

Student Project Sheet

Project Title: **Educational Planning – The Easiest Way to Achieve Your Goals**

If you're like most students, you entered high school with a generic four-year high school plan. It also included some empty spaces for "electives." Now's the time to take another look at those electives.

For example, which elective would you choose if you wanted to be ...

- A pediatrician? Digital photography or anatomy and physiology?
- An electronics technician? Computer applications or building construction?
- A stockbroker or an investment adviser? Financial management fundamentals or Web design?

A generic plan will work as long as high school graduation is your only aim. But specifics count if college is in your future. To enter a bachelor's degree in nursing program at the University of Iowa College of Nursing, for example, you would need the following high school prerequisites:

- 4 years of high school English
- 1 year of biology
- 1 year of chemistry
- 1 year of physics
- 4 years of the same world language or 2 years of two different world languages
- Minimum of Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry
- 3 years of social studies

You could take courses in college to complete high school deficiencies, according to the university website (<http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic-programs/bsn/prerequisites>). But you'd have to pay college tuition and fees. That's a lot of money to spend on high school courses you could have taken at no cost to you.

What's the solution? Start with a well-thought-out educational plan. It's the easiest way to achieve your goals and save time and money as well.

The Project

1. Gather, review and compare educational planning information and tools from your school counseling office and other resources including:
 - Your current high school graduation plan
 - A list of your high school's required courses and number of credits needed to graduate
 - A list of programs of study that your high school offers in areas such as health care, business, engineering technology, building construction and others (For more information, also see Career Cluster Career Frames at <http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/resources/career-frames.html>, and view one that relates to your career interest.)
 - A list of dual credit opportunities where you can earn both high school and college credit at no extra cost
 - A list of student organizations and career-related experiences, such as youth apprenticeships and work-study programs
 - A list of prerequisites for postsecondary programs in your career field, which you often can find online
2. Then use the planning guide provided with the *American Careers* student publication to draft an up-to-date educational plan. Double-check the completed plan with your school counselor, and ask your family for advice and support as you pursue further education and a career.