

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:

- Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- Complete an orientation to career clusters
- Take a wide variety of classes in all fields
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using the ISBE CCRIs
- Begin determining eligibility for AP courses
- Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
- Identify and set personal and academic goals
- Complete a 4-year plan with counselor
- Know one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- Know the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- Know importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- Know general cost ranges of various PS options

- Financial Aid and Literacy

- Career Exploration and Development

By the end of 10th grade

- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- Select a career interest within a career cluster of interest
- Meet with the step coordinator if a resource student
- Begin determining eligibility for AP courses
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through PS and career selection process
- Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs
- Attend a PS affordability workshop
- Complete a financial aid assessment tied to PS options
- Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected CP
- Know different types of PS credentials and institutions
- Know general timing of PS entrance exams and applications with chosen CP
- Know benefit of early college credit related to PS goals

- Post-Secondary Education Exploration, Preparation, and Selection

By the end of 11th grade

- Revisit the career interest survey
- Participate in a mock job interview
- Create a resume and share a positive personal statement
- Identify an internship/workplace opportunity related to the CP
- Explore the visual arts and/or musical arts through electives
- Complete a self-assessment regarding their proficiency of specialized skills necessary to be successful in a chosen career and utilize those results
- Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course
- Complete or enroll in at least one early college credit opportunity
- Attend a fair aligned to PS goals
- Visit at least 3 PS institutions
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Take at least one college entrance exam
- Know application deadlines, test timing, cost, financial aid, return on investment of options to achieve PS goals
- Know preparation for industry-based certification for CP
- Know career attributes related to career interests and CP
- Know entrance requirements, including application deadlines for expected PS programs of study
- Know 2 match, 2 safety, and 2 reach schools for PS program of study
- Know negative impact of remediation on PS goals
- Know 3-5 options to achieve PS goals, one reach options and one safe options
- Know financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options

By the end of 12th grade

By 12/31, a student should:

- Complete 2 career surveys on IL workNet, if an IEP student
- Completed 80 hours of community service
- Know advanced understanding of the specialized skills necessary to be successful in their chosen CP
- Completed or enrolled in at least one early college credit opportunity
- Complete 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions
- Meet with school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- Attended a FAFSA completion workshop
- Completed the FAFSA

A student should be supported to:

- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- Know how CP courses an experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options
- Obtain and internship/workplace opportunity related to CP
- If applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to CP
- Complete one or more team-based challenges or projects related to CP
- Complete a fresh career interest survey or revisit/update career interest inventory
- Attend a financial aid award letter workshop
- Know terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- Know estimated costs and return of investment related to further education for each PS option
- Know affordability of PS in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt