

Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

Are you “Ready to Go”?

9

9th Grade

Investigate

- High school graduation requirements;
- Interests as they relate to careers;
- Personal strengths; and
- Skills you have and those which you need to build.

Create

- Personal portfolio – gather your report cards, evidence of awards and honors, and a list of school and community activities; and
- Personal goals using the Naviance Student Program.

Action

- Take challenging courses;
- Meet with your school counselor to discuss post-secondary goals;
- Read as much as you can from a variety of materials;
- Prepare for the PSAT and Pre-ACT;
- Volunteer or work part-time;
- Participate in extra-curricular activities; and
- Update your Academic and Career Plan.

10

10th Grade

Investigate

- Career options;
- College entrance requirements at most competitive colleges include:
 - ◆ English (4 units);
 - ◆ Social Studies (4 units);
 - ◆ Science (3-4 units);
 - ◆ World Language (3-4 units);
 - ◆ Mathematics (3-4 units, at least up to Algebra II); and
 - ◆ Fine/Practical Arts1Electives (with a focus).
- The cost of post-secondary education; and
- AP/IB/AICE Courses.

Create

- Update your personal portfolio throughout the school year.
- Create a resume using the Naviance Student Program.
- Update and modify your personal goals as needed.

Action

- Continue to take challenging courses.
- Meet with your school counselor to evaluate your current performance as it pertains to future goals.
- Read as much as you can from a variety of materials.
- Take the PSAT and/or Pre-ACT tests.
- Volunteer or work part-time.
- Start saving for college.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities.

11

11th Grade

Investigate

- College options and the application process;
- NCAA Clearinghouse for potential college athletes;
- Personal traits and how they relate to future plans; and
- Dual Enrollment with Northern Virginia Community College.

Create

- Update personal goals.
- Update personal portfolio.
- Finalize and update your resume in the Naviance Student Program.

Action

- Continue to take challenging courses to include AP/IB/AICE.
- Take the PSAT in the Fall of your junior year.
- Take the SAT or ACT in the Spring of your junior year. Remember, SAT preparation is now free at www.khanacademy.org.
- Form relationships with teachers and determine who you may ask for a letter of recommendation.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and consider options for leadership within organizations.
- Attend college fairs.
- Visit college campuses during spring break.
- Meet with your school counselor to update your Academic and Career Plan and begin to finalize your post-secondary plan.

12 12th Grade

Investigate

- College entrance requirements;
- College application deadlines;
- Financial aid deadlines;
- Scholarship options;
- College majors; and
- Community College options.

Create

- Update your personal portfolio throughout the school year.
- Finalize your resume using the Naviance Student Program.
- Finalize your personal goals.

Action

■ June-August:

- Prepare for the SAT/ACT. Remember, preparation is free at www.khanacademy.org.
- Practice completing online applications.
- Practice college essays and ask family, friends and teachers to review your writing.
- Decide if you will apply to college early.
- Work part-time or intern.

■ September:

- Meet with your school counselor for your senior interview.
- Register for the fall SAT/ACT tests.
- Search for colleges and make a plan for meeting application deadlines.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and family friends.

■ October-December:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with your parents.
- Take the SAT I/SAT II/ACT again if needed.
- Request recommendations from teachers.
- Apply to colleges.

■ January-March:

- Complete scholarship applications.
- Continue to apply to colleges.

■ April:

- Review college acceptance decisions and finalize your college choice.
- Notify your selected school by sending letter of commitment and submitting a deposit check.
- Review any financial aid packages and scholarship awards with your parents.
- Study for AP/IB/AICE Exams.
- Apply to Northern Virginia Community College if that is your chosen path.
- Take the Northern Virginia Community College placement test if needed.

■ May:

- Take AP/IB/AICE exams.
- Send thank you notes to people who wrote letters of recommendation.

■ June:

- Inform your school counselor of any earned scholarships.
- Inform your school counselor about your final post-secondary plan.
- Register for college courses.

■ July-August:

- Participate in any summer orientation program available at your school of choice.
- Finalize financial aid arrangements.
- Get ready to start college in the fall!

Adapted from Battlefield High School Counseling Department – Counselor, Elizabeth Chase-Kang