



EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

Western Kentucky University

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From the Director's Desk

Hello! Welcome back to school for the 2013-2014 school year. Educational Talent Search visits will begin in early September. Our visit schedule is posted on our website and updated often. Please check it out for lots of important information! We have many events planned and hope that you and your student will take advantage of each and every one of them! Similar to last year, each grade level will have the opportunity to attend a "field trip" college prep activity. More information will be sent home about each of these events.

- Freshmen – Freshmen Frenzy @ WKU, spring date TBA
- Sophomores – Tech Day @ SKYCTC, on October 16
- Juniors – College Visit Day @ WKU, spring date TBA
- Seniors – Flash Forward @ WKU, on October 16

We look forward to a wonderful year! As always, thanks for your support and thanks for letting us work with your students! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."

Anthony J. D'Angelo

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

Malcolm Forbes

Stay Connected

Check out our ETS website for calendar events, financial aid, scholarship information, online tutoring, and much more at www.wku.edu/ets. If you're wondering when your ETS counselor will be coming to your school, check out the home page calendar on the bottom right side of our ETS website. Students and parents may keep in touch with your counselor via Facebook as well. Below are the web addresses for each counselor's Facebook pages:

- www.facebook.com/brian.brausch.ets
- www.facebook.com/Cressena.manning.ets
- www.facebook.com/ETSJenniferMcWhorter
- www.facebook.com/kayla.riley.52493



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Mission Statement

Educational Talent Search at Western Kentucky University engages qualified youth in grades eight through twelve in developmentally appropriate activities that will encourage persistence in high school, enrollment in postsecondary education and a lifelong pursuit of learning in order to be productive citizens of a global society.

Plan Your High School Course Selections

Colleges care about which courses you're taking in high school.

The courses you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself. Are you signing up for advanced classes, honors sections, or accelerated sequences? Are you choosing *electives* that really stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities? Or are you doing just enough to get by?

Electives are courses students may select to meet total graduation requirements.

Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones.

Do your high school course selections match what most colleges expect you to know? For example, many colleges require two to four years of foreign language study.

Successful completion of the courses listed in the recommended college prep courses chart (to the right) are commonly expected of prospective students. Of course, each college and university may have different high school course requirements. Be sure to check with the colleges you're interested in to see what they recommend or require.

Recommended College Prep Courses

English: Four years of English

Mathematics: Three years of Mathematics, including rigorous courses in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

Natural Sciences: Three years of science, including rigorous courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

Social Studies: Three years of Social Studies

Additional courses: Some colleges and universities require other classes as prerequisites for admission such as two or more years of the same foreign language or courses in the visual arts, music, theater, drama, dance, computer science, etc..

www.actstudent.org

For everything you need to know about taking the ACT.

- Why take the ACT?
- What you need to know before you register.
- Preparing for test day.
- Making changes to your registration.
- Online test prep and more.

ACT Dates and Deadlines

Each ETS member is eligible for one ACT fee waiver. Ask your ETS counselor for more information.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 21, 2013	August 23, 2013	August 24–September 6, 2013
October 26, 2013	September 27, 2013	September 28–October 11, 2013
December 14, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 9–22, 2013
February 8, 2014*	January 10, 2014	January 11–24, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 8–21, 2014
June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 10–23, 2014

10 Tips for Student Success

High school students today are under a lot of pressure, from demonstrating mastery on state and federal learning standards to competing with peers for entrance into some of the best colleges. There are some things high school students can do, however, to make their school careers and their lives less stressful. What follows is a list of the top things I, as a teacher, have come to recognize as essential for high school students to do well in school.

Take responsibility for your own learning. Parents and teachers may be there to encourage you along the way, but ultimately, it is up to you to make the most of your education.

Advocate for yourself. If there is something you need to be successful, don't wait for others to figure it out for you. Make people aware of what you need and when.

View learning challenges as opportunities for growth rather than tools of torture. Most teachers have high expectations for students, asking them to aim for just above their comfort levels. Such challenges are not meant to make students miserable, but are rather meant to increase learning gains.

Recognize you are part of a community, and do your part to make that community safe and conducive to learning. One disruptive student can ruin the learning experiences of an entire class, not to mention sour others' perceptions of him or her. Make an effort to contribute to your community both intellectually and behaviorally.

Ask for help. Doing so is not an indication of weakness or stupidity. Instead, it is an indication of determination and drive to do what needs to be done to be successful.

Set goals and make a plan for achieving them. Knowing where you want to go and mapping out the steps you will take to get there make tackling the challenges of high school a lot less overwhelming.

Make room for leisure time. A student who devotes every last minute to work is more likely to lose motivation than one who makes it a point to set aside time -- even if only just a little -- to relax.

Don't allow your job or sports commitments to interfere with your academic pursuits. Making some extra spending money and being involved in a small community of students outside the classroom is an important part of being in high school, but allowing these activities to stifle learning is not.

Participate in school-improvement opportunities. Whether this includes helping freshmen get acquainted with their new surroundings or volunteering to serve on a committee interested in students' perspectives, becoming an active part of your school's leadership increases your sense of belonging and pride in your community.

Get involved in your school's philanthropic efforts. From food drives to clothing donations, there is no shortage of opportunities to help those in need. Doing so not only makes you an active member of the student body, but it allows you to give to others and add activities to your high school resume.

While high school can seem overwhelming, learning and acting on these top 10 tips for success will make it an enjoyable and rewarding experience



PARENTS PAGE

Four Reasons to Attend College

As a parent of a high school student, you should know that college degrees offer some distinct advantages. For example, college graduates can expect:

Better career options. One of the most important reasons for anyone to attend college is the upper hand it gives with regard to jobs and career. Despite recent economic events, a college graduate has a higher chance of landing a high quality job compared to someone with only a high school diploma or GED.

More money. Various respected studies have shown that college graduates earn more money during their lifetimes than those without a college degree. Even individuals with two-year degrees earn more than those who have no degree at all.

A brighter future. In the growing economy, college graduates are more likely than high school diploma holders or less educated individuals to keep their jobs. Even during phases of fewer work opportunities, college graduates survive better in the job market.

Stronger job opportunities. One estimate says that by the year 2028, there will be 19 million more jobs for educated workers than there are qualified people to fill them. With some basic courses and skills, the potential to land a job or find an employer that will provide training is greater with a college degree.

Thinking About Going Back To School? Let the EOC or VUB Help!

The Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) is a TRiO program funded by the US Department of Education. The EOC program provides counseling and information on college admissions to low income and first generation adults age 19 or older who desire to enter, reenter, or continue a program of postsecondary education.

The EOC program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process.

The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

Check out their website at www.wku.edu/eoc or call (270) 745-4441 for more information.

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is also a federal TRiO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education, to help U.S. military veterans enter into and succeed in postsecondary school. VUB is a non-profit program serving veterans from an eight county area surrounding Bowling Green, and COSTS NOTHING for those who participate. All services, books and instruction are completely FREE OF CHARGE for those who qualify.

Check out their website at www.wku.edu/vub or call (270) 745-5310 for more information.

Budget Balancing Tools

Balancing a family budget is a difficult task, especially when needs are many and funds are few. Be leery of websites that want you to “consolidate” your debts. While they may contain some reasonable budgeting information, their bottom line is to make money off of you. Check out some of these “legitimate” recommended websites below:

www.mint.com—A financial tool that pulls all your financial information into one place to help you save, invest, and budget wisely.

youneedabudget.com—Free online classes and tools to help you set up a budget and stick to it.

www.daveramsey.com—Contains tools to keep you on track to get out of debt and stay that way.

