North Chicago Community High School

Postsecondary and Career Expectations

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

By the end of 9th grade

A student should:

- Know general cost ranges of various postsecondary institutions
- Know how salary impacts standard of living
- Learn how to budget
- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Know what a scholarship is
- Complete a Career Interest Profile
- Understand the job application process and terms
- Create a resume
- Develop public speaking skills
- Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- Know one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- Attend a career exploration day
- Learn about each military branch
- Outline a plan for high school courses to prevent remediation at the college level
- Attend a postsecondary options workshop
- Know test preparation skills and strategies
- Know importance of community service and extracurricular activities to postsecondary and career plans
- Know the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- Begin determining eligibility for advanced placement (AP) courses*
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators*

By the end of 10th grade

- Attend a postsecondary affordability workshop with a family member
- Understand different banking relations
- Learn about savings and investments
- Outline a plan to pay for college
- Know the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs
- Participate in mock job interview
- Update resume
- Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
- Know how career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at postsecondary options
- Know career attributes related to career interests
- Attend a workshop on employer expectations and employability skills
- Understand the ASVAB and careers offered in the military branches
- Know the difference types of postsecondary credentials and institutions
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the postsecondary and career selection process
- Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to postsecondary plans
- Know negative impact of remediation on postsecondary goals

By the end of 11th grade

- Know financial aid deadlines for chosen postsecondary options
- Complete a financial aid assessment with a family member
- Know the affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- Know estimated cost of each postsecondary option
- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- Update resume and create cover letter
- Create a personal statement
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Identify an internship opportunity related to career pathways
- Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters
- Interview a professional who is working in desired field*
- Learn about college opportunities available in the military
- Know 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study
- Know entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected postsecondary programs of study*
- Participate in college entrance exam preparation courses*
- Take at least one college entrance exam
- Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course

By the end of 12th grade

- By 12/31 Attend a FAFSA completion workshop or 1:1 meeting with College and Career Coach
- By 12/31 Complete the FAFSA
- Complete a scholarship application
- Know the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- Finalize resume and create LinkenIn account
- Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- Obtain an internship opportunity related to the career pathways
- If applicable, receive industry-based certification (s) related to the career pathways
- Attend a career exploration day
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Take the ASVAB exam
- Know the process to commit to serve in the military
- Attend a college fair
- Visit at least 3 postsecondary institutions
- By 12/31 Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time
- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- Show evidence of postsecondary plans via passport completion
- By 12/31 Complete 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions
- Attend a "Transitioning from high school" workshop

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