

Zoology Psychology Rehabilitation/Therapeutic Services Linguistics
English Engineering Law
Accounting Journalism Drama
Health Science
Computer Science Philosophy Foreign Language Music
Communications Education Business
Biology ART Medicine
Social Work Chemistry
Military Science Forestry History Education
Culinary Arts Horticulture/Botany
ECONOMICS Political Science
Recreation and Leisure Library Sciences
Marriage/Mothering Nursing Criminal Justice

The Complete Career, College, and High School Guide for Homeschoolers



Includes Middle School through Adult

by Jill J. Dixon, B.S.Ed., M.Ed.

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High School Guide
for Homeschoolers*



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About the Author

Jill J. Dixon holds a Bachelor of Science in English Education (magna cum laude) and a Master's Degree in Special Education (summa cum laude). Her teaching experience spans twenty-five years and includes working with students from pre-school age to adults in public, private, and home school settings. Her students have included learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, and physically and mentally disabled children and adults. In 1993, Mrs. Dixon began "Educational Consulting and Diagnostic Services" which provided educational consulting, tutoring, and testing services to parents, schools, and homeschool support groups. Mrs. Dixon presently teaches history, literature, and writing classes, conducts standardized testing for local homeschoolers, serves as a national consultant for Home School Legal Defense Association and serves as an area Educational Consultant. Mrs. Dixon also enjoys speaking at homeschool conferences, conducting workshops, and writing articles for various publications and web sites. Mrs. Dixon is in her fourteenth year of homeschooling her own four children, with one now in college.

Seminars and Speaking

Mrs. Dixon conducts a day long seminar on the information in this guide entitled “A Gathering of Gifts”. She is also available to speak on other topics such as “ADHD: Fact or Fiction?”, “The 5 R’s of Homeschooling – What’s Really Important?”, “The Joy of Learning – Understanding Unique Learning Styles”, “Creating Wonderful Writers”, and “Diagnosing and Remediating Learning Problems”. Contact her at www.edudps.com for information.

I dedicate this guide to this generation of homeschooled graduates and their parents who have paved the road for those who are yet to come.

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Introduction

I have had the wonderful privilege of working with hundreds of homeschooled students (including my own four homeschooled children) and their families for fourteen years now. I have met and known countless self-sacrificing and dedicated parents who work tirelessly for 13 years to educate their children adequately, but have no idea how to guide them in a career or job choice. Most of these students have received a topnotch high school education, but are forced, like the rest of the world, to pick a career or college major “out of the hat” and just hope everything works out for the best. Many times these students attend college, technical school, or a Distance Learning Institute, but end up either dropping out or taking 5-6 years to complete a four year degree because they change their majors so often. Often, those who do finish college end up in jobs and careers that they are not happy with or suited for. These facts prove that college and career planning for homeschoolers must be approached with as much effort as the preceding 13 years of education. After all, these 13 years of school are only preparation for the next 40 to 50 years in the work force or some type of service. In light of these facts, we, as homeschool parents, must make sure our students are led correctly, wisely, and efficiently in the areas of college, career or service choice. *The Complete Career, College, and High School Guide for Homeschoolers* was devised to do just that for our students.

In view of the aforementioned information, I highly suggest that homeschooled students begin assessing their work preferences, gifts, and learning styles as early as Middle School. School courses in their areas of interest can also begin in the middle grades. The earlier each student is aware of his interests and strengths, the more prepared he will be for the future. Many colleges are now requiring incoming freshman to take a

course in Career Preparation because students end up wasting scholarship money, their own money, and a lot of time when they do not know what career they should pursue. Please note that this guide can be used as an actual Middle School or High School elective worth $\frac{1}{2}$ credit, if all the activities in the guide are completed.

A Personal Word (or Two)

I want to make sure that the purchasers and users of *The Complete Career, College, and High School Guide for Homeschoolers* understand what I am not advocating by writing this handbook.

- 1) I am not suggesting or implying that all homeschool graduates must or should attend college or technical school. I do not believe that. I am also not encouraging homeschool graduates to leave their families and attend colleges hundreds of miles away from the spiritual and moral umbrella of their homes.
- 2) I am not encouraging girls to pursue a career at the expense of being a wife or a mother. That is precisely why I have included a section on courses to pursue in high school in preparation for motherhood, which is one of, if not the most important of the “careers” listed in this handbook.
- 3) I personally believe that one way women are sometimes called to help their husbands is by contributing to the household income with part-time work, and that is why I have included a valuable section on part-time jobs for mothers. Many of these jobs allow the mothers to care for their children while working.
- 4) I never want this handbook to be used to encourage boys and young men to pursue careers that will take them away from their primary duties as husbands and fathers. I firmly believe that one major plight of our culture is the fact that fathers and husbands are not leading their families. One reason for this is that an absentee husband and/or father with the primary goal of making tons of money or moving up in a company cannot adequately lead his family. This handbook does not encourage this in any way.
- 5) I remind all Christians that prayer is the first step in choosing a life profession or career. There may be many fields you would like to pursue, but please make sure that this is what God wants. I also want to explain why I have not included Pastor, Missionary, or other related gifts and functions as “jobs”. These are actually not “careers” but are serious and sober callings from God and should not be treated as mere jobs.

How To Use This Guide

I. Career Planning

Step 1-

You should first take and score the 4 self-administered assessments at the beginning of the guide. All of these assessments together require a total of 45 minutes to 1½ hours to take. Record your results of all 4 assessments on the “Career Summation Form” on page 202.

Step 2-

You should read each list of jobs/careers/majors that applies to your score from the first 3 assessments. The lists are found after each assessment. For example, if your “Personality Profile” reveals that you have an OES Personality, you should read the list of college majors and careers under the OES Personality. If the “Work/Service Preference Survey” reveals that you are mainly a Helper, read the list of college majors and jobs for a Helper.

Choose 2 careers/majors from **each** assessment that interest you. **Note: It is best to choose a College Major from pages 90-153 if there is one you are interested in.** This will make it easier to find jobs and activities. Write these careers/majors down on the “Career Summation Form” found on page 202.

Step 3-

Look over the “List of Occupations” on page 61 and the “Technical School/College Programs” on page 83. There may be careers listed there that were not on the assessment lists. Write down any that interest you (under letter “D”) on the “Career Summation Form” on page 202. You may have to do some of your own research on the ones listed.

Step 4-

Answer the questions from “General Questions to Ask Yourself” on page 56 about any other careers from the “List of Occupations” (page 61) or “Technical School/College Programs” (page 83).

Step 5-

Go to the detailed list of “Popular Careers/College Majors for Homeschoolers” listed on pages 88-153. You may have to browse through all of the pages to find the specific job or career you are interested in if you did not list one of the specified College Majors under Step 2. Jobs are listed under “Interview Candidates/Potential Careers:”

Study each college major or job you have written down to determine courses you should take and activities you should pursue.

Write these courses and activities down on the “Career Plan Form” on page 205.

Complete the entire “Career Plan Form” on page 205.

II. High School Planning**Step 1-**

Read list of “High School Requirements” on page 165.

Step 2-

Read the “List of Possible High School Courses” on page 169. Write down some that interest you on the “High School Planning Worksheet” on page 206.

Step 3-

Read the list of “Middle School/High School Elective Courses That Should Be Required of All Students” on page 184. Write down the ones that you plan on taking on the “High School Planning Worksheet” on page 206.

Step 4-

Read the “Suggested Middle School/High School Courses” on pages 90 through 153 for the 3 college majors that interest you the most. Write

down the courses that interest you on the “High School Planning Worksheet” on page 206.

Step 5-

Read the lists of “Volunteer/Service Opportunities” on page 178. Write down 4 that interest you on the “High School Planning Worksheet” on page 206.

Step 6-

Read lists of Activities to consider under the 3 majors you have chosen on the “Career Plan Form” on page 205. Write down 5 activities you choose to pursue during high school on the “High School Planning Worksheet” on page 206.

Step 7-

Read “Earning High School and College Credit Through Testing” on page 180.

Read lists of CLEP and AP Tests on pages 181 and 183.

Decide if you would like to take any courses to prepare for these tests during High School.

Step 8-

Using all the above information, complete the “High School Planning Worksheet” on page 206.

Description of Assessments

Work/Service Preference Survey

This survey will determine the kind of work, activities, and service you enjoy the most or would enjoy the most and feel the most comfortable doing.

The Concise Learning Styles Assessment

This assessment finds the primary way that you process new information and most often give out or teach new information. This assessment will not only help high schoolers and college students discover their best methods of study, but will also guide them towards the type of work they should pursue.

Personality Profile

This concise personality test determines how you interact with other people, how you make decisions, and the kind of environment you prefer to live in.

Work Environment Questionnaire

This questionnaire asks questions about the type of environment you would prefer to work in, the kind of work activity you are drawn to and the kind of impact you desire to make in your work.

Work / Service Preference Survey

The Work/Service Preference Survey determines the kind of work and service you most enjoy doing.

Place a check next to each number that applies to you.

I do enjoy or would really enjoy:

- B 1) building things with wood
- S 2) making maps of places in geography
- C 3) writing stories or magazine articles
- H 4) helping sick people
- L 5) managing a store
- O 6) organizing data on a computer
- B 7) laying tile in a house or building
- S 8) studying animal behavior and using the information to solve pet problems
- C 9) teaching dance in preparation for a show or play
- H 10) counseling and helping people with personal problems
- L 11) selling things to people
- O 12) creating schedules for an organization or household
- B 13) repairing the TV, computer, or washing machine
- S 14) conducting a research study on something important like curing cancer
- C 15) playing a musical instrument
- H 16) working with handicapped children
- L 17) running a newspaper stand
- O 18) keeping records and accounts for an office
- B 19) building a brick walkway
- S 20) studying ways to reduce pollution
- C 21) being an extra in a movie or a play
- H 22) teaching children how to read