

Resources: Academic Preparation for College

College Programs

Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, MA

Project Connect

www.cc.berkshire.org/student-services/project_connect.html

Project Connect is a two-week summer program for graduating seniors from Berkshire County high schools admitted to Berkshire Community College (BCC) for the fall semester. Students can earn college credits and get a head start on the transition from high school to college. However, Project Connect is not your typical summer program. High school and BCC faculty teach together and the curriculum is developed around a different work of nonfiction each year. The threads of the content include reading, math, and technology as well as several other areas. Students are introduced to the expectations of college level work in reading and writing and are placed in ability groups for Mathematics. The program has been a huge success in preparing students for college.

California State Universities

www.calstate.edu/eap/

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is a collaborative effort among the California State Board of Education (SBE), the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California State University (CSU). The program was established to provide opportunities for students to measure their readiness for college-level English and mathematics in their junior year of high school, and to facilitate opportunities for them to improve their skills during their senior year. More than 60 percent of the nearly 40,000 first-time freshmen admitted to the CSU require remedial education in English, mathematics or both. These 25,000 freshmen all have taken the required college preparatory curriculum and earned at least a B grade point average in high school. The cost in time and money to these students and to the state is substantial. Moreover, these students are confused by seemingly having done the right things in high school only to find out after admission to the CSU that they need further preparation. The goal is to have California high school graduates enter the CSU fully prepared to begin college-level study.

Career and Workforce Development

www.cod.edu/Gen_Info/DAEC/cod_techprep.htm

This College of DuPage site contains information about DuPage Area Education to Careers/Tech Prep, Non-Traditional Careers, the Vocational Skills Program and the Illinois Employment and Training Center (IETC). Additional resources for careers and training can be linked from this site.

Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio

Academic Resource Center

www.sinclair.edu/stservices/arc/

Sinclair Community College developed an Academic Resource Center (ARC) after finding that 60% of its students needed to take at least one course in developmental studies. Sinclair decided that it no longer wanted to be a “passive receiver” of unprepared students. The goal of the ARC is for all students to be able to enter college without the need for remediation. This will save students time and money and faculty resources can focus on college level instruction. The primary goal of the ARC is to offer prospective students an opportunity to improve their basic skills in math, reading, and writing prior to enrolling in college. The ARC is designed to help students who need a refresher in math, reading, and writing before taking the Accuplacer test or before enrolling in developmental studies courses.

Assessment Sites

American College Testing-ACT

www.act.org

ACT is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides more than a hundred assessment, research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development. Though designed to meet a wide array of needs, all ACT programs and services have one guiding purpose: helping people achieve education and workplace success.

ACT Research

www.act.org/research/index.html

Information such as Research Reports, Information Briefs, Research and Information Services, Curriculum Survey, and Educational and Career Planning can be found on this ACT site.

COMPASS Assessments

www.act.org/compass/index.html

The COMPASS system is a comprehensive computer-adaptive testing system developed by ACT that helps place students into appropriate courses and maximizes the information postsecondary schools need to ensure student success.

WorkKeys Assessments

www.act.org/workkeys/index.html

WorkKeys assessments give students and workers reliable, relevant information about their workplace skill levels. Combined with information about skill levels required for jobs, assessment information can help users make better career and educational decisions. With the job profiling component, WorkKeys can show how a person's skills compare to specific job requirements.

Websites for Professional Organizations

ACTE

www.acteonline.org/

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. ACTE is committed to enhancing the job performance and satisfaction of its members, increasing public awareness and appreciation for career and technical programs, and assuring growth in local, state and federal funding for these programs by communicating and working with legislators and government leaders.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development -ASCD

www.ascd.org

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is an organization that represents 175,000 educators from more than 135 countries and more than 60 affiliates. Members span the entire profession of educators—superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers, professors of education, and school board members. All aspects of effective teaching and learning—such as professional development, educational leadership, and capacity building are addressed. ASCD offers broad, multiple perspectives—across all education professions—in reporting key policies and practices.

Center for Occupational Research and Development

www.cord.org

CORD is a national nonprofit organization providing innovative changes in education to prepare students for greater success in careers and higher education. CORD assists educators in secondary schools and colleges through new curricula, teaching strategies, professional development, and partnerships with community leaders, families, and employers. CORD's initiatives include curriculum design, developing new learning tools, delivering professional development, creating applications of educational technology, and conducting educational research and evaluation.

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement -CCSSE

www.ccsse.org

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) provides a tool for assessing quality in community college education. CCSSE results help colleges focus on good educational practices that promote high levels of student learning and retention and identify areas in which community colleges can improve their programs and services for students. Their work is grounded in research about what works in strengthening student learning and persistence.

International Reading Association-IRA

www.ira.org

IRA is a professional organization for those involved in teaching reading to learners of all ages. Members are dedicated to promoting high levels of literacy for all by improving the quality of reading instruction, disseminating research and information about reading, and encouraging the lifetime reading habit. Locally, nationally, and worldwide, the members are advocates for policy, curriculum, and education reform that support the best interests of teachers and learners. International initiatives encourage communication and collaboration among professionals across national boundaries.

National Council of Teachers of English-NCTE

www.ncte.org

The National Council of Teachers of English is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. Since 1911, NCTE has provided a forum for the profession, an array of opportunities for teachers to continue their professional growth throughout their careers, and a framework for cooperation to deal with issues that affect the teaching of English.

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics-NCTM

www.nctm.org

NCTM is a public voice of mathematics education, providing vision, leadership, and professional development to support teachers in ensuring mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students. NCTM is the world's largest mathematics education organization, with 100,000 members and 250 affiliates throughout the United States and Canada.

National Association for Developmental Education-NADE

www.nade.net/

For over 25 years, the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) and its members have helped learners at all levels of preparedness realize their full academic potential. Developmental education is a field of practice and research within higher education with a foundation in developmental psychology and learning theory. Developmental education is sensitive and responsive to individual differences and special needs among learners. Developmental education programs and services commonly address academic preparedness, diagnostic assessment and placement, development of general and discipline-specific learning strategies, and affective barriers to learning.

National Study of School Evaluation-NSSE

www.nsse.org

The mission of the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) is to provide educational leaders with state-of-the-art resources, tools, and support services to enhance and promote student growth and school improvement through accreditation.

Phi Delta Kappan

www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kappan.htm

Phi Delta Kappan, the professional journal for education, addresses issues of policy and practice for educators at all levels. Advocating research-based school reform, the *Kappan* provides a forum for debate on controversial subjects. Published since 1915, the journal appears monthly September through June.

Student/Educator Resources

Inspiration Software, Inc.

www.inspiration.com/

Inspiration Software, Inc. is an innovative company that develops software to encourage learners to brainstorm, organize, plan and create. The focus of Inspiration software is on visual learning that inspires students to develop strong thinking and organizational skills to improve their academic performance. Learners can create graphic organizers, develop ideas, and expand topics into writing to improve their skills across the curriculum.

InterAct Math

www.interactmath.com

InterAct Math is a website designed to help students succeed in their math courses. The tutorial exercises on this site give students interactive practice doing the end-of-section exercises in their Addison-Wesley or Prentice Hall textbooks. Exercises can be retried many times with different numerical values each time.

KeyTrain

www.keytrain.com

KeyTrain is an interactive training system for the WorkKeys basic workplace skills. KeyTrain provides a comprehensive learning system for common skills required by all jobs based on ACT's WorkKeys employment system. WorkKeys is a system for measuring the skills required in the workplace and helps place employees in jobs where they can be successful. This system benefits individuals, businesses and educators by providing a common language for describing basic skills needed for jobs.

The National Forum

www.thenationalforum.org/

This site is designed to be a hub of research, publications, presentations, newspaper articles, and web site links related to Higher Education for the Public Good (HEPG). The information has been sorted into content areas.

The OWL-Online Writing Lab-at Purdue University

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/pw/index.html>

The OWL at Purdue offers online handouts covering writing, research, grammar, and MLA and APA style. It covers the Writing Process; Professional, Technical, and Scientific Writing; Job Search Writing; General Academic Writing; Research and Citation; Grammar and Mechanics; English as a Second Language; Literary Analysis and Criticism; Writing in the Social Sciences; and Creative Writing. It is an excellent, up to date resource for high school and college students and educators.

The Study Guides and Strategies

www.studygs.net/

The Study Guides and Strategies web site is authored, developed and maintained as an educational public service. These student guides are collaboratively maintained across institutional and national boundaries. The site includes topics such as Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Study Strategies, Test Preparation, Research, and Learning. It is also

available in more than 25 languages! The site is a wonderful resource for students and educators alike.

Tech Prep Parents Resource Website

www.parentsresourcesite.net

This site was developed in partnership with College of DuPage, DuPage Area Occupational Education System, DuPage Area Schools, and the DuPage Regional Office of Education. This informative website provides resources, ideas, and suggestions to assist parents in guiding their children through post-secondary academic and career preparation. It also includes a section which speaks directly to students about planning for their future education and careers. A number of links to other helpful career planning websites are included.

TestPrep Review

www.testprepreview.com/aboutus.htm

TestPrepReview.com is a free service of a nonprofit group of educators. This website was created to provide practice test questions for students in a variety of career situations. The site contains a modular approach to learning the content on these exams.

www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm

Students can do practice exams for the COMPASS in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Vocation Information Center

www.khake.com

This online site can help students and educators explore vocational and technical careers, check out the skills employers really want, find technical/trade schools, research technical topics and take a look at the current job market. Career activities and vocational lesson plans can be found at www.khake.com/page94.html.

Writing Across the Curriculum Clearinghouse

wac.colostate.edu/

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. The site uses a database to allow members to add and update content on the site. The site is hosted by Colorado State University's Composition Program. The clearinghouse brings together five journals, four books series, and resources for teachers who use writing in their courses.