

Sparta 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:

- complete an orientation to career clusters
- complete a career cluster survey
- learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- attend a college fair
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the postsecondary and career selection process
- connect with a mentor
- attend a postsecondary options workshop
- understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- learn about financial wellness

A student should know:

- skills related to career interests
- the relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to postsecondary and career plans
- how salary impacts standard of living

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career interest survey
- participate in activities related to their career cluster of interest
- complete an elective course to explore career interests
- interview a professional who is working in a desired field
- research an internship opportunity related to the career pathway if applicable
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to postsecondary plans
- attend a college fair
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the postsecondary and career selection process
- connect with a mentor
- attend a postsecondary options workshop
- research internships and/or apprenticeships that offer scholarships or opportunities to earn money
- understand the various aspects of personal banking
- understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes
- understand how to be a responsible borrower

A student should know:

- one or two careers for further exploration pathway
- benefit of early college credit opportunities to postsecondary access and completion
- different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions
- general cost ranges of various postsecondary options

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- meet with a high school graduate pursuing a pathway of interest
- meet with a college admissions representative
- attend a college fair
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the postsecondary and career selection process
- connect with a mentor
- attend a postsecondary options workshop
- attend a basic financial aid presentation
- understand the timeline of the financial aid process
- understand the student loan process and available loan options
- complete a Postsecondary Plan Workshop

A student should know:

- educational requirements, cost, expected entry-level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career
- the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help financial aid
- how to find scholarship opportunities
- the terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- understand the job application process for desired field(s)
- participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- create a resume and personal statement
- participate in a mock job interview
- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- meet with a high school graduate pursuing a pathway of interest
- secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- visit up to 3 postsecondary institutions
- attend a college fair
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the postsecondary and career selection process
- connect with a mentor
- attend a postsecondary options workshop
- complete a financial aid offer workshop
- complete a thorough scholarship search and application process

A student should know:

- financial aid deadlines for chosen postsecondary options

By 12/31, a student should have:

- completed up to 3 admissions applications to postsecondary institutions
- ensured all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time
- attended a financial aid application completion workshop
- completed a financial aid application