

# College Connection

## Start **HERE!** for Tips to Get Ready for College

A Newsletter for High School Juniors  
[mystudentloanonline.nd.gov](http://mystudentloanonline.nd.gov)

Winter 2010 Vol. 7: Issue 1



## Why testGEAR™? Why Now?

There has never been a greater emphasis on individual performance regarding college admission and statewide exams than students face now. This is the perfect time to connect to testGEAR, an online course designed to help every student achieve higher test scores.

All students planning to write their ACT exam can prepare by using the testGEAR preparation course from school or from home. It is available 24/7 online.

TestGEAR courses are proven to improve student performance on big exams like the ACT as well as help develop and improve skills necessary when taking statewide exams.

Each student receives a personalized study plan based on a brief diagnostic test. Students are then guided through 25 to 50 hours of online instruction that strengthens skills within a subject matter, introduces test-taking strategies and builds confidence with many short practice tests and full-length exams.

This resource is provided with funding from the North Dakota College Access Network grant through Bank of North Dakota. Training and support to counselors is offered by the ND Career

Resource Network through the Regional Career Resource Coordinators.

This online test preparation tool is provided at no cost to students and can lead to stronger academic skills, better college admission test performance and possible scholarships. If you have not already done so, sign in to RUReadyND.com, create a new portfolio and click on the testGEAR icon to get started! Contact the school counselor at your local high school for more information on this valuable resource.

## College SAVE™ Picture the Future

It is *never too late*  
to start saving for college!

North Dakota's College SAVE Plan is one of the easiest ways to save for college, technical, vocational, or graduate school.

[collegesave4u.com](http://collegesave4u.com)

### *New College Access Resource Available to Students*

The North Dakota College Access Network (NDCAN), administered by Bank of North Dakota, is a free service providing students with important information to better prepare you for the transition to college. NDCAN gives you an organized and simple site to learn more about going to college whether you plan on going to a school in North Dakota or elsewhere.

Some of the topics include:

- College planning for juniors and seniors
- Choosing a college
- Scholarship opportunities
- Cost of education
- Career forecasts
- Links to regional college websites
- And much more!

For more information about how NDCAN can help with your college-related goals go to [www.nd-can.com](http://www.nd-can.com).

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## Crash Course Offered for Parents and Students

New college access and career planning events are scheduled throughout North Dakota to assist students and their families in planning for their futures! Crash Courses are enhanced educational workshops, designed to bring key information and instruction for those planning to enter a college, trade school or other advanced learning courses.

North Dakota College Access Network (NDCAN), administered by Bank of North Dakota (BND), is partnering with the Center for Technology and Business to

provide this exciting opportunity for students in grades 7 through 12. Crash Course attendees learn financial aid and FAFSA information along with other topics such as job opportunities, scholarships, and college planning. In addition, a free meal and prize drawings are provided.

Helpful tools are highlighted that assist students regarding career exploration, course planning, college information, interest and work inventories, and test preparation for the ACT exam. Also, information about

college scheduling, budgeting and questions about college are discussed.

Crash Course includes the host community as well as towns within approximately 30 miles. Eight locations are being planned for the 2010-11 school year. For locations and event dates, go to [nd-can.com/college\\_planning/college\\_and\\_career\\_planning/crash\\_course.html](http://nd-can.com/college_planning/college_and_career_planning/crash_course.html)

We encourage you to attend a Crash Course if one is available near your community.

### *Take a Free Dual Credit Course*

Dual credit courses are a great way to get a head start on college while still attending high school! North Dakota College Access Network (NDCAN), administered by Bank of North Dakota (BND), is accepting applications from eligible students for financial assistance to pay for a Dual Credit course.

- Are you a junior or senior attending a North Dakota high school?
- Have you received approval from your school district superintendent or designee to take a Dual Credit course?
- Do you qualify for Free or Reduced Price Lunch?

If so, you can take advantage of this new and innovative program to enroll in a college course for free.

All you need to do is complete the Dual Credit Enrollment Application that has been updated to include information about the financial assistance program. Simply send a copy of the form to BND to request assistance. Approved students may receive assistance for tuition, fees and books for one course per semester. The funding will be sent directly to your college, so there is no need to pay expenses up front.

This program begins with the upcoming spring semester. As funding is limited, applications will be considered by date submitted to BND. Approved students may receive assistance for one (1) course per semester.

We are excited to offer this program to students! Please contact NDCAN at 800-554-2717 if you have additional questions.