



Sangamon Valley 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:

- attend a career exploration day, activity, or presentation
- complete a career cluster survey
- complete a career interest survey
- compare and contrast personal strengths and weaknesses with career choice
- attend a PS options workshop
- enroll, as appropriate, in early college credit courses
- complete a unit on education planning
- outline a plan for community service and extracurricular activities related to PS plans
- understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college
- learn about available financial resources to pay for college
- learn about financial wellness
- complete a PS plan

A student should know:

- one or two careers for further exploration
- skills related to career interests
- the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- the importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS/career plans
- the difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help financial aid
- general cost ranges of various PS options

By the end of 10th grade

A student should be supported to:

- learn about employer expectations and employability skills
- be aware of job prospects by geographical location
- create a resume and personal statement
- participate in a mock job interview
- understand the job application process for desired field(s)
- review course work and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRIs)
- select course work for PS/career plans aligned with the ISBE CCRIs
- connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support the PS and career selection process
- understand w-4s, pay students, and income taxes
- understand the various aspects of personal banking
- complete a PS plan

A student should know:

- the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- the different types of PS credentials and institutions

By the end of 11th grade

A student should be supported to:

- participate in a job shadowing opportunity
- attend a college fair
- meet with a college admissions representative
- take at least one college entrance exam
- create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources
- research internships and/or apprenticeships that offer scholarships or opportunities to earn money
- complete a PS plan

A student should know:

- educational requirements, cost, expected entry-level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career pathways
- application deadlines, test timing, cost, and preparation for industry-based certification for career pathway
- the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study
- general timing of PS entrance exams and applications
- how salary impacts standard of living
- estimated cost of chosen PS options
- how to find scholarship opportunities
- affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt

By the end of 12th grade

A student should be supported to:

- learn types of employee benefits and retirement planning
- visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- visit at least 3 PS institutions
- compare campus life opportunities
- secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications
- attend a basic financial aid presentation with a trusted adult
- understand the student loan process and available loan options
- understand how to be a responsible borrower
- complete a thorough scholarship search and application process
- complete a PS plan

A student should know:

- the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan

By 12/31 a student should have:

- ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
- completed 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions
- attended a financial aid application completion workshop
- completed a financial aid application