



# St. Charles School District #303

## 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:**

- Outline a plan for high school courses to reduce the likelihood of remediation at the college level
- Complete a career cluster survey
- Learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- Select a career pathway within a career cluster of interest
- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- Learn about financial wellness
- Be exposed to a financial literacy presentation
- Understand W-4s, pay stubs, and income taxes

### By the end of 10th grade

**A student should be supported to:**

- Attend a postsecondary options workshop
- Complete a unit on education planning
- Revisit career cluster interest survey and take a career interest survey
- Complete an elective course to explore career interests
  - Compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- Identify two related postsecondary paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with career cluster survey results
- Explore the opportunity costs of postsecondary choices

### By the end of 11th grade

**A student should be supported to:**

- Attend a college fair
- Complete a college fit/match inventory
- Address any remedial needs in math/ELA
- Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the postsecondary and career selection process
- Participate in a career exploration activity/ presentation
- Attend a postsecondary affordability presentation with a family member

### By the end of 12th grade

**A student should be supported to:**

- Review coursework, and postsecondary/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators
- Show evidence of postsecondary plan
- Secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- Create a resume and personal statement
- Understand the job application process for desired field(s)
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- If applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to career pathways
- Participate in mock job interview
- Participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- Learn types of employee benefits and retirement planning
- Understand the student loan process and available loan options
- Complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- Attend a financial aid offer workshop
- Create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources

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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 know:

- The relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to postsecondary plans
- The relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary goals
- The benefit of early college credit opportunities to postsecondary access and completion
- One or two career clusters for further exploration and development

### By the end of 10th grade

#### A student should know:

- Know the different types of postsecondary credentials and institutions
- Educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathway
- Career attributes related to career interests
- General cost ranges of various postsecondary institutions
- The affordability of postsecondary options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
- How salary impacts standard of living

### By the end of 11th grade

#### A student should know:

- The general timing of postsecondary entrance exams and applications
- How career pathways courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at postsecondary options
- Application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for career pathways
- How to find scholarship opportunities

### By the end of 12th grade

#### A student should know:

- Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected postsecondary programs of study
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for postsecondary program of study

#### By 12/31, a student should have:

- Completed 3 or more admissions applications to postsecondary institutions
- Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the postsecondary admissions process are completed on time
- Attended a financial aid application completion workshop
- Completed the FAFSA (or other financial aid application)