

## Overview: College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

These **College and Career Readiness Benchmarks** define the qualities and achievements that students need to complete in order to be ready to enroll, persist, and succeed in college, postsecondary training opportunities, and gain entry into meaningful careers. While published tools and checklists exist in this area, these **College and Career Benchmarks** provide coherence and consistency to inform multiple systems and structures specific to New York City, ranging from citywide instructional expectations, performance measures, parent and student communication, and policy development within schools. To galvanize our collective efforts toward a shared goal, we have identified four domains of student development that are essential to success after graduation: **Common Core Learning Standards**, **Academic and Personal Behaviors**, **Academic Programming**, and **College and Career Access**. Students need support to master each of these domains.

**Common Core Learning Standards** cover the academic mastery that students demonstrate at every grade level, as identified by City and State standards. For more information about how schools are aligning their curriculum to the Common Core standards, see the [2012-13 Citywide Instructional Expectations](#).

**Academic & Personal Behaviors** define a set of learning habits and skills that support academic readiness and includes non-cognitive, socio-emotional indicators that support resiliency and college/career persistence, specifically: work habits and organizational skills, collaboration and communication skills, persistence, self-regulation, and social engagement.

**Academic Programming** refer to choices regarding the level of rigor and subjects that students complete to be prepared for college-level work, without requiring remedial academic courses after high school. For guidance on the courses and assessments students can complete to prepare for college and careers, review the graduation cards posted on this [Graduation Requirements](#) page.

**College and Career Access** emphasizes the importance of learning about postsecondary pathways and careers in order for students to develop meaningful personal aspirations. To access higher education, students need a clear sense of the roadmap to their goals, as well as specific supports at key transition points to ultimately gain entry to a well-matched college/career training program. This domain includes exploration; financial knowledge; effective use of summer months; and direct support for access, enrollment and transition activities.