

Ottawa 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
<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Complete an orientation to career clusters • Create a resume and personal statement • Identify 2-3 adults to support the student through the PS and career selection process • Complete a unit on education planning • Show evidence of postsecondary plan <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How salary impacts standard of living • The concept of career clusters of interest • One or two career clusters for further exploration and development • The different types of PS credentials and institutions • The relationship between high school coursework, attendance, and grades to PS plans • Meet with a counselor to discuss coursework and PS/career plans using ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators (CCRIs) • Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans 	<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the opportunity costs of PS choices • 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 • Develop public speaking skills • Be aware of youth employment opportunities while in high school • Attend a PS options workshop • Identify two related PS paths and/or college majors strongly correlated with assessment results • Review coursework, and PS/career plans in relation to the ISBE CCRIs (every year) • Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry-level career salary and anticipated debt • Know career attributes related to career interests • Educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations in selected career clusters • The general timing of PS entrance exams and applications 	<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a budget • Learn about debt and credit scores • Create a plan and timeline for financial aid process • 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 • Outline a plan for high school courses to prevent remediation at the college level • Complete a college fit/match inventory • Attend a college fair • Take at least one college entrance exam • Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options • Where to find scholarship opportunities • General cost ranges of various PS institutions • How career pathways courses and experiences articulates to degree programs at PS options • Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS programs of study • 3-5 match schools, one safety, one reach school for PS program of study 	<p>A student should be supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a financial aid award letter workshop • Outline a plan to pay for college • Attend a PS affordability workshop with a family member • Participate in mock job interview • Visit at least 3 PS institutions • Meet with a school counselor to track progress and/or revise PS plans • Secure letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications <p>A student should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difference between need-based, merit-based, and self-help student financial aid programs • Participate in mock job interview • Visit at least 3 PS institutions <p>By 12/31, a student should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 3 or more admissions applications to PS institutions • Meet with a school counselor to ensure all steps in the PS admissions process are completed on time • Attended a FAFSA completion workshop • Completed the FAFSA