

## Horizons

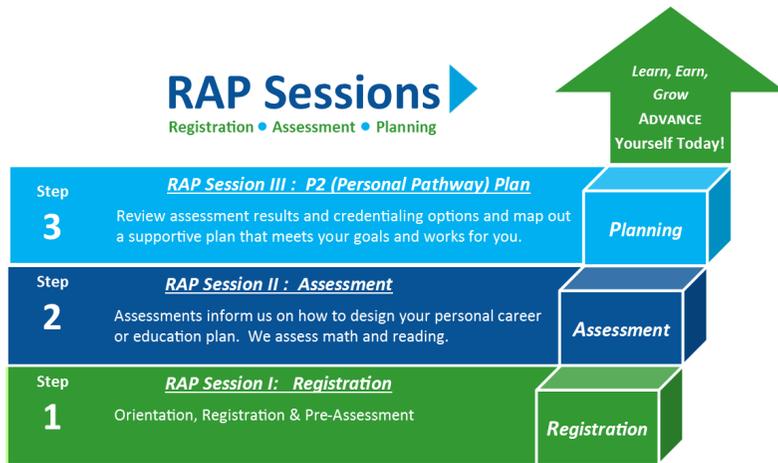
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### RAP It Up...

Mark Twain said “the secret to getting ahead is getting started.” If Twain were still present in Tahoe today, he might add “and connecting with ADVANCE is a great way to get started.” **Why?** Because beyond simple access to any single class, activity or service, ADVANCE provides a comprehensive, personalized experience that allows each participant to focus on his or her unique situation, including: strengths, responsibilities and goals.

ADVANCE has designed a three-part onboarding process as a way to initiate discussion about and explore personal career and educational advancement. Through this onboarding process, participants identify goals and opportunities, assess strengths and weaknesses, and become familiar with how the ADVANCE network can support their individual efforts.

We call this onboarding process *RAP Sessions*. RAP stands for **R**egistration, **A**ssessment, and **P**athway Planning. Often times, individuals think of ADVANCE for a specific program or service — perhaps to finish high school or to attend a Culinary Boot Camp. This process allows for a broader discussion about *why* they want to complete high school or *why* they are interested in a boot camp.



“Why does this program sound appealing to you?” inquires the ADVANCE Transition Coordinator.

“To get a better job,” or “to get into college,” replies the prospective participant.

RAP Sessions allow a participant to consider the bigger picture of “*why*” by starting to think about goal planning as a lifelong journey that continuously evolves over time. As one goal is achieved, where does the next step lead and what support do you need to get there? These questions acknowledge

the importance of commitment to a plan and motivate participants in advancing beyond high school, or beyond a specific course or certificate. The level and intensity of commitment to a plan will also be unique to each individual, as current participant Tracy D’Anneo explains:

*“The time commitment as an ADVANCE participant is connected to how much you want to learn something new and how much time you have to give... It takes time and there is no shortcut. I felt that the process was relevant and very helpful, as far as seeing what jobs are available and what kind of training and qualifications you need to get there. ADVANCE is supportive while remaining realistic about goals.”*