

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION PLANNING & GRADUATION

College acceptance has been a concern for homeschoolers in the past, but today's home-schooled applicants in many cases are actually looked upon more favorably than their public-schooled counterparts. Homeschoolers can even receive substantial scholarships!

Transcripts/Portfolios - Most colleges will want to see a record of high school classes the student has taken, and the grades received. Homeschool families can develop their own transcript. Design a letterhead and choose a name for your "school" to give it a professional appearance. Include a summary of what is covered in each class, and keep detailed records of the curriculum used, books read, reports written, test scores, extra-credit assignments, special projects, field trips taken, etc. Decide on which grading system you want to use. (Although you can use letter grades, most of the academic world uses a 4.0 scale for calculating GPA.) You may also want to create a student portfolio, containing a collection of the student's best work, writing samples, final exams, awards or certificates received, letters of recommendation, records of extra-curricular accomplishments and community service/volunteer work, etc.

Diploma/GED - There is no longer any legitimate reason for homeschoolers to take the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test. This includes those students who may not wish to go on to college. A homeschooler who obtains a GED risks being considered a high school drop-out by the job market. Most colleges, employers, and the military will accept a parent-issued high school diploma along with a detailed transcript or portfolio as sufficient proof of high school completion.

College Admissions Requirements - You must check with the specific colleges of your choice to make sure you will be able to fulfill their individual requirements. Homeschoolers can usually get into college by submitting SAT and ACT test scores, a transcript, reference letter and essay.

State Universities - State universities generally require having completed 4 years of English, 4 years of Mathematics, 3 years of Laboratory Science, 3 years of Social Studies, 2 years of a Foreign Language, and 1 year of Fine Arts. They require a high school diploma and a score of 22 on the ACT or 1040 on the SAT.

Community Colleges - 2-year community colleges are open to all applicants. Most even have early entrance programs that allow high school students to take college classes with permission. After obtaining 36 eligible credit hours at a community college, you can enter a 4-year university as a transfer student, with no SAT/ACT or high school diploma required.

Military Requirements - Before 1998, home schoolers were officially considered "second tier recruits" and faced difficulty in gaining enlistment to the military or acceptance into military academies. The best approach was to first obtain 15 credit hours from a community college. HSLDA lobbied Congress to fix this situation and create an equitable enlistment route for home-schooled graduates. Each branch of the military now reserves a certain number of slots for home schoolers and is required to consider home-schooled graduates as Tier 1 enlistees.

Recommended Resources

Homeschooling Teen Magazine - www.HomeschoolingTeen.com

Homeschooling Through High School (HSLDA) - www.hslda.org/highschool/default.asp

Homeschool Transcripts - www.homeschooltranscripts.com

Suggested High School Curriculum - http://www.knowledgehouse.info/grade_highschool.html

High School Course List - www.knowledgehouse.info/hscourselist.html

Homeschooling the High Schooler and Get a Jump Start on College - www.knowledgehouse.info/review_hshighschool.html