



What is ACE ?

Access to College Education (ACE) is a program which helps academically capable high school students to overcome challenges that might otherwise prevent them from pursuing a college education. ACE provides resources and services to expand and support the educational aspirations of students who may feel limited by social and/or economic circumstances.

Who sponsors it?

ACE is a unique consortium of four institutions: **Cornell University, Ithaca College, SUNY Cortland and Tompkins Cortland Community College**, working in partnership with **ten** local school districts in **Cortland, Madison, Seneca and Tompkins Counties**.

What does it offer to students and families?

The ACE colleges and school districts pledge to provide the undersigned student with a variety of college related experiences in preparation for *post secondary* education. These colleges will also weigh the ACE Recommendation in their admissions decisions. In addition, as students apply to any institution of higher education, the *ACE Recommendation* should be included in their application packet.

What specific programs and services does ACE offer?

- ~ Skills training, motivation and academic advice.
- ~ College activities, including campus tours, theater presentations, and lectures.
- ~ Regional Institutes: workshops on financial aid; study skills; time management; etc.
- ~ *ACE Recommendation letter* to college for those achieving a *B overall average* in college preparatory course work *and* participating *regularly* in ACE events and programs
- ~ Advice in applying for financial aid

How do students gain access and participate in the program?

- ~ ACE students enter the program at the end of 8th grade or during the 9th grade, based on the recommendation of the school district's teachers and school counselors.
- ~ Students and their parents sign a commitment letter.
- ~ Students promise to:
 - complete a high school college preparatory program
 - maintain at least a *B average*
 - participate* in *12 ACE* programs and activities during their *four years* in high school

How successful is the program?

Of the **107** ACE seniors in the **Class of 2012**, **25** received the ACE recommendation letter. Of the **88** ACE seniors in the **Class of 2013**, **19** received the ACE recommendation letter. Of the **86** ACE seniors in the **Class of 2014**, **18** received the ACE recommendation letter. Of the **99** ACE seniors in the **Class of 2015**, **15** have *received* the ACE recommendation so far and as of **Jan. 2015**, **13** *more* are *tentative* to receive it.

- ~ Unless they decide to choose employment or military service instead, it is expected that 100 % of this year's *recommended seniors* will be *accepted* to one or more colleges.
- ~ In addition, a **majority** of *ACE participants* who do *not* receive the ACE Recommendation will *still* attend college.

How is ACE unique?

It's a partnership between four very *different* kinds of higher education institutions (an Ivy League research university; a comprehensive private college; a state college offering arts and sciences and professional studies; and a SUNY community college) along with ten area high schools: Cincinnatus, Cortland, DeRuyter, Homer, Lansing, Marathon, McGraw, Moravia, Newfield and South Seneca.

ACE is a grassroots investment in the local communities and in local youths and their families.

Financial support comes in dollars and services from the four colleges and seven public schools. The \$100,000 annual budget will serve over 600 active students. In addition, the program benefits from the efforts of a tremendous number of staff, faculty and school counselors from the middle schools, high schools and colleges.

Parent involvement is required. The majority of programs are designed for **both students and their parents.** Financial Aid, Study Skills, and College Admission are some examples of workshops offered.

ACE is aimed at students *in the middle*, those who have the ability to succeed on the college level but have not made a firm commitment to do so or don't *think* they have the resources to succeed.

How can you find out more about ACE ?

Contact the ACE Office;
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Cortland, NY 13045.
(607) 753-5662.

www.cortland.edu/ace

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