



# Discover What **You Do Best**

for Students

## Mother and Daughter Speak Out

Dear Highlands,

My daughter Beth took the Highlands Ability Battery during her junior year of high school. She is very intelligent, but she couldn't figure out what to do about college. She was panicked at the idea of even thinking about college.

Beth and I both learned some very useful information. What helped the most was learning that Beth's natural time frame was very short. What I thought was stubbornness was her natural way of looking at the world. Later, I took the test myself and learned that my time frame was very long – no wonder we were always frustrated with each other! Beth was relieved to hear the counselor explain that once she picked a major, she could focus on one semester at a time and I would no longer worry about her "short-sightedness."

We learned that Beth was a "specialist/introvert." She liked working from a specialized perspective. This convinced us that a small school would be best. The counselor asked Beth if she had an interest in art. Beth has a deep love for horses, but she hadn't thought about art. She decided to work on the school yearbook and took an art class her senior year, and loved it. That experience and a class visit from an illustrator helped Beth decide to look at a career in art. We heard about Savannah College of Art and Design. Beth liked what she saw and was accepted. Beth is now a sophomore at SCAD where she enjoys the specialized, small classes and the personal attention of the professors. She has become interested in graphic design and is looking toward a career in that area. In addition, the school added an equestrian team, and she's able to keep up with her love of horses!

Without The Highlands Ability Battery, I never would have supported Beth's decision to look at SCAD. The HAB gave me the objective, concrete information I needed to advise and guide my daughter. We both agree that if she had gone to the University of South Carolina as a business major, Beth would not have made it through the first year! Now I feel confident that she will graduate in 4 years with a degree that will enable her to get a job and develop her interests.

I found that the ability Battery is for the parents as much as for the child. As the one who is paying huge amounts of money for college, and who is in the best position to guide and influence the child, the parent needs this information. It helped me gain tremendous insight into my daughter.

– Sharon

Dear Highlands,

My mom wrote to tell you what she thought of The Highlands Ability Battery, and I wanted to let you know how the experience affected me.

I am the youngest of 4 siblings. All of us took the Highlands Ability Battery. The others all seemed to know where they were heading in life, but I was skeptical. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do or even how to think about it. All I knew was that I loved working with horses. Somehow, though, I felt I needed to get some sort of college degree, no matter what I did. I was planning to go to the University of South Carolina to study business, even though I thought I would hate it.

When I took the ability battery, some of it was fun and some was frustrating. I am a perfectionist, and I wanted to do well on everything. I had no idea what the assessment would tell me. The consultation really opened my eyes. The counselor told me things that I had never thought of. But when she mentioned them, my thought was, "That sounds just like me! How does she know me so well." Her comments hit home and really opened my eyes. I realized things about myself that were true, but I had never been able to put into words.

I learned that I am a specialist. I need to find something unique to myself. I also scored high in areas relating to creativity. As a result, I started taking art classes and loved them. I am now attending Savannah College of Art and Design and I really love it. I am majoring in graphic design, and I hope to go into some form of advertising or design. I still love horses, and I am on the equestrian team here. My dream job would be to find a field that lets me do a combination of the things I love – perhaps advertising in the equestrian world.

What I do know is that the Highlands Ability Battery gave me a strong sense of who I am and the kind of field I would enjoy. I also know that if my mom hadn't heard the information, she never would have supported me in a field like art. Now I am studying what I love with the encouragement of those who care about me. The Highlands Ability Battery was a great way to figure out what you want to do and to be happy with it. I can make my future decisions based on real information about myself.

– Beth



