“High school is a very important time in a teenager’s life – a time to learn more about one’s self and a springboard for future careers. The classes that you choose can help you understand both personal interests and career-related interests, and such are very important.”

“++Know your requirements – High schools have a list of required credits that you must take in order to graduate. Most high schools require four years of English and Math, three years each of Social Science; two years of a foreign language or art class (these vary); and various other credits.”

“++Know your choices – School give out a “course list”, a list of classes that are offered to the school. Skim through this list and mark all classes that interest you.”

“++Narrow it down – Look carefully at who is allowed to take the classes. Some classes are for upperclassmen only, or only for a specific grade.”

“++Make a list – All the classes that you want to take (that are provided for your grade level) should go on this list.”

“++Start with the basics – Required courses for each year can vary from school to school, but usually English, Math, Science, and some form of History are required. Sometimes high schools ask for Physical Education or a foreign language as well.” (Continued on page 4)

10 Things High School Students Should Never Post on Facebook – by Sarah Wright – Education Insider (cont. on pg. 4)

"High School is an important time for setting the stage for your future. Part of that is not doing anything stupid that can permanently impact how people see you. Unfortunately for today’s high school students, that includes not putting anything incriminating or stupid on Facebook.”

“1. Over-The-Top Party Pictures: Posting pictures of any age-inappropriate activities is just going to look immature.”

“2. Stupidly Insensitive Jokes: If you think there’s any chance that someone might be hurt or feel targeted by a Facebook post, you should consider just not posting it.”

“3. R-Rated Memes: You should not force everyone else to see the gross and weird stuff you see online by posting it in your Facebook feed.”

“4. Relationship Drama: Keeping the sordid details to yourself can help protect you and your social circle from unnecessary and potentially incriminating drama.”

“5. Insults About Teachers: You might feel the need to vent about a teacher, but it’s best to do that in a way that can’t be recorded.”

“6. Bullying Classmates: You will come off looking like a jerk if you bully a classmate on a social network.”

(Continued on page 4)
April - College Planning Tips

**Sophomores:**

*Meet with your school counselor to schedule classes for your junior year that will allow you to meet college entrance requirements.*

*Colleges look for involved students. Get involved in hobbies and extracurricular activities that match up with your career interests. Update your activities portfolio with your most recent involvements and achievements.*

*Look into different jobs through career fairs, job shadowing, volunteer work, internships or part-time jobs.*

*If your school offers one, attend a college planning night.*

**Seniors:**

*If required, sign and return your award letter to the college you plan to attend. If you need to take out a student loan, make sure you complete required applications/promissory notes. Borrow wisely. Your award letter will tell you the maximum amount you can borrow. You don’t have to borrow the entire amount. Create a budget so you only borrow what you need.*

*Finish strongly – make your final grades a top priority.*

*If you submitted your FAFSA, watch for your financial aid package(s) from the college(s) you’re applying to. Compare your award letters if you applied to more than one.*

**Juniors:**

*Take notes and compare your thoughts on each college after your visit.*

*If applicable, try to take the Advanced Placement exams while information is fresh in your mind.*

*Still looking for a college? Ask your school counselor how online tools like the one at [www.ihaveplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveplaniowa.gov) can help you.*

*Don’t forget to update your summer reading list.*

**Parents:**


*Talk over the next school year and what classes your student should take to prepare for college entrance requirements. Contact your school counselor for help.*

*Attend any college planning night that is being presented in your area.*

**College:**

Grad School
You might choose to go to graduate school after getting a four-year degree for one of two reasons:

- You want advanced knowledge that can be used in your career field (like getting a master’s in business to earn a higher starting salary).
- Your career requires skills or knowledge not available in an undergraduate program (like becoming a psychologist).

Whichever the case, remember that:

- College costs (and your potential debt level) will continue to build up.
- You likely will not be earning a full-time salary and attending school full-time.
- Graduate school will probably be more demanding in academics and practical experiences than your undergraduate program.

*From: Iowa College Access Network*

[www.icansucceed.org](http://www.icansucceed.org)
Career: Statisticians

Whether we know it or not, we rely on statisticians every day. A corporation that processes food, for example, might pay for a survey of families with two working parents to find out what new products they’d like to see in the frozen-food aisle. A drug company, on the other hand, must collect and study data when they test experimental drugs to make sure that they work and that they’re safe. And at a TV network, statisticians can use a technique called sampling to discover what the whole country is watching just by surveying a small group of viewers.

And that’s just in the business world. These masters of data can use their skills in fields as varied as medical research, public health, and economics.

Statisticians use math and computers to collect, study, and report on data.

Do you know?

An internship during college can really pay off. You’ll get real-world experience, build skills and make contacts.

Did You Know...?

Statisticians need strong speaking and writing skills so that they can communicate technical issues to people outside their field.

Outlook

Government economists expect jobs for statisticians to be as fast as the average for all careers through 2020. The large increase in data gathered from Internet use should create new jobs – statisticians will be needed to organize and analyze that data and to ensure its quality. Fore the best opportunities, combine a master’s degree in statistics with a strong background in a related field, such as finance, biology, engineering, or computer science.

Compensation


Are you ready to.....?

* Use computers to collect and analyze data
* Work as part of a team with engineers, economists, psychologists, and other professionals
* Work in an office
* Travel occasionally to consult on research projects, gather data, or set up surveys
* Balance teaching and research if you work at a university

It helps to be...

A curious problem solver who likes to conduct research and work with numbers.

Make High School Count

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a Statistician, you should:

* Build strong communication skills in English and speech classes. Part of being a statistician is interpreting data and explaining the results to others.
* Consider signing up for a class in psychology, a discipline in which statistics play a key role.
* Learn all you can about computers. As a statistician, you’ll use them constantly.
* Pay attention to the news and you’ll soon find examples of how statistics are used in a number of disciplines.
* Take advanced math classes, like AP Calculus and AP Statistics.

-2012 The College Board
How to Choose What High School Courses to Take (cont. from p. 1)

“Leave some wiggle room – Though it may be tempting to cram your schedule full of difficult classes, whether you are an overachiever or just would like to get them out of the way, resist. High School is a difficult time, and although you should take challenging courses, balance yourself out with courses with subjects you enjoy.”

“Keep your future in mind – Goals, dreams, aspirations…the eternal ‘what do you want to be when you grow up?’ question comes into play in high school. Here you start laying the foundation for your career. You should have a basic idea in your head of what you’d like to do in the future. If you absolutely have no idea, try researching careers. Remember, all plans are subject to change.”

10 Things High School Students Should Never Post on Facebook – (continued from pg. 1)

“7. Anything you Wouldn’t Want Your Parents to See: You only have yourself to blame when you actually get caught because of something you stupidly decided to share with the public.”

“8. Anything You Wouldn’t Want A College Admission Board to See: Facebook searches are a pretty standard part of the job application process. Don’t share any information you wouldn’t want to be judged by.”

“9. Links to Questionable Web Content: Others may not share your ideas of what is funny.”

“10. Gossip: Gossip is easy to spread online. It is hard to deny when everyone saw you post something with your name and picture next to it. Save yourself the social trouble and steer clear of gossip on Facebook.”

By Sarah Wright - April 5, 2013

About Our Organization…

Who are we?

A life-enhancing college-prep program that provides opportunities for capable and motivated high school students to gain the academic and life skills necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

* 100% funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
* Serving high school students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri since 1992