Helping every student choose Rigor
gain Access
maintain Motivation and practice Persistence
on the road to higher education and a high-skill career
Ramp-Up to Readiness™ is a school-wide advisory program that helps students in grades 6 through 12 master the knowledge, skills and habits for success in a high-quality college program, whether it be at a technical, community, or a four-year college or university. Readiness means reaching the following goals by the end of high school:

**Academic Readiness:** The ability to succeed in first-year, credit-bearing courses at a technical college, a community college or a four-year college or university

**Admissions Readiness:** The ability to meet admissions requirements at a range of postsecondary institutions

**Career Readiness:** The ability to identify careers that match personal, financial, and other goals and an understanding of the skills, credentials, and experiences required to succeed in those careers

**Financial Readiness:** The ability to cover the cost of study at a postsecondary institution through savings, loans, and financial aid

**Social Emotional Readiness:** The ability to set educational goals, make and monitor progress toward them, and create relationships with peers and adults that support academic success

The Ramp-Up to Readiness™ curriculum, which addresses all five goals in each grade level, includes 30 engaging and interactive Advisory Activities designed for half-hour sessions and 1 class-period long Workshop for each grade level in an easy to use format. Sample topics include:

- Seeking Help in High School
- Requirements for Graduation vs. Postsecondary Admittance
- Identifying Sparks
- Understanding Decision-Making
- Setting SMART Goals
- Defining Ways to Pay for College

At least twice a year students update two tools: the Postsecondary Plan and the Readiness Rubric. The Postsecondary Plan helps students ask and answer the question: What do I want to do with my life after high school? Similarly, the Readiness Rubric helps students ask and answer: What do I need to do to reach that goal? Students articulate and update their plans for life after high school in their Postsecondary Plans, while they continuously monitor their progress toward being college ready using the Readiness Rubric.
WHY ADOPT RAMP-UP TO READINESS™?

Ramp-Up is research-based:
Ramp-Up to Readiness™ was designed over a period of 5 years based on an extensive review of scholarly research and intensive engagement in Minnesota secondary schools. The curriculum is reviewed annually and has been enhanced each year.

It implements the recommendations of high quality research on college readiness as identified in a Practice Guide published in the Institute of Education Sciences’ What Works Clearinghouse.

It is what students need:
In the 21st-century economy, completion of a postsecondary credential or degree is the best—and in many cases the only—path to sustainable career options. Ramp-Up helps students identify possible careers that match students’ interests and skills and find the best postsecondary options for those careers.

Efforts to increase the supply of academic rigor available to students will only succeed if they are met by increased student demand for that rigor. All across Minnesota, secondary schools are working to increase the supply of academic rigor they make available to students, such as the number of dual credit courses they offer—from Advanced Placement to International Baccalaureate, Postsecondary Enrollment Options and College-in-the-School programs. Ramp-Up has been designed to raise students’ demand for academic rigor by ensuring that all students understand how and why what they do in school today will impact their quality of life tomorrow.

Ramp-Up is now used in over 150 schools with more than 70,000 students.

Because Ramp-Up is intended to help all students in a school embrace rigor, gain access, maintain motivation, and practice persistence, it is the base of a pyramid of interventions that together constitute a school-wide approach to college and career readiness. Above that base are interventions for targeted groups of students who need specialized support, such as AVID and College Possible. At the top of the pyramid are personalized interventions for individual students who are highly at risk of not becoming college and career ready by the end of high school.

“Ramp-Up is intentional and focuses on the student.” Shane Zutz, Principal, Thief River Falls High School
The University of Minnesota provides training opportunities for school leadership teams, Implementation Guides, grade-level Advisor Guides, materials for presenting to school staff, and access to a password-protected website containing other helpful resources.

For more information and pricing see www.rampuptoreadiness.org, or email collegeready@umn.edu

Jennifer Kunze  
Ramp-Up director  
kunze@umn.edu  
612-625-4513

Julie Sweitzer  
executive director, College Readiness Consortium  
sweitzer@umn.edu  
612-625-5324

“As a licensed school counselor, I am thrilled to work with Ramp-Up to Readiness™. It is a top-notch, comprehensive guidance curriculum focused on college and career readiness for ALL students [including] personal motivation, habits of persistence, and self-regulation – the essential character traits of a successful postsecondary student.”

Katie Vasil, dean of students, Century Junior High School

“Ramp-Up to Readiness™ has truly filled a void with preparing our students for the 21st century. We appreciate the ease of use and comprehensiveness of the curriculum.“

Bruce Rohne, school counselor, Kingsland Public Schools

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to College Readiness Consortium, 612-625-3695.

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with at least 10% postconsumer material.  
©2016 Regents of the University of Minnesota.