

Ottawa 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.

| By the end of 9th grade | By the end of 10th grade | By the end of 11th grade | By the end of 12th grade |
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| <p>A student should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 fir/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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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