



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF ACE

What is ACE: ACE is a program for high school students who have their sites set on attending college and getting the help to do so successfully. Access to College Education is supported by Cornell University, SUNY Cortland, Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College. The purpose is to provide educational events to help students not only learn about the college search and application process but to also help them become more aware of how to be better students over-all. Currently, twelve high schools participate in ACE to include almost 800 students.

Benefits of ACE include:

- Access to 30+ academic and cultural programs throughout the year on college campuses and at local high schools all at no cost to the families
- Learn about the process of career exploration, college search and application process
- Students can earn an ACE recommendation by completing specific program requirements.

Why ACE: Research shows that when students are committed to being better students and being actively involved in the planning process of postsecondary education they are more successful at the college level and more likely to complete. According to Barnett's findings specific college preparatory experiences and certain markers of educational achieve-

ment together provide high school students with a greater likelihood of college success. These experiences have greater impact when experienced in a variety of ways, over time rather than a singular event. There is also evidence suggesting that students who intentionally plan for both academics and college throughout high school are more likely to graduate college. When programs and events are supported by both high schools and colleges there is a greater positive impact for students. ACE is unique in its programming in that way. The program provides events at high schools but also brings students to campus for tours, career workshops, college preparation as well as activities such as plays, art shows, athletic events, film screening and more. (Barnett, E. "Building Student Momentum from High School into College from the Series of Ready or Not: It's Time to Rethink the 12th Grade Series of Papers." (2016): n. pag. http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/publication_s/materials/Building-Student-Momentum-022516.pdf. Web).

Types of ACE Events:

Campus Visit: The ACE Campus Visit happens one time a year for each grade level. Each Campus Visit is specific to one grade level and is intended to help students experience time on all four college campuses. Campus Visits cover a wide range of topics and often include a campus tour. If students attend all four Campus Visits, they will have experienced the different types of college

campuses helping them decide what type of college environment they prefer. Students will also be more prepared to ask questions at their own individual campus/admissions visits with their increased understanding of what colleges have to offer.

School of Thought: These events are typically offered in the evenings or on weekends. They are career exploratory in nature. ACE will host three or four of these each year. Both parents and students are encouraged to attend.

Regional Institute: All events are held at local high schools in the evening or on the weekend. Workshop topics include: Financial Aid, Admissions process, career exploration and more. Parents and students are encouraged to come.

Summer Programs: These are workshop based programs held over the summer. They are 1/2 day, full day or multiple day opportunities for students to learn study skills, learning styles, prepare for SAT/ACT, learn specifics about the writing process.

Cultural Events: These events vary but have included plays, art gallery tours, sporting events and lectures on any of the four college campuses.

All programs are free to ACE students and families

Check out our website:

www.cortland.edu/ACE

There you will find:

The history of ACE and who we serve	The commitment form to join ACE (how to join)
Full list of events	On-line registration for ACE Events
Who to contact with questions about ACE	What students have to say about our program
A detailed description of all our programs and driving directions to each	Links to College search, Scholarship, Financial Aid sites

For more information contact:

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Outstanding ACE Senior Award

Each year ACE awards two of our ACE students with the Outstanding ACE Senior Award. Each recipient will receive \$500 at his/her school award ceremony.

This award is given to a student who:

- Qualifies for the ACE Recommendation
- Maintains ACE event participation even in his/her senior year
- Provides a service to ACE or his/her ACE community
- Completes the application essay
- Completes at least 18 ACE events throughout their high school career (14 from the **required** group of activities)
- Completes an application

Please encourage your ACE students to participate in as many ACE related activities as possible in order to be eligible for this award by his/her senior year. If there are questions please feel free to contact the ACE Office or your school liaison.

Spring Events

The spring will include more exciting programs for our participants. Below is a current list but go to www.cortland.edu/ACE for updates as more events will be added. The website also has details about each event as well as driving directions.

2/11	School of Thought	Cornell Hydroponic and Aquaponics Facility Tour and Discussion
2/17	College Theatre "Crazy for You"	SUNY Cortland 7:00pm
3/7	Regional Institute	Dryden High School 6:30-8:30
3/10	10th Grade Campus Visit	Tompkins Cortland CC
3/27	College Theatre "The Cradle Will Rock"	Ithaca College 7:30pm
4/6	Regional Institute	DeRuyter High School 6:30-8:30
4/27	College Theatre "Baltimore"	Cornell University 7:30
5/4	Gallery Talk & Tour	SUNY Cortland
5/21	Orientation Conference	Tompkins Cortland Community College

ACE Letter of Recommendation

The ACE Recommendation documents and rewards student participation throughout their years in the program. The recommendation letter is given to the student's school counselor and is then available to be sent out during the college application process which is usually in the fall of their Senior year.

To receive the ACE RECOMMENDATION students must:

- Attend at least **TWELVE** qualifying ACE EVENTS during their time with the ACE program. (There are two groups of ACE events: Required and Additional activities. Students must attend 8 from the required group and 4 from the Additional group. See below for examples of both types)
- Maintain at least a **B** range GPA throughout their years in high school. (B- to A+)

In order for students to reach this goal by the fall of their senior year (for college applications) it is recommended they attend at least 4 programs each year leading up to the senior year. **Students are welcome and encouraged to do many more than 12 ACE events.** They may attend as many programs as they like and can fit into their schedules. The more you attend, the more you benefit from being a member of ACE. Most students receiving the ACE Recommendation have done 15-20 events by the end of 12th grade. A few have over 30.

Required Group (8)	Additional Events (4)
Summer Programs	College Theater
ACE Grade Level Campus Visit	Gallery Talk and Tour
Regional Institutes	Individual Campus Visits
Welcome Orientation	Campus Events
Schools of Thought	TC3 and Auburn College Fairs