

Christian County High School

READY?
college. career. life.

Get Real—Get Ready!

OUR PURPOSE:

TO GRADUATE WITH A DIPLOMA AND A PLAN!

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~ ~ ~ Reality Check: The Facts ~ ~ ~

Fact #1—This community has invested a lot of money into your education!

Senior: \$48,000
 Junior: \$44,000
 Sophomore: \$40,000
 How are you going to take advantage of this investment?



Fact #2—The ACT is important!

College Admissions Officers use your ACT score to help judge your academic preparedness for college. A strong ACT score may also help you qualify for academic scholarships!

Circle Your Current Score if applicable:

ACT Composite Score	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
ACT Percentile Rank	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	97%	95%	93%	90%	87%	83%	79%	74%	68%	62%	56%	49%	42%	36%	29%	23%	17%	12%	7%	4%

Tips for Improving your ACT Score:

- Your coursework matters—everyday!
- Take online study courses—www.khanacademy.org or www.greatcourses.com are examples
- Take the ACT as many times as possible—colleges may accept highest score from each test
- Read—Get a summer reading list!
- Challenge yourself with tough courses
- Pace yourself; goals may not be immediately achieved

Fact #3—Industry certifications are important (just as much as ACT scores in many cases)!

An industry certification provides a measurement of knowledge and skills in the specific area of study that you have chosen!

Specific certifications are increasing in demand in many industries. Earning a career certification can build your credibility, give you a competitive edge, and increase your earning potential. You may start off making much more money in the field with the appropriate industry certification!

Two examples of industry certifications that we offer at CCHS are the **Microsoft Certification** for business students and the **ICEV Fundamentals of Animal Science** for agriculture students.

Ask your guidance counselor for a comprehensive list of industry certifications offered for all of our career pathways at CCHS and Gateway Academy.

Fact #4 Employability and soft skills are important in EVERY job!

Soft skills are a combination of people skills, communication skills, character traits, personal habits, and attitudes that enable people to work well with others to achieve goals. Soft skills are critical for today's workplace.

For each soft skill below, rate yourself 1-10. (1 weak; 10 strong)

1. **Communication** – oral speaking capability, written, presenting, listening.
2. **Courtesy** – manners, etiquette, business etiquette, gracious, says please and thank you, respectful.
3. **Flexibility** – adaptability, willing to change, lifelong learner, accepts new things, adjusts, teachable.
4. **Integrity** – honest, ethical, high morals, has personal values, does what's right.
5. **Interpersonal skills** – nice, personable, sense of humor, friendly, nurturing, empathetic, has self-control, patient, sociability, warmth, social skills.
6. **Positive attitude** – optimistic, enthusiastic, encouraging, happy, confident.
7. **Professionalism** – businesslike, well-dressed, appearance, poised.
8. **Responsibility** – accountable, reliable, gets the job done, resourceful, self-disciplined, wants to do well, conscientious, common sense.
9. **Teamwork** – cooperative, gets along with others, agreeable, supportive, helpful, collaborative.
10. **Work ethic** – hard working, willing to work, loyal, initiative, self-motivated, on time, good attendance.

Tips for Building Soft Skills:

- Develop writing skills and proofread
- Be aware of your body language
- Join a club or sports team to work on your team-building skills
- Make eye contact with people when talking
- Choose to be positive
- Take initiative—do things without being asked
- Keep learning—read books and articles for personal growth and listen to motivational speakers
- Surround yourself with positive, hard-working, and creative people when possible
- Accept and learn from criticism—learn to appreciate when someone is trying to make you better

Who would write you a letter of recommendation? What would they say about you?

Fact #5—Your GPA is important!

Your grade point average (GPA) is a key indicator of your effort and academic success in high school and used in decisions about college admissions, scholarships, class rankings, and various academic honors that you might qualify for. Your GPA also determines the amount of Kentucky Educational Excellence (KEES) money that you might earn while in college. Therefore, your GPA may help earn you money for college!

For each year that you earn a 2.5 or better GPA, you can earn the base amount listed below. For example, a high school freshman who earns a 3.5 GPA would have a \$375 scholarship for each year of college. Amounts may change based on available funds.

Circle your current GPA:

GPA	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.75	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.25	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.70	3.75	3.80	3.90	4.00
Amount Per Year of College	\$125	\$150	\$175	\$187	\$200	\$225	\$250	\$275	\$300	\$312	\$325	\$350	\$375	\$400	\$425	\$437	\$450	\$475	\$500

****Additional money may be earned based on ACT and AP scores*

Fact #6—Planning ahead is important!

Refer to your grade level below and check off what you have already completed!

Senior Year—COMMIT TO YOUR PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

- ✓ Maintain 95% school attendance rate
- ✓ For rotary scholarship:
 - Maintain a 2.5 GPA
 - Take Gen 100 course
 - Register for classes at HCC—deadline is May 15 (no exceptions)
- ✓ Complete the FAFSA—as early as possible and no later than May 15
- ✓ Finalize industry certification testing in your pathway
- ✓ Register for and take the ACT at least one more time
- ✓ Schedule college visits and begin college application/scholarship process if applicable
- ✓ Ask for letters of recommendation (at least two weeks in advance)
- ✓ Check into Talent Pipeline and KY Fame Programs
- ✓ **Finalize your career portfolio:**
 - **Resume and letter of application**
 - **Work samples**
 - **Award certificates**
 - **Industry certification certificates**

Junior Year—SELECT A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

- ✓ Maintain 95% school attendance rate
- ✓ Register for and take the ACT as many times as possible
- ✓ Apply for co-op positions or apprenticeships (applications due prior to spring break)
 - Co-op committee will review discipline records, GPA, attendance, courses completed in co-op pathway
 - Students who have passed an End-of-Course Assessment (KOSSA) or industry certification will have an increased chance at job placement
- ✓ Begin working on industry certification testing in your pathway
- ✓ Consider applying for the following:
 - Work Ready Seal
 - Mayor's Youth Council (www.hopkinsvilleky.us/departments/mayor/mycity.php)
 - Governor's School of Entrepreneurs (www.KentuckyGSE.com or www.keenstart.org)
 - Hopkinsville Youth Leadership (www.christiancountychamber.com)
 - Governor's Scholars Program (www.gsp.ky.gov)
 - KY School for the Performing Arts (www.kentuckycenter.org/education-community-arts/gsa)
 - Pennyriple Rural Electric Summer Washington DC Leadership (www.kaec.org/content/Kentucky-youth-tour)
 - Prichard Committee Student Voice Team (www.prichardcommittee.org/our-initiatives/student-voice-team-fact-sheet)
- ✓ **Update your career portfolio:**
 - **Resume and letter of application**
 - **Work samples**
 - **Award certificates**
 - **Industry certification certificates**
- ✓ Schedule dual credit courses with HCC for senior year—meet with HCC advisors

Sophomore Year—EXPLORE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- ✓ Maintain 95% school attendance rate
- ✓ Register for and take the ACT
- ✓ Apply for Gatton Academy
- ✓ **Begin your career portfolio:**
 - **Resume and letter of application**
 - **Work samples**
 - **Award certificates**
 - **Industry certification certificates**
- ✓ Work to build a strong GPA and avoid discipline issues (these areas will be checked when applying for co-op or apprenticeships)
- ✓ Sign up for tough courses that will challenge you and help you build strong ACT scores
- ✓ Talk to your counselor about HCC summer programs
- ✓ Check into Upward Bound and MSU Talent search programs
- ✓ Explore AP courses for your junior year

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Fact #7—Decision making is necessary and important!

Option #1—Military and National Guard

Estimated Beginning Salary: \$25,000-30,000 (AVG)

Requirements:

- ✓ Must be a high school graduate
- ✓ ACT Range: 18 or above
- ✓ GPA Range: Not applicable
- ✓ Class Rank: Not applicable
- ✓ No criminal record or history
- ✓ Must be able to pass random drug screenings

Realities:

- ✓ Must complete basic training
- ✓ Must pass physical
- ✓ You may receive a signing bonus
- ✓ Benefits include health insurance and educational reimbursement
- ✓ May be able to attend college part-time

Option #2—Business and Industry (enter workforce directly from high school)

Estimated Beginning Salary: \$20,000-30,000+ (AVG)

Requirements:

- ✓ ACT Range: Not applicable
- ✓ GPA Range: Not applicable
- ✓ Class Rank: Not applicable

Realities:

- ✓ New employees usually begin with a 3rd shift position
- ✓ Possibility of benefits including health insurance
- ✓ May be required to pass basic math and english competences
- ✓ May be able to attend college part-time but at your own expense
- ✓ Must be able to pass random drug screenings
- ✓ In some areas, industry certifications may increase your starting pay

Option #3—TWO-Year College/Technical Training

Estimated Beginning Salary: \$36,000 (AVG)

Requirements:

- ✓ Must be a high school graduate or pass the GED
- ✓ ACT Technical Training Range: Not applicable
- ✓ ACT Range for TWO-Year college **with** scholarship: English-18; Math 22; Reading 22
- ✓ ACT Range for TWO-Year college **without** scholarship: English-18; Math-19; Reading-20
- ✓ GPA Range: 2.5 for Rotary Scholarship
- ✓ Class Rank: Not applicable

Realities:

- ✓ Estimated annual cost of \$4000
- ✓ Possible Rotary Scholarship—2.5+ GBA

Option #4—FOUR-Year College or University

Estimated Beginning Salary: \$45,000 (AVG)

Requirements:

- ✓ Must be a high school graduate or pass the GED
- ✓ ACT Range: 22-25 (without taking remedial classes)
- ✓ GPA Range: 2.5—4.0+
- ✓ Class Rank—Top 50%

Realities:

- ✓ Cost varies from \$20,000 up to \$65,000 annually
- ✓ Scholarships are available but they are competitive
- ✓ Coursework usually requires extensive studying outside of class time
- ✓ Leaving your hometown might be an adjustment
- ✓ Must develop a balance between work and school in many situations

Student Reflection:

Refer to the information in this packet and the conversations that you have had with your advisory teacher to respond below.

Fact #1—This community has invested a lot of money into your education!

How much money has our community invested in your education so far?

What does this mean to you?

Fact #2—The ACT is important!

What is your current ACT score?

What are some ways that you can improve your ACT score? Which subject areas should you focus on?

Fact #3—Industry certifications are important (just as much as ACT scores in many cases)!

Which industry certification is available for your pathway?

How might passing an industry certification help you with future employment?

Fact #4 Employability and soft skills are important in EVERY job!

Which soft skill areas did you rate yourself strong in? Weak?

What are THREE ways that you can begin improving your soft skills NOW?

Fact #5—Your GPA is important!

What is your current GPA?

Estimate how much in KEES money you have already earned.

Fact #6—Planning ahead is important!

What areas from the checklist should you begin NOW?

What areas from the checklist should you begin in January?

As you begin thinking about building your resume and career portfolio, list some accomplishments that you would like to include on your resume.

- Special Skills _____
- Extra-curricular activities _____
- Work Experience _____
- Awards and honors _____

Fact #7—Decision making is necessary and important!

YOUR DECISION AND PLAN: List which OF THE FOUR options you would choose.

Explain WHY you have made this decision.