

# Parallel Planning



**A parallel plan** is similar to what some people may call a "Plan B" or an "alternative plan." However, a parallel plan is much more than that! Creating a parallel plan is about preparing for all possibilities and making sure you are ready for anything. It's about really getting to know yourself and your career interests.

**Directions:** Read these students' scenarios. Consider how their parallel plan has helped them accomplish their goals. Next, write your overall plan in the Plan #1, Plan #2, and Plan #3 boxes and then fill out the rest of the chart.

## Cha Kong

Cha Kong is a senior and is planning to attend his first-choice college next fall. During the spring, his family completed the FAFSA form and received the student financial aid information back. As his family reviewed the forms, they determine that Cha Kong's first-choice school is cost prohibitive for him to attend. The amount of loans he'd need are beyond what he and his family are comfortable taking on.

Cha Kong remembers that during his junior year he toured the local 2-year community college and that their tuition rates are lower than his first choice college. Cha Kong decides to enroll in the community college for two years to complete his Associates degree and then will enroll in his first-choice college to earn his major and bachelor's degree.

Cha Kong is a bit disappointed that he can't attend his first-choice school right away but is comfortable knowing that his family will be able to afford two years tuition at that school and that he can still earn the degree he had hoped.

## Jazmine

Jazmine is a junior in her local high school. She has taken a science class each year. In her senior year, Jazmine plans to take AP Physics; a class she knows she'll need as she enters college as she wants to earn a degree in aerospace engineering. However, there are budget cuts at Jazmine's school her senior year, now fewer sections of the class will be offered and less students can take the class. In the lottery Jazmine doesn't get enrolled into the class; she is on the waitlist.

Jazmine has a parallel plan in place. She quickly informs the counseling office that she wants to enroll in AP Chemistry. This will help her achieve her goal of having an advanced level science course in her senior year. If she changes majors in college to her second choice of biomedical engineering, she will still have met the requirements for her college classes. Jazmine is pleased with her decision and knows that she won't be behind in college.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAN #1

PLAN #2

PLAN #3

HIGH SCHOOL  
COURSES NEEDED

WHAT POST-SECONDARY  
SCHOOL OR TRAINING IS  
REQUIRED

HOW THIS PLAN FITS  
WITH MY INTERESTS

HOW THIS PLAN FITS  
WITH MY SKILLS

PROS OF THIS PLAN

CONS OF THIS PLAN

24/7

2000

10 hours

2 GB