

Jane Addams 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 10th grade/ age of 16

- Know estimated cost of each postsecondary option
- Know general cost ranges of various postsecondary institutions
- Know how salary impacts standard of living
- Understand pay stubs, W-2s, and income taxes
- Learn about savings and investments
- Know financial aid deadlines for chosen postsecondary options
- Explore the opportunity costs of postsecondary choices
- Prepare a budget
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in a course or workshop
- Learn about debt and credit scores
- Complete a career cluster survey
- Participate in a mock job interview
- Understand the job application process and terms
- Attend a workshop on employer expectations and employability skills
- Know own learning style and how it relates to career interests
- Interview a business owner, employee, and retiree (any career/field)
- Attend a career exploration day
- Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- Develop public speaking skills
- Know importance of community service and extracurricular activities to postsecondary and career plans
- Complete a unit on education planning
- Know the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- Connect with a mentor
- Know entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected postsecondary programs of study
- Complete ASVAB/SAT/ACT or other exams necessary for postsecondary plans
- Understand the college placement process

By the end of 11th grade/ age of 17

- Know the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs
- Know where to find scholarship opportunities
- Know the affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- By 12/31, attend a FAFSA completion workshop
- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- Explore internships and apprenticeships for scholarships and money opportunities
- Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Know educational requirements, cost, expected entry-level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters
- Know how career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at postsecondary options
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Complete an orientation course to a particular career cluster or cluster grouping
- Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
- Interview a professional who is working in desired field
- Know application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certifications for career pathways
- Know relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary/career goals
- Know the different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions
- Complete a college fit/match inventory
- Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- Show evidence of postsecondary plan
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through postsecondary and career selection process

By the end of 12th grade/ age of 18

- By 12/31, complete the FAFSA
- Outline a plan to pay for college
- Know the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- Understand different banking relations
- Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Complete a unit on employee benefits and retirement planning
- Visit at least 3 postsecondary institutions
- Know the general timing of postsecondary entrance exams and applications
- By 12/31, complete 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions
- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- Take at least one college entrance exam
- By 12/31, meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time



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