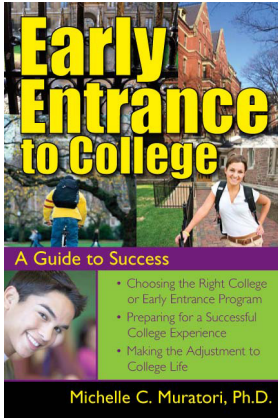


**San Francisco Bay Area Gifted Homeschoolers  
Early College Workshop, October 14, 2007**



**BOOK REVIEW**

***Early Entrance to College: A Guide to Success***

by Michelle C. Muratori, Ph.D.

*Review by Jennifer Dees*

For those of us homeschooling gifted children, Michele Muratori writes from the heart of a world we know well. She currently works with the Johns Hopkins University CTY Study of Exceptional Talent (SET), and counts the late Dr. Julian Stanley as a mentor. She worked for one of the country's first Residential Early College Entrance Programs (NAASE at the University of Iowa), and studied its young students for her doctoral dissertation. In this book she culls contributions from some of the gifted education world's most esteemed leaders, such as Miraca

Gross of Australia, Nancy Robinson at the University of Washington, and Linda Brody at Johns Hopkins.

*Early Entrance to College* focuses on special programs for young students at four-year colleges and universities, and as such is not meant to be a guide for those who are interested in part-time attendance at community colleges for their homeschooled children. Yet there is much in the book to inform that kind of college attendance as well. Also, these same students will likely still be younger than the usual "college age" when they are later ready to attend four-year colleges and universities.

It's helpful to have a broad picture of the world of early college attendance by gifted kids, from programs in which students start at very young ages (11 years at Cal State's Early Entrance Program), to those which accept students only one year early. Muratori also covers options for students entering colleges or universities early on their own, without benefit of a special program that nurtures young students. And administrators at many of these programs specifically advise would-be students to take one or more college courses on a part-time basis before enrolling in a full-time residential program.

Whether taking community college courses part-time or enrolling in a university full-time, talented young students will almost always need to increase their study time and attention compared to activities in which they may have been less challenged. Muratori presents advice from administrators of college programs, parents of young college students, and the students themselves who emphasize over and over again what a shock it may be to those who have "never needed to study" when they suddenly need to study quite a bit. Study skills, time management, and emotional maturity seem to be the biggest challenges for a group of young students whose outstanding academic abilities are a given.

All Muratori's interviewees, from college administrators to parents to students, emphasize that the decision to attend college early should be the student's, not the parents'. Attending college early is a social, emotional, and academic adjustment, and students need the support of their families but also the freedom to make this important decision. Muratori dedicates a valuable chapter to "success," examining why some early college entrants succeed (by their own criteria as well as others') and why some do not. The factors she reveals provide important cautionary notes for potential early entrants.

*Early Entrance to College* provides a valuable dose of perspective for young, gifted students who are interested in attending college early, and for their parents.

*Early Entrance to College: A Guide to Success*, by Michelle C. Muratori, © 2007, Prufrock Press Inc.  
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