada.edu/gotocollege](http://www.nevada.edu/gotocollege) or by contacting the Nevada System of Higher Education at (775) 784-4901