



Unity Middle 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.

6 6TH GRADE

By the end of 6th grade a student should be exposed to:

- Information about and examples of a wide range of careers
- Language that emphasizes individual skills, strengths, and assets
- Practices that develop a growth mindset

A student should be supported to:

- Explore their interests
- Practice their strengths
- Develop their confidence
- Complete Xello lessons aligned to career exploration, strengths, interests, growth mindsets, etc.

7 7TH GRADE

By the end of 7th grade a student should be supported to:

- Complete Xello lessons aligned to career exploration, strengths, interests, growth mindsets, etc.
- Explore their learning styles/skill set
- Articulate Aspirations
- Envision a positive future
- Explore their habits
- Create or change a habit
- Explore career interests
- Effectively ask for help
- Understand a growth mindset
- Explore their strengths

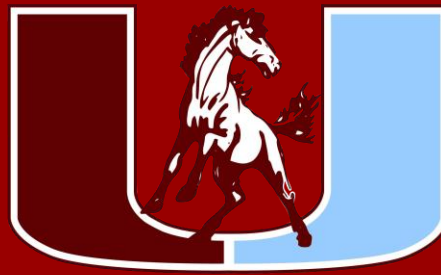
8 8TH GRADE

By the end of 8th grade a student should be exposed to:

- The concept of a career cluster of interest
- The relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary/career goals
- A financial literacy unit in a course or workshop

A student should be supported to:

- Explore barriers to aspirations
- Articulate personal strengths
- Identify sources of motivation
- Explore career interests
- Develop an educational plan for at least one career interest
- Compare possible financial futures
- Complete a career cluster
- Attend 8th grade career fair
- Demonstrate a growth mindset
- Map a support network



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9 FRESHMEN

By the end of 9th grade a student should be supported to:

- Complete a career cluster survey
- Complete an elective course to explore career interests
- Be exposed to employability skills
- Participate in opportunities to build public speaking skills (every year)
- Attend Freshman Orientation
- Select coursework for PS/career plans aligned with the ISBE College and Career Readiness indicators
- Attend Academic and PS Success Presentation
- Complete Pre-ACT 9
- Begin service hours
- Understand that taking the right courses in high school can reduce the cost of college

10 SOPHOMORES

By the end of 10th grade a student should be supported to:

- Revisit career cluster survey
- Attend Sophomore career fair
- Participate in activities related to career cluster of interest
- Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school
- Visit at least one workplace aligned with career interests
- Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators)
- Connect and build relationships with 2-3 adults to support PS and career selection process
- Complete Pre-ACT
- Continue service hours
- Complete lifestyle reality check simulation
- Be exposed to a financial literacy unit in class or workshop

11 JUNIORS

By the end of 11th grade a student should be supported to:

- Revisit career cluster survey
- Postsecondary career path options
- Participate in job shadowing opportunity
- Create a resume, cover letter, reference list, and thank you letter
- Explore the process of obtaining an industry-based credential related to CP if applicable
- Enroll as appropriate in early college credit courses
- Address any remedial needs in Math/ELA
- Create a plan to pay for college using available financial resources
- Learn about financial wellness through tax simulation, banking unit, insurance unit, and an investing and stock market unit

12 SENIORS

By the end of 12th grade a student should be supported to:

- Revisit career cluster survey
- Complete a mock interview
- Obtain an internship opportunity related to the career pathways
- If applicable, receive industry-based certification(s) related to the CP
- Attend College application, job search process, and scholarship presentation
- Secure letters of recommendation for college, scholarship, and job applications
- Complete service learning hours (10/ year)
- Attend a Financial Aid Process presentation and workshop
- Review paperwork that must be filled out prior to employment (W-2, W-4, etc.)



Career



Post-Secondary



Financial



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9 FRESHMEN

By the end of 9th grade a student know:

- One or two careers for further exploration
- The relationship between HS coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans
- Importance of community service and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- General cost ranges of PS options

10 SOPHOMORES

By the end of 10th grade a student should know:

- Educational requirements, cost, expected entry level and midpoint salary for occupations in selected CP
- Skills related to career interest
- Different types of PS credential and institutions
- General timing of PS entrance exams and applications
- Benefit of early college credit opportunities to PS access and completion
- Negative impact of remediation on PS goals
- How salary impacts standard of living

11 JUNIORS

By the end of 11th grade a student should know:

- Application deadlines, test timing, cost and preparation for industry-based certification for CP
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for PS program of student
- Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study
- Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options
- Where to find scholarship opportunities

12 SENIORS

By the end of 12th grade a student should know:

- How CP courses and experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options
 - Estimated cost of chosen PS options
 - Affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt
 - Terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan
- By 12/31 of 12th grade a student should have:**
- Completed 3 or more admission applications to PS institutions or jobs
 - Ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time
 - Attended a Financial Aid Application Completion workshop
 - Completed a financial aid application



Career



Post-Secondary



Financial