

# Counseling Gifted Students Considering Early College



<http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/EdGuild/>

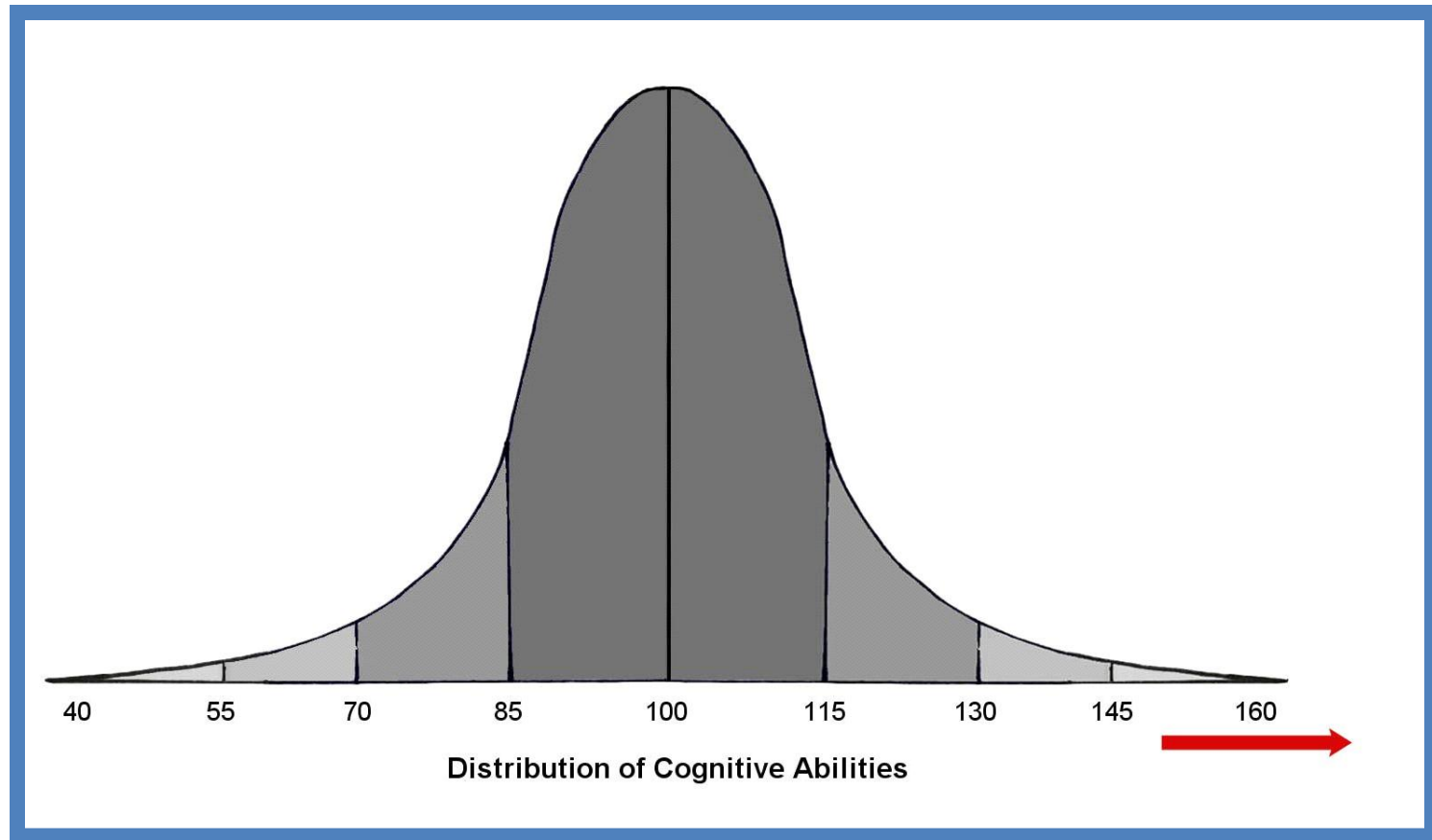
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# The Davidson Institute for Talent Development

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- Young Scholars Program
- Davidson Academy
- Davidson Fellows Scholarship
- Summer Programs
- Educators Guild

# A Range of Giftedness



# Characteristics

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- Asynchrony
- Intense Focus vs. Multi-potentiality
- Selective Consumerism vs. Underachievement

# What is Early College

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- Early College Entrance Programs
- Independent Enrollment

*“Teenage ambition can easily turn into boredom and a lifetime of missed opportunities.”*

– A Nation Deceived Vol. I

# When to Consider Early College

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- Signs it could be time to consider early college
- Characteristics of successful Early College students

*“Succeed with excellence.”*

– Davidson Institute

# What is the Same?

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## Social/Emotional

- Anxiety about process

## Application Process

- Components, timeline, deadlines
- Financial concerns & financial aid
- Disclosing exceptionalities
- May already have some credit
- Need for FIT
- FERPA rules

# What is Different

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## Social/Emotional

- Rate of developmental/ability asynchrony
- Factors affecting social success

## Application Process

- Will student have high school diploma?
- How will credit will be awarded?
- Gaps in knowledge?
- Academic expectations
- Avoid extra attention



# Gauging Academic Readiness

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- Academic measures
- Qualitative measures

*“Prior experience with AP Coursework was found to be the strongest predictor of academic success.”*

– Early Entrance to College

# Gauging Social & Emotional Readiness

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*“We have similar expectations for applicants of any chronological age, including an expectation of personal maturity,” and seek “evidence of maturity and depth.”*

– Dr. Marilyn McGrath, Director of Admissions Harvard College

# Gauging Social & Emotional Readiness

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Consider difficult questions:

- What direction is student running?
- Will waiting matter?
- Do benefits outweigh costs?
- Do they have the tools & traits?

# Why some choose to wait

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- Rushing
- Running
- Pushing
- Floundering

# Why Early College Can Work

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## *Research suggests:*

*Early College may actually enhance social prospects for some academically talented students.*

*Younger college students experience fewer failures and more athletic and non-athletic honors than traditional students.*

# Common Pitfalls

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## Process

- Prestige over fit and happiness

## Social Emotional

- Homesickness
- Not allowing for transition
- Decision-making framework for social situations or temptations
- Unprepared for roommate/classmate conflict
- Not building a network

## Executive Function

- Failure to self-advocate
- Procrastination/Perfectionism
- Reluctance to interact with professors or classmates
- Ignoring parent communication or calls
- Shutting down when challenged
- Poor organizational & coping skills

# Alternatives to Early College

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- Flexible Academic Options
- Hybrid Academic Options
- Non Academic Options

*“Many students who need accelerated coursework may not be ready for full-time enrollment in college.”*

– A Nation Deceived Vol. I

# Visit us in the Exhibitor Area

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- Free Listing of established early-college programs
- Free copy of Early College Guidebooks
- Join the Davidson Institute Educators Guild



# Resources

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Davidson Institute Educators Guild  
[www.DavidsonGifted.org/EdGuild](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/EdGuild)

## Other Resources

- Davidson Institute's Early College Guidebook (free)
- *A Nation Deceived*, Templeton Foundation
- *Early Entrance to College*, Muratori
- *College @ 13; Young, Gifted, and Purposeful*, Solow and Rhodes