



North Chicago Community 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.



By the end of 9th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Prepare a budget
- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Understand the job application process and terms
- Create a resume
- Develop public speaking skills
- Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- Outline a plan for high school courses to prevent remediation at the college
- Attend a PS options workshop
- Begin determining eligibility for advanced placement courses
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators

A student should know:

- How salary impacts standard of living
- Where to find scholarship opportunities
- One or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- Importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- The relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and PS/career plans
- The relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member
- Understand different banking relations
- Learn about savings and investments
- Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
- Participate in a mock job interview
- Attend a workshop on employer expectations and employability skills
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process
- Participate in college entrance exam preparation courses
- Outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans

A student should know:

- General cost ranges of various PS institutions
- The difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs
- How career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options
- Career attributes related to career interests
- The difference types of PS credentials and institutions
- Negative impact of remediation on PS goals

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- Know financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options
- Complete a financial aid assessment with a family member
- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- Finalize a resume and personal statement
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Identify an internship opportunity related to career pathways
- Interview a professional who is working in desired field
- Determine readiness for college-level coursework in math/ELA and enrollment in either "catch up" or "speed up" course
- Take at least one college entrance exam

A student should know:

- The affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- Estimated cost of each PS option
- Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for PS program of study
- Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- 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
- Attend a college fair
- Visit at least 3 PS institutions
- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- Show evidence of PS plan

A student should know:

- Know terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan

By 12/31, a student should have:

- Attended a FAFSA completion workshop
- Completed the FAFSA
- Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- Complete 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions

