INTRODUCTION: A college degree is the key that opens the doors to a better way of life for our children. Even though obtaining a college education requires a lot of time, effort and careful planning by both the parent and the student, it is well worth the effort. A college education will provide your children with the skills and knowledge they will need throughout their life and will help them succeed in the career of their choice.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:
- When should parents begin thinking and talking about a college education with their children?
- What type of information do parents need in order to help their children prepare for college?
- What type of financial aid is available to help your child go to college?

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE
You don’t have to wait until your child is in high school to start thinking about and preparing for college. To make sure that your child is prepared for college, you and your child should begin planning for college in middle school, or better yet, as early as elementary school. The earlier the better!

GOOD REASONS TO GO TO COLLEGE
A college or university education will greatly increase your child’s opportunities for a better, more satisfying and productive life.

1. **A better job:** The world is changing rapidly and future jobs will be more competitive and will demand sophisticated technical skills. A college education will give your child more job and career options.

2. **More knowledge and skills:** A college education helps students to develop knowledge in many subjects as well as to develop specific career skills. They will be able to express themselves better, make better decisions, and have a better understanding of the world around them.

3. **Higher Salary:** People with a college education have higher annual salaries and lifetime earnings than those without a college degree (2001 US Census Bureau Statistics: Average annual income by education attainment. Non HS Graduate $17,821; High School Graduate $24,973; BA Degree $45,929; Masters Degree $68,525; Professional Degree $101,727).
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Beginning in 8th grade, the courses that students take begin to prepare them to meet college admission requirements. Students should enroll in college preparatory courses and pass them. Parents need to make sure that the high school classes their children take each semester prepare them to meet the A-G Requirements (previously known as the 4 Year Plan).

The most rigorous courses prepare students to be admitted to the university!
Research shows that students that enroll in Algebra and Geometry early (end of 8th and 9th grade) have a greater probability of going on to the university than those who did not. They should also take Chemistry, Physics, Trigonometry, Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school.

SCHOOL SUBJECTS REQUIRED FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

A-G Requirements represent the 15 courses that students, who plan to attend college or university, must take from 9th through 12th grade. The following are the courses and the number of years each should be taken, to meet the admission requirements for the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>California State University (CSU System, including SDSU)</th>
<th>University of Calif. (UC System)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. ENGLISH/COMPOSITION &amp; LITERATURE</td>
<td>4 YEARS</td>
<td>4 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. MATHEMATICS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, and available advanced Math courses).</td>
<td>3 YEARS</td>
<td>3 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. SOCIAL SCIENCE / US HISTORY</td>
<td>2 YEARS</td>
<td>2 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. LABORATORY SCIENCE (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</td>
<td>2 YEARS</td>
<td>2 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH</td>
<td>2 YEARS</td>
<td>2 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</td>
<td>1 YEAR</td>
<td>1 YEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Art, Dance, Drama, Music)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. ELECTIVES FROM SUBJECTS LISTED ABOVE</td>
<td>1 YEAR**</td>
<td>1 YEAR**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Must be chosen from approved academic courses in History, English, Advanced Mathematics, Lab Science, Foreign Language, Social Science, or Fine Arts. See Search Course lists at the University of California for approved courses at your High School. 
(Requirements provided by the California Department of Education www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/hsgdr/gradreq.html )

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

All students interested in attending a four-year college should take the SAT or ACT exams. The PSAT exam can help students practice for the SAT exam and they can take it in the 8th or 9th grade.
DID YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD COULD SAVE TIME AND MONEY?
High school students who have planned their schedules carefully may be eligible to take “Advanced Placement” (AP) classes. AP courses are college-level classes offered in high school in different subject areas. Through qualifying AP Exam grades, students have the opportunity to earn course credit and/or advanced placement at most colleges and universities, which will save them both time and money when they attend the university.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GRADES (GPA)
Taking the A-G Courses is not the only college admission requirement; it is also crucial to maintain a high grade point average (GPA). The GPA is based on a 4.0 scale. It will help determine which type of school the student will be eligible to attend: University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), private college or university, or community college. Each grade has the following value: A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point and F = 0 points. Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB) and AP classes have a higher value per letter grade: A = 5 points, B = 4 points, C = 3 points, D = 2 points and F = 0 points. With Honors, AP or IB classes, the grade point average may be higher than 4.0.

FINANCIAL AID
The cost of attending college may be very high, but this should not keep a student from going to college. There are many types of financial aid. The following are the four basic types of financial assistance:

1. Scholarships: Scholarships provide financial aid that does not have to be repaid by the student or parent. Students may be required to meet criteria other than financial need, such as, academic achievement.

2. Grants: Grants are free. Qualifying high school graduates can receive financial assistance for college based on financial need and GPA.

3. Work-Study Programs: Many students qualify for work-study programs, which allow them to work during the summer and/or part-time during the school year. The federal and state government and/or the institutions sponsor these programs.

4. Loans: Loans are another type of financial aid and are available to both students and parents. Loans must be repaid over time, but they are offered at an interest rate lower than commercial loans.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS:
a) Participation in extra-curricular activities
b) Development of good study skills
c) Development of reading and writing skills
d) Computer skills
How to put these ideas to practice…

- Visit your child’s counselor several times a year. Let them know your child is planning to go to college. Ask for help in developing the four-year plan. Check at the beginning and end of each report card period to make sure that your child receives the help and support needed to stay on the college track!

- Talk to your children often about their future and your confidence in their ability to attend college.

- Go to all of the school meetings that provide information about college preparation, such as “College: Making it Happen” and career days.

- Make sure your child receives the support he or she needs to excel academically. Talk to your child’s teachers in preschool, elementary, middle and high school. Let each teacher know that your child is college bound. Ask for their help to make sure that your child obtains good grades and receives social and emotional support.

- Take your children to visit your local college and university campus.

- Make sure that your children are doing their homework every day. Request tutors when your children are having difficulties. Encourage your children to get good grades and to take rigorous courses, to visit the library regularly and to participate in academic clubs, etc.

- Be aware of the dates for the SAT or ACT exams. Sign up early. Do not leave it for the last minute.

- Encourage your children to research all their financial aid options by visiting the high school career center, academic counselor, or the Internet. If they don’t have a computer at home, they can go to the library or school computer lab. The more time they spend investigating their financial aid options, the greater the possibilities of finding the financial support needed for college.

REMEMBER
Planning for college starts in the elementary school years. Your children need your support to reach their goals.

Materials based on the Parent Institute for Quality Education Program in California
Lesson No. 6

မြန်မာစာမျက်နှာ

အားလုံးက မျိုးစိတ်ကို လက်ခံစားခြင်းဖြင့် ပြုလုပ်ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်။ သို့ဖြစ်စေ ဗျူဟာများကို အားလုံးက အသိအမှတ်ပြုစေရန် ဖြစ်စေ ပြုလုပ်ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် ယူဆရသည်။ အကောင်ချောင်းချက်များကို ဖြစ်စေ ပြည့်စုံသည်။

စားသောက်ခြင်းကို ကျော်လက်ရှန်းစွာ အကြာအတွင်း မျိုးစိတ်ကို အကြာအတွင်းမှစိတ်ကို အသိအမှတ်ပြုစေရန် ဖြစ်စေ ပြုလုပ်ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် သိရှိနိုင်သည်။

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The Road to College / 2005

**Chemistry, Physics, Trigonometry, Honors and Advance Placement (AP) A-G**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California State University (CSU 代码, 简称: SDSU)</th>
<th>University of Calif. (UC 代码)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. 数学 (A. 分数学, B. 高级数学, C. 高级数学)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 自然科学hydrology, meteorology, geology, astronomy (Statistics), economics (economics)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 国际生 US 而不是本地人</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 生物学, 化学, 物理 (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 音乐课程 (VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS) (视觉艺术, 表演艺术, 乐理)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 课程必须是四年的学分, 不能少于15个学分. (Finn Intermediate School)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACT 和 SAT 成绩要求**

SAT 阅读, 数学, 写作 2 分, ACT 而不是 Advanced Placement (AP) 而是 SAT 考试成绩. PSAT 成绩可作为参考, 但不是录取的必要条件. SAT 成绩需在六月之前提交.

**大学要求**

(Associated Secondary Schools of the California Department of Education www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/hsgd/gradreq.html )
Advanced Placement (AP)

Abbreviations:

A-G GPA: Highest to lowest grades
A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=0

University of California (UC), California State University (CSU),
Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB)

A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=0

The Road to College / 2005
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(Report card)

College-Make it Happen

SAT

ACT

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