

Competencies & Key Topics



NCCEP's professional development programs use eight categories with relevant topics.

College Knowledge and Readiness

- Academic support and tutoring
- Admissions
- Career exploration
- Current education issues
- Financial aid
- Financial literacy
- General college knowledge
- Teaching and instruction
- Testing (SAT / ACT)
- STEM
- Value of college

Communications and Advocacy

- Advocacy
- Communication strategies
- National GEAR UP Week
- Social media
- Storytelling

Data, Research, and Evaluation

- Communicating data
- Data collection and management
- Data reporting (APR/FPR)
- Evaluation design and methods
- Research and evaluation results
- Using data effectively

Family Engagement

- Building relationships and trust
- Communication and outreach
- Family programs and services

Grant Administration

- Budget and finance
- GEAR UP policies
- Grant writing
- Introduction to GEAR UP and NCCEP
- Match requirement
- New grant start up
- Program design
- Sustainability

Professional Skills

- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Organization and time management
- Presentation design and delivery
- Staff and team dynamics
- Strategic thinking
- Technology
- Wellness and work-life balance

Program Planning

- Buy-in from school staff
- Campus visits
- College-going culture
- College transitions and first-year success
- Event planning
- Mentoring
- Partnerships and community
- Summer programs

Student Support

- Counseling and advising
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Mental health and well-being
- Non-cognitive skills and social-emotional learning
- Special populations*
- Student engagement
- Student leadership

*Special populations may include:

- **Race / ethnicity** (BIPOC, Black, Latino, etc.)
- **Sex / gender / sexuality** (male, female, LGBTQIA+)
- **Geography** (rural, urban, suburban)
- **Legal status** (undocumented)
- **Language** (English Language Learners)
- **Living situation** (homeless, foster youth, migrant)
- **Ability** (physical disability, special education)
- **Other** (teen parents, incarcerated youth or family members)