

O'Fallon Township High School

Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions about career and postsecondary (PS) education or training, to plan a course of study, and to make financial aid assessments with family members.



O'Fallon Township
High School

By the end of 9th grade

A student should:

- Know how salary impacts standard of living
- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Complete a career cluster survey
- Attend a career exploration day
- Know the concept of career clusters of interest
- Complete an orientation to career clusters
- Know one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the postsecondary and career selection process
- Complete a unit on education planning
- Show evidence of postsecondary plan
- Know the different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions
- Know the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise postsecondary plans

By the end of 10th grade

- Explore the opportunity costs of postsecondary choices
- Know the affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Attend a workshop on employer expectations and employability skills
- Understand the job application process and terms
- Know career attributes related to career interests
- Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters
- Develop public speaking skills
- Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- Attend a postsecondary options workshop
- Know the general timing of postsecondary entrance exams and applications
- Identify two related postsecondary paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results
- Review coursework, and postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (every year)
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise postsecondary plans

By the end of 11th grade

- Prepare a budget
- Learn about debt and credit scores
- Know financial aid deadlines for chosen postsecondary options
- Create a plan and timeline for financial aid process
- Know where to find scholarship opportunities
- Know general cost ranges of various postsecondary institutions
- Understand pay stubs, W-2s, and income taxes
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Complete an elective course to explore career interests
- Interview a professional who is working in desired field
- Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Know how career pathways courses and experiences articulates to degree programs at postsecondary options
- Outline a plan for high school courses to prevent remediation at the college level
- Complete a college fit/match inventory
- Attend a college fair
- Take at least one college entrance exam
- Know entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected postsecondary programs of study
- Know 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise postsecondary plans

By the end of 12th grade

- Attend a financial aid award letter workshop
- By 12/31 Complete the FAFSA
- Outline a plan to pay for college
- Attend a postsecondary affordability workshop with a family member
- By 12/31 Attend a FAFSA completion workshop
- Know the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs
- Participate in mock job interview
- Visit at least 3 postsecondary institutions
- By 12/31 Complete 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions
- Secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- By 12/31 Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time
- Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise postsecondary plans



- Career Exploration and Development
- Financial Aid and Literacy
- Post-Secondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection