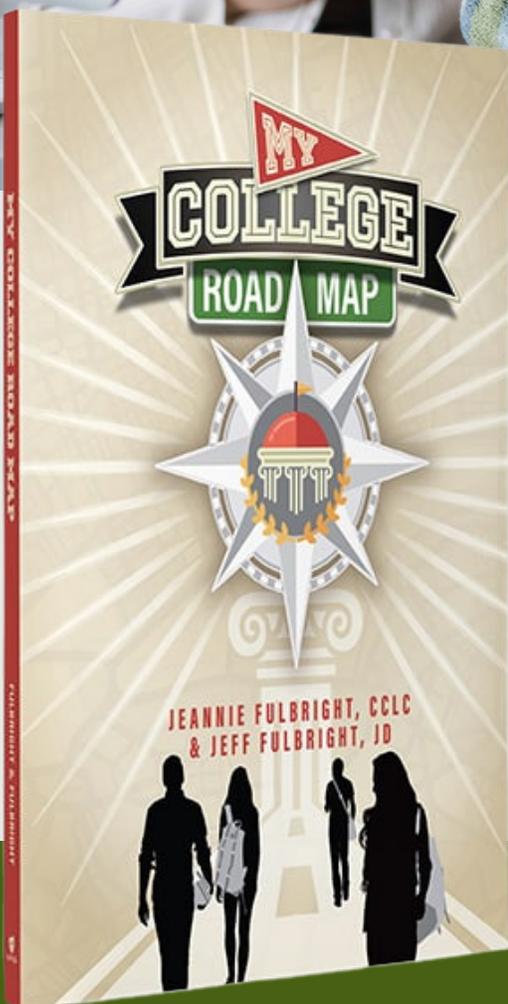




JEANNIE FULBRIGHT, CCLC
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MY COLLEGE ROAD MAP

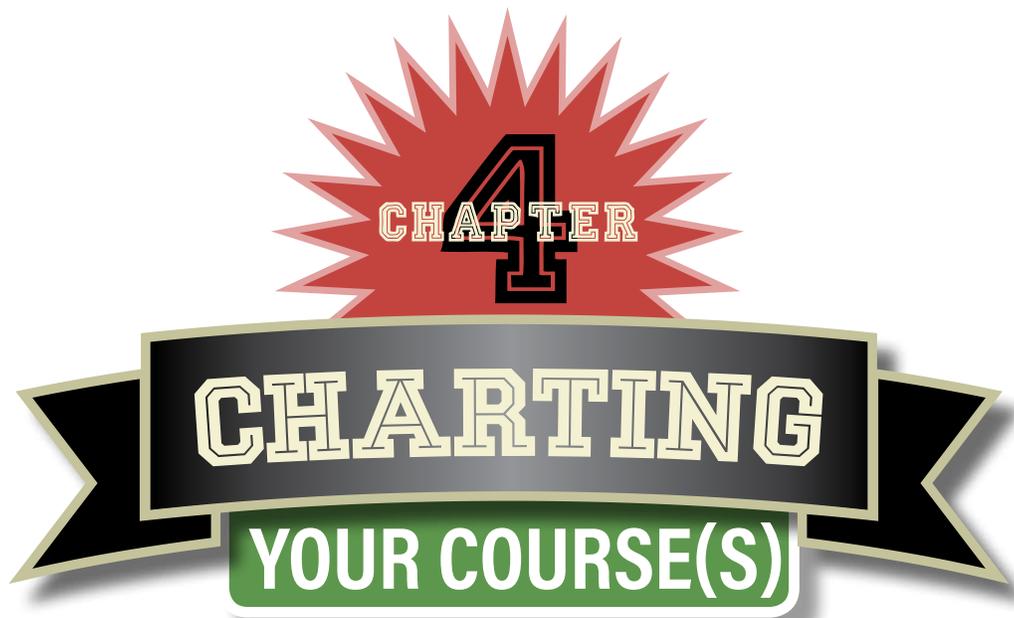


Whether they're college bound or just considering college, this book is for your middle and high school students!

by Jeannie Fulbright, CCLC
and Jeff Fulbright, LD

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

"Excellent way to get your new high schooler excited about planning for the future." - Parent

The graphic features a large, stylized number '4' in the center, set against a red, starburst-like background. The word 'CHAPTER' is written in a white, serif font across the top of the '4'. Below this, a black banner with a gold border contains the word 'CHARTING' in a white, serif font. At the bottom, a green banner with a white border contains the words 'YOUR COURSE(S)' in a white, sans-serif font.

CHAPTER 4

CHARTING YOUR COURSE(S)

You should now have a better idea of the kind of work you want to do someday, which college major(s) will prepare you for that work, and maybe even a list of schools that specialize in your field of study. But before you start packing your bags, you'll need to choose a school, apply for admission, and be officially accepted there. We'll cover each of these steps in detail in this book, but first things first.

As a high-school-level student hoping to go to college—or even if you're still in your middle school years—you should already be asking a few important questions: What are colleges looking for in a student? What can I do to make myself the best possible candidate? How do I get colleges to want me?

Those are among the important questions that we'll cover in this chapter. We'll talk about what colleges are looking for in a student and why. We'll correct some common misconceptions about college admissions, such as the importance of extracurricular activities in high school (not very). We'll even teach you how to create a high school transcript. You'll learn what makes a high school credit and how to make sure you have the right courses on your transcript. We'll also cover AP courses, dual enrollment, and the various tests you can take to earn college credit while still in high school.

Because this book is aimed primarily at homeschoolers, we'll also discuss how to design your own high school courses. If you're not being homeschooled, you can skip that part, but be sure to read the section on assembling a portfolio! Colleges love a student with an online website that highlights his or her accomplishments, coursework, volunteer activities, and creative assignments.

Armed with the information in this chapter, you can begin to map out your high school plan to ensure that college admissions counselors will stand up and take notice when your application comes across their desk. And of course, we'll provide pages here and on the course website that you can use to map out your plan!

WHAT SCHOOLS WANT

A college is first and foremost a business. A school's success as a business depends on its ranking among other colleges because that's how they attract more students and endowments from their alumni. Schools are asking:

Will you hurt or help the school's ranking?

YOU MUST CONVINCe COLLEGES THAT YOU ARE A GOOD GAMBLE AND NOT A RISK!

WHAT MAKES THE SCHOOL'S RANK GO UP?

- High SAT & ACT Scores
- Number of Kids That Apply
- Number of Kids the School Rejects
- Number of Kids That Graduate

WHAT MAKES THE SCHOOL'S RANK GO DOWN?

- Admitting Too Many Students
- Number of Students Who Leave or Drop Out

IN ALL YOUR WAYS KNOW HIM, AND HE WILL
MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.

PROVERBS 3:6 (CSB)

TRUTH



COLLEGES CARE ABOUT...

1. GRADES

Is your grade point average (GPA) strong? This shows that you care about your studies and have the makings of a successful college student.

5. INTEREST IN THEIR SCHOOL

Have you demonstrated that you REALLY want to go there? This shows you are likely to accept their offer of admission.

2. STRENGTH OF CURRICULUM

Do you take hard courses? This shows that you want to challenge yourself academically and will be able to handle college coursework.

6. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Has someone with clout given you a “shout out”? A good letter tells who you will be when you arrive on campus.

3. SAT OR ACT SCORES

Are your test scores close to or above the school’s average? This shows you’re likely able to meet their standards.

7. AP, IB & SAT SUBJECT SCORES

Are your scores strong? This shows that you are bright, study hard, and will be a responsible student.

4. ESSAYS

Is your essay well written and compelling? This reveals that you invested time and effort in showing them who you really are.

8. PORTFOLIO

Do you have a showcase of your accomplishments? This shows that you are well rounded and will contribute to the life of the campus.



Which of the items on this page are areas of strengths for you?

Which areas do you need to work on?

WHAT IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT?

CARNEGIE UNIT = 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

A Carnegie Unit is 120 hours of time spent on a particular subject.* Here's how to break that down. During a 180-day school year, you will devote approximately 39 minutes per day to each subject. That time could be spent:

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening to a lecture
- Discussing class material
- Watching a related video
- Doing a project
- Engaging in a class activity
- Conducting an experiment
- Researching a topic
- Going on a field trip

What other kinds of activities or assignments would be considered educational that you can count toward a high school credit?



Even if you don't finish the course, if you've devoted 120 hours to the subject, doing high-school-level work, you have earned a credit for that course.

* In some states, such as California, a one-year course is equivalent to 2 credits.



HOW MANY CREDITS DO YOU NEED?

**YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED TO EARN 24
CREDITS IN FOUR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL.**

Most states do not require homeschoolers to take specific courses to graduate high school. But most colleges want to see certain courses on your transcript, so keep a list of every high school course you take. Some colleges will ask for more details about what was covered in the courses you've taken.

Below is a list of courses you should have on your transcript to qualify for college admission. Keep in mind that this list represents the bare minimum required for most colleges. Some schools require more than the basics.*

BASIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Place a check mark by the ones you've completed.

- 4 English credits
- 3 Science credits, including Biology and Physical Science (or Physics)
- 3 Social Studies credits, including American History, World History, and usually a half credit of American Government and Economics
- 3 Math credits, including Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II
- 2 Foreign Language credits (Foreign Language, American Sign Language or Computer Programming Language)
- 1 Physical Education credit
- 0.5 Health credit
- 1 Fine Art credit, which may include drawing, painting, dance, and/or photography
- 4–7 Elective credits. Electives are courses you choose to take that are outside the basic academic disciplines. They can be anything from chess or baseball to auto mechanics or calligraphy.

* Some schools have more specific requirements. Check the minimum requirements for your state or the college that interests you.

DESIGN YOUR OWN HIGH SCHOOL COURSE!

Today, high-school-level homeschoolers have many wonderful options for purchasing curriculum, participating in co-op classes, or taking online courses. But it's also easy to create your own course. In fact, you can design your own high school course in almost any subject! Here's how:

- Plan a scope and sequence (what will be covered).
- Choose well-crafted learning materials.
- Create interesting and challenging assignments.
- Decide on a grading scale.
- Keep track of the time you spend learning.
- Keep samples of your work.

Voila! You have a high school course! It's that easy.

Which of your personal interests could be turned into a high school elective course?



SAMPLE COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE NAME: Digital Photography

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course covers the fundamentals of digital photography and photo editing to create a student portfolio of photographic work.

COMPLETION DATE:

MATERIALS:

- DSRL Camera and accessories
- Personal Computer
- Adobe Photoshop
- Photography Video Course: Udemy.com
- Photo Editing Video Course: Udemy.com
- Photoshop Essentials

ASSIGNMENTS:

- After each video tutorial, the student will use a DSRL camera in the field to apply and practice what he/she has learned.
- Student will write a one-page summary on each field assignment after it's been completed.
- Student will learn to use Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom software to edit photos taken in the field.
- Student will build a portfolio of photography work to display in an online portfolio.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Completion of video tutorials 25%
Summaries 10%

Field Study/Editing 15%
Portfolio 50%

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES COUNT!

As you map out your high school journey over the next few pages, don't forget to record any high-school-level work you completed in seventh or eighth grade.

If a course taken in middle school is conducted like a high school course—using high-school-level materials and spending 120 hours or more on the subject—you can include it on your transcript as a high school credit. Always be sure to keep records!

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES I COMPLETED IN THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADES

"I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO; I WILL COUNSEL YOU WITH MY LOVING EYE ON YOU."

PSALM 32:8 (NIV)

TRUTH



MY HIGH SCHOOL PLAN

Use these pages to keep track of the courses you've taken each year and to map out which courses you plan to take prior to graduating from high school. Keep in mind that you are not required to take a foreign language, physical education, or fine art class every year. Each time you complete a course, add the class and your final grade and credit(s) earned to your transcript.

9TH GRADE COURSES

English: _____

Math: _____

Science: _____

Social Studies: _____

Foreign Language: _____

Fine Art: _____

PE/Health: _____

Electives: _____

10TH GRADE COURSES

English: _____

Math: _____

Science: _____

Social Studies: _____

Foreign Language: _____

Fine Art: _____

PE/Health: _____

Electives: _____

11TH GRADE COURSES

English: _____

Math: _____

Science: _____

Social Studies: _____

Foreign Language: _____



Fine Art: _____

PE/Health: _____

Electives: _____

12TH GRADE COURSES

English: _____

Math: _____

Science: _____

Social Studies: _____

Foreign Language: _____

Fine Art: _____

PE/Health: _____

Electives: _____