PREPARING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ADVANCED LEVEL
Preparing for Higher Education

- Prepare yourself academically
- Get into the right habits
- Explore potential interests
- Select and apply to schools right for your career goals
PREPARE YOURSELF ACADEMICALLY
Remediation – sequences of increasingly advanced courses designed to bring academically unprepared students to the academic skill level expected in higher education.

- Passing required classes in high school
- Ready for the same types of higher education classes
Remediation Classes

If remediation classes are required...

- They do **not** count toward your minimum degree or certificate credits
- It may take you longer to finish school
- It may add to the total cost of your education
Take a Placement Test While in High School

Admissions tests (ACT or SAT) provide an indication

Placement tests (Accuplacer Exams) at postsecondary institutions

Challenge yourself in high school
Academic Advisors

Meet Imani, your new advisee:

- About to graduate from high school
- Wants to attend higher education to become a lawyer but is not sure if she is ready
- Has little saved to pay for higher education

**YOUR MISSION:**

*Help Imani become better prepared for higher education*
Imani’s Academics

“I’m a pretty good student, a school leader, and I passed all of the state high school exams. I won’t have a problem getting into a college program.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Junior Grades</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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What do you notice about Imani’s academic performance?
**Imani’s Potential**

**Need for Remediation**

What suggestions do you have to help Imani prepare for higher education academics?

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GET INTO THE RIGHT HABITS

Develop positive behaviors that lead to post-secondary success!
Note Taking Skills

Challenge: you must determine the most important information

Solution: develop good note taking skills

- Be prepared
- Be a good listener
- Develop a method that works for you
- Pay attention to the content
- Review and edit your notes
Study Skills

Challenge
• It’s up to you to read and understand assigned materials

Why?
• Lectures and assignments proceed with this assumption

Solution
• Become a good reader
• Create an ideal learning environment
• Demonstrate discipline
Tip: Identify Reading Techniques that Aid in Comprehension

1. Before reading, write down what you already know and what questions you have about a topic.
2. Read out loud and look up unfamiliar words.
3. While reading, summarize each section.
4. Outline what you have read.
5. Underline or highlight key facts or passages.
6. Read the information twice (once to get the main idea, the second time to understand the details).
Tip: Know Your Ideal Learning Environment

- Do you need background noise?
- How much light do you prefer?
- Where do you like to study?
- When is the best time of day?
- Do you need drinks or snacks?
- Do you prefer to study alone or in a group?
Tip: Demonstrate Discipline

Identify and remove all possible distractions to focus on your main purpose – earning a higher education!
Time Management Skills

Tips:

- Use a calendar
- Write down everything
- Schedule time to relax and reward
- Find what works for you
- Plan backwards from major deadlines
- Don’t procrastinate
Self-monitoring

- Complete your work on-time
- Know where to go when you need assistance
- Develop skills to be successful in higher education and seek out new strategies
  - Note taking
  - Study
  - Time management

You are responsible for your present self and future self!
Imani’s Academic Weaknesses

Note Taking Issue

Study Issue

Both

“I get lost in science and the book is hard to understand.”

Possible Solutions:

- Read out loud; read twice
- Prewrite
- Write chapter or section summaries
Imani’s Academic Weaknesses

“I get distracted when teachers lecture.”

Possible Solutions:

- Improve listening skills
- Go to class prepared
- Be prepared to ask questions
Imani’s Academic Weaknesses

“I take some notes in class but they miss details that seem to be on the tests.”

Possible Solutions:
- Preview lecture materials the night before
- Try other note taking styles
- Review and edit notes
Imani’s Academic Weaknesses

“It’s too noisy at home and hard to study there.”

Possible Solution:
- Find a quiet location
Imani’s Academic Weaknesses

“We have in-class study groups in my Social Studies class; I think that helps me.”

Possible Solution:
- Use study groups for other classes
Imani’s Time Management Skills Activity

1. Read Imani’s summary of her time management weaknesses and current time commitments
2. Create a calendar to help Imani better manage her time
   - Consider ways to combine time commitments to free up more time
3. Identify two recommendations to help Imani better manage her time
EXPLORE POTENTIAL INTERESTS

Develop skills of interest to schools and employers.
Benefits of Exploring Interests

- Illustrate time management skills
- Showcases talents and leadership skills
- Exhibits transferable skills
- Contributes back to your community
- Demonstrates excellence
- Gives you a better sense of what type of higher education program and future work is best for you

Identify three activities you participate in. For each activity:
- Provide a description
- Identify leadership roles, awards or honors
- Identify what the activity demonstrates to a potential employer
Implications of Switching Degree Programs or Schools

Each time you change your degree program or school, you...

- Risk losing credits for classes already taken
- May increase the time and cost to earn a degree or certificate
- May have to re-take classes (if you switch schools)
- Risk losing some or all of your financial aid (if you switch schools)
Minimize the Risk

Choose a program and school that matches your interests

Work with an academic advisor

Be a long-term planner
Imani’s Extra-Curricular Activities

- JV Basketball
- Model UN
- Class Vice President
- Volunteer at Boys and Girls Club
- Peer Tutor
- Cashier job at local fast food restaurant
- Babysit two younger brothers

Which three activities best support her career choice of lawyer or politician?
Are Imani’s Activities Well-Rounded?

- JV Basketball
- Model UN
- Class Vice President
- Volunteer at Boys and Girls Club
- Peer Tutor
- Cashier job at local fast food restaurant
- Babysit two younger brothers

What are three questions you would ask Imani to get a better sense if she meets your definition of well-rounded?

What two pieces of advice would you give Imani so that she better meets your definition of well-rounded?
Impact of Switching Majors

**Political Science**
- 14 required political science courses (6 completed)
- 30 general education requirements (16 completed)

**Journalism**
- 12 required communication courses
- 30 general education requirements

**If Imani Switches Majors**
- None of her political science classes apply to her communication courses
- All of her general education courses apply to her Journalism degree

**Questions**
- How many more classes will Imani have to take to earn a Journalism degree?
- If Imani was a full-time student taking 5 classes each semester, how much more time would Imani need to complete her degree?
SELECT AND APPLY TO AN INSTITUTION RIGHT FOR YOUR CAREER GOALS
Application Process: 10 Steps

1 – Select the schools you want to consider

2 – Understand the application process

3 – Identify potential mentors to help you with the process

4 – Identify required documents and resources

5 – Gather required documents

How long do you think each step will take to complete?
Application Process: 10 Steps, continued

6 – Check your application for accuracy

7 – Apply

8 – Follow up

9 – Compare offers

10 – Select your school

How long do you think each step will take to complete?
Any Questions?