

Get Ready for... Your Future!

What's your choice for post-secondary training? Going to college or going directly into the working world? Let's investigate the options!

College



Why a college degree is important:

- You can gain more knowledge of many subjects
- The more education you have, the more money you can make

*Salary over a one-year period:

[\$] Without high school diploma- \$21,300

[\$] With high school diploma- \$28,645

[\$] With bachelor's degree- \$51,554

[\$] With a higher, advanced degree- \$78,093



Does college really fit you?

- 74% of HHS students go to high school for a 4-year period 9% go to college for a 2-year period
- Short on money? No problem

*Colleges offer many types of financial aid

[\$] Student loans- loans that you don't have to pay off until you graduate

[\$] Financial aid- either government or college funded aid to help those who need extra money for college. Make sure you fill out your FAFSA your senior year!

[\$] Scholarships- monetary awards for a variety of achievements



How can you prepare?

- Take Advanced Placement (AP) classes

*You can get college credit for Psychology, Chemistry, English, History, or Calculus by passing the exam at the end of

the class. Although you cannot take them until your junior or senior year, you should definitely keep them in mind.

- Take Enriched or Honors classes
 - *These are advanced classes that you must qualify for. They are more challenging and will give you a head start in preparing for college.
- The SAT
 - *Your SAT score is a major part on college applications. We recommend that you take it more than once, but you can take it as many times as you would like. Don't wait till the last minute. Take it before your senior year!

The Working World



-  Advantages of starting your career after high school:
 - Earn wages right away
 - Have no debts from college
 - College may not be for you, many people have an intelligence other than “book-smarts”

-  Possible Career Options
 - Mechanic, military, carpentry, plumbing, electrician, police officer, firefighter, welding, construction, machine operators, drivers, electricians, entrepreneur, manual labor, cosmetology and many other options
 - The military is a common alternative to college. There are a variety jobs a person can do in any of the five branches of the military. With the military, one can receive many benefits, including a college education and health care.

-  Preparing for your career
 - Getting started at the high school
 - *Grades are still important
 - [+] Your high school transcript will follow you for the rest of your life. Your transcript includes all the grades you received at high school, attendance records and discipline records. It is something that your employer will look at. If you

have excessive absences and bad grades, it will not be likely that you will be employed.

*Take vocational classes

[+] Several high school students choose to study at the Porter Country Career Center. The program helps students get an early start to their career. They can even become certified before they graduate.

*Take hands-on classes

[+] The JROTC, business, CISCO, auto shop and engineering classes are offered here.

*Passing the GQE is still required

- Training beyond high school may be required

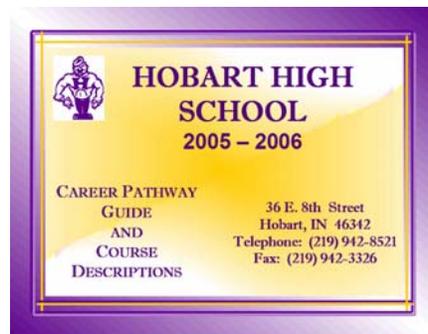
*Apprenticeship, academies, or internships are different types of training that you may have to complete for your career.



No matter what, always keep an open mind because you may change it somewhere along the line. If you do, and are not on the right track, you will not be able to go back.



If you have questions on any of these topics, see a school guidance counselor. Information about any of these classes and more on this topic can be found in your *Career Pathway Guide and Course Description* booklet. There are many more classes offered that can help you prepare for your career, whether it needs a college diploma or not.



Sources used:

-Gehring, John, "New Tests, New Challenges," *Education Week* Jan. 23, 2002, pg. 1

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