

HIFE CPP REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- ◆ Must seek to attend an accredited institution
- ◆ Must be willing to complete the assigned homework provided by the HIFE Coach

Inside this issue:

Message From The Dean	1
Eight Reasons High School Students Should Be On LinkedIn	1
Eight Reasons High School Students Should Be On LinkedIn	2
Eight Reasons High School Students Should	3
College Planning	4
Coach's Corner	4

Message From The Dean - Bob Fulcomer

Social media is not going away, and almost everyone is using it for various reasons. As a student preparing for college and a career, you need to be aware of what is available to all of the colleges and employers via the internet. You may think it is cool or funny to post things on Facebook, twitter and everywhere else. You may think that you can

clean it up later or when you realize that it is not going to be in your best interest. **WRONG!!!!** Everything that is posted can be retrieved even after you think you have deleted it. Bottom line: It is best not to post it in the first place. There have been cases where people have been fired for information, comments, or pictures they have posted.

Students have been suspended or declined enrollment as well. If you need to alter or revamp your social media practices, start now. Know that you don't have to avoid social media altogether. If used properly and honestly, such as mentioning volunteer work and community service, you can position yourself in a positive light. Remember to always keep it clean and professional.

Eight Reasons High School Students Should Be On LinkedIn

Now that LinkedIn LNKD +2.43% is a decade old and has 225 million members, its fastest-growing demographic – 30 million and counting—is students and those who are three years or less out of college. Though LinkedIn's user agreement says that members agree they are at least 18 years old, I am going to make a recommendation and a prediction: High school students should start LinkedIn profiles now. I predict

that LinkedIn will soon drop its age threshold or eliminate it altogether. Consider that Facebook FB +4.58%'s threshold is 13, and the site has hundreds of thousands, if not millions of kids under 13 using it every day. Unlike Facebook, LinkedIn has no place to enter a birth date.

Here's an example of how teens can use it: Earlier this month, as she was applying for jobs, hoping to start after she graduates from high school on

May 29, Genella Minot, a 17-year-old in Port Saint Lucie, Fla., realized that instead of sending a revised résumé for each new job, she could build a profile on LinkedIn and possibly submit that instead. She also hopes a potential employer will see her LinkedIn page and make a job offer. "I have all my information on there," she says. "I'm hoping an employer comes across it." Minot's qualifications include CPR and first aid certifications and a 40-hour child

Eight Reasons High School Students Should Be On LinkedIn (cont.)



care course given by the Florida Department of Children and Families. She has also worked as a youth mentor and a volunteer at a regional health center. Her goal: a summer child care or health care job that she can turn into a part-time position when she starts at Indian River State College in the fall.

If I were Minot's career coach, I would give her some pointers on how she could strengthen her profile. Most important, she should be linking with adults, including teachers and supervisors at her volunteer jobs. At this point she has zero connections, which means she's forgoing one of LinkedIn's greatest strengths, the ability to branch out from your contacts to other people you don't know first-hand. Even if she were just to connect with relatives, she would put herself in a stronger position to do future networking. It's possible, for instance, that her aunt has a friend at the daycare center where she wants to work.

Here are eight reasons I think high school students should be on LinkedIn:

1. To get a customized LinkedIn URL. This will drive your LinkedIn page to the top of Google

GOOG +14.88% searches on your name. The earlier you get this, the better. Here's how to do it: On your profile page next to the rectangular grey "Edit" button to the right of your name, click on the drop-down menu, and then click on "Manage public profile settings." Halfway down the page on the right side you'll see a grey bar that says "Your public profile URL." Underneath the bar, click on the blue phrase that says "Customize your public profile URL." Plug in your first and last name. If that's already taken, try your last name first, followed by your first name. If that's not available, try adding a middle initial or city abbreviation like NYC. Now that LinkedIn is so heavily used, this can be a challenge for those with common names. But SusanAdams75 is better than the random URL the site assigns you.

2. To make lasting connections. Maybe your sophomore English teacher loves you and before he became a teacher, he worked in publishing at Simon & Schuster, where you want to intern. Or the director of the camp where you worked last summer has a close friend at New York Hospital, where you're trying to get a part-time research position.

Networking contacts like these can be extremely valuable. Do connect with as many adults as possible who know you and your work. Peer connections are also important. Your friends and friends of friends may wind up working where you want to be.

3. To get recommendations and endorsements. If you do a volunteer internship at a bike shop, get your boss to write you a glowing recommendation that mentions specific things you did well, like handling customers and always arriving early and staying late. A student like Minot should list her specific skills from the long lists that LinkedIn offers, like Childcare, Child Development and Child Welfare. Adults she's worked with on her volunteer jobs will endorse her. Since endorsements accumulate over time, it's good to start early.

4. To highlight awards. If you're in a serious academic club like the debate team and you win awards, or your essay wins a nationwide writing competition, potential employers want to know. Create an Honors & Awards section on your profile and keep it up to date.

5. To show that you're serious. Most potential employers will put your name through a Google search. Having a LinkedIn profile tells a potential new boss that you are serious about building a career, rather than just socializing online. Maria Stein, Director of Career Services at Northeastern University in Boston, says for college students, a LinkedIn profile "shows they're forward-thinking and that they know their skills are transferable." If a high school student has a LinkedIn profile, it shows they are several steps ahead.

6. To boost your college application. I'm giving this advice with a caveat: I have heard anecdotally that admissions offices routinely Google college applicants and scrutinize Facebook pages. But I called seven admissions offices at random, including the University of Chicago, Haverford and Babson, and none of them said they do this as part of their evaluation process. "We don't have the bandwidth," says Babson's dean of admission, Grant Gosselin. Some schools like Bates have a strict policy of not searching students' social media accounts. But Haverford's admissions dean, Jess Lord, concedes that a LinkedIn profile is "very

different" from a Facebook page. If a student points the admissions office to LinkedIn, Lord says his staff might take a look, knowing that it's geared toward networking and professional accomplishments, especially because Haverford cares about a student's work history.

7. To impress potential employers. If you're up for a summer job and your competition has only a résumé and no LinkedIn profile, a hiring manager will likely be impressed that you have had the foresight to establish a LinkedIn presence, especially if you have several strong recommendations, more than a few endorsements, a dozen connections and a work history that shows you've held down other jobs, even if they were volunteer positions.

8. To search for connections to the jobs you want. This is one of LinkedIn's great strengths: If you know what field or company you want to work in, you can instantly search your connections for a link to a specific company, institution or field. It's likely a challenge for a high school student to come up with more than a dozen connections. But

the beauty of LinkedIn is that you can keep building as you grow. My colleague George Anders wrote last week about a new LinkedIn feature, called CheckIn, that makes it easy for people who attend job fairs to sign in with potential employers, linking potential hiring managers directly to applicants' LinkedIn profiles. I couldn't get any LinkedIn spokespeople to tell me what the site has cooking for younger job seekers but I have reason to believe there are plans in the works. Even if, like Genella Minot, you do no more than fill out a bare bones profile, you're putting yourself a step ahead of the millions of high school students who are looking for work now and will be competing with you in the future.

Reference

Source : www.forbes.com





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"Providing Families With College Planning Solutions"

What We Provide With HIFE College Planning

The HIFE College Planning Program provides many areas of support for both students and parents in preparation for a college career. The success of the program ultimately lies on how proactive each participating student is when it comes to doing the actual work that is assigned by the HIFE Coach.

Although many parents' primary goal is to find funding for their student's education, the college planning and preparation provides an incredible amount of value for the student in determining their career goals. Here is the summary of what the HIFE CPP entails:

1. We assign you and your student a personal College Coach to discuss with the student his or her career/major choices, college selections, as well as admission and career tips.

2. We guide your student in completing the Free

Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

3. We assist in the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile and all supporting paperwork if applicable.

4. We verify the accuracy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) and assist in making any adjustments.

5. We provide a best fit college search. This will be based on the general interests of the student, and the student will be given access to an on-line program which maintains this information. We will also give additional recommendations if needed.

6. We provide financial aid award estimates for each school being considered as well as recommend additional

7. We provide information on how to attain student loans, grants, and scholarship when applicable.

8. We schedule conference calls for what

you need to be aware of or what you should be doing at that time to keep everyone on-track.

9. We provide guidelines in the appeal process, how to read your award letters, what to do if they don't offer you enough aid, as well as financial tips that concern paying for college.

10. We perform a career search (including education requirements, career description, as well as starting salary estimates). This will be based on the general interests of the student, and the student will be given access to an on-line program which maintains this information.

Students may enroll in the HIFE CPP as early as the spring semester of their 8th grade up to their high school senior year. Contact your local HIFE CPP Consultant to learn more about our program or simply visit us on our website at: www.hife-usa.org.

Coach's Corner

Parents, are you doing your best to help fulfill your child's educational goals and dreams for the future?

Truly, a parent's involvement should be a support, not a substitute, for the pure effort of schools: good teaching and training. But the research is clear: "hands on"

parenting can make a difference in student learning.

A Southwest Educational Development Laboratory report found that students with involved parents, no matter their income or background, are more likely to: Earn higher grades and test scores, pass their classes and earn credits, graduate

and go on to post-secondary education.

Our HIFE College Planning Program Coaches work with parents and students in helping determine the best path to actualization. Together, we can work to realize their educational goals and dreams.

