



THE PREPARED CURRICULUM: FOR POST-SECONDARY AND CAREER READINESS

Eleventh Grade Curriculum

Course Overview

In 11th grade it's critical that you understand that going to college and earning a college degree is more crucial now than it has ever been. It is important that high school juniors set their goals for education after high school early. Understand that a college education is a good use of your time, money and brainpower. Use your junior year of high school to personalize the process of being college and career ready. It will be important to have a conversation with your parents, mentor or guardian to bring the conversation back home. Your personal experiences and insights can make a difference when discussing these issues at home. Use the program to become college and career ready by the end of your junior year of high school.

September

Week 1

- Program Walkthrough
- Pennsylvania Career Zone
- How Important is 11th Grade?
- Junior Year What to Expect
- Creating your Two-Year Plan for College Planning
- Building your Support Team
- Plan for the SAT
- Plan for the ACT
- Organize a College Admissions Testing Plan
- How to Choose a College Major?

Week 2

- Junior Year Kick College Planning into High Gear
- Getting it together in the Classroom
- What is the Role of the School Counselor in College Planning?
- Review your High School Transcripts



- Diploma Double Check
- Understanding College Cost
- My Resume
- Career One Stop
- Career Assessment
- Number 2

Week 3

- SAT and ACT Test Planning Schedule
- College Board Site Walkthrough
- SAT and ACT: How Soon, How Often
- Comparing your SAT and ACT Test Scores (Document)
- What Matters Most to Colleges?
- School Discipline and College Admissions
- School Attendance and College Admissions
- Explore All Your Educational Option: Types of Colleges

Week 4

- Local and State Graduation Requirements
- What is the Total Cost of Education?
- AP and Honors for College Admissions
- How Does a College Get Its Reputation?
- Blind Spots in Conventional College Rankings
- College Essays: Tips and Sample Questions

October

Week 1

- High School Classes that Colleges look for
- Understanding College Admissions Criteria
- Types of College Admissions
- Make the Most out of Junior Year
- How to Start Your College Search?
- How Location Affects the Cost of College?



Week 2

- College Options After High School
- Finding Information on College Websites for 11th Graders
- Getting Accepted- Eleven Factors Colleges Look for in Students
- What's a Good Academic Record for College?
- Comparing Colleges (Website Demo)
- The Impact of Diversity on Campus

Week 3

- Steps for Planning Your Career
- Differences Between High School and College
- Two-year Colleges vs. Four-year Colleges and Universities
- Continue Taking Challenging Course
- Small, Medium or Large? Finding the Right Student – to – Faculty Ratio

Week 4

- Myths About College Selection
- Four Year Colleges vs. Technical Schools
- Building a Post-Secondary List
- Test Taking Tips
- Note Taking Strategies and Skills
- Is an Urban, Suburban or Rural Campus Best for You?
- In State vs. Out of State Tuition
- How to Find a College Match?

November

Week 1

- Meeting with College Reps
- Secrets to Impress College Representatives Parts 1 & 2
- SAT and ACT Test Dates
- When Should I Take the SAT or ACT
- Understanding your SAT and ACT Test Scores



- ACT the Essentials
- SAT the Essentials
- SAT Subject Essentials
- Should You Send All Your Test Scores to Colleges?

Week 2

- To Submit or Retake: SAT and ACT Admissions Test
- What's a Good SAT/ACT Test Score?
- Sample SAT Questions and Strategies by Section
- SAT/ACT Test Prep Courses: What Will They Do for Your Scores?
- Costs to Register for the SAT/ACT
- Registering for the SAT/ACT
- Sample Test Questions: SAT, ACT, PSAT, Aspire
- SAT or ACT: Which Test to Take?
- ACT and SAT Fee Waivers

Week 3

- SAT and ACT Test Dates
- Decision Making and Problem Solving
- How to Request Information from Schools
- Get on Your School's Mailing List
- The Process of College Planning

Week 4

- What Does School Work have to do with the Real World?
- Developing a Resume
- Dress for Success
- College Rankings Websites
- College Admissions Overview



December

Week 1

- Types of College Admissions
- Understanding College Admissions Requirements
- Ten Key Factors Colleges Look for in Students

Week 2

- When Should I Apply to College
- Selective College Admissions
- Early Decision/Early Action

January

Week 2

- College Admissions Frequently Asked Questions Part 1
- College Admissions Frequently Asked Questions Part 2
- Planning Your Strategy for Post-Secondary Education
- Developing a Good Academic Record for College
- How Many Schools Should You Apply to?
- High Demand Professions

Week 3

- How to Research a College Major
- What is the Difference Between a Major and a Minor?
- The Process of College Planning
- How to Find the Right College
- Choosing a College or University



Week 4

- Five Hot College Majors
- Improving Your Study Skills
- Cramming Techniques for Exams
- The X Factor in College Admissions
- Top 10 Bad Reasons to Choose a College

February

Week 1

- Apply for Free
- Auditions and Tryouts on Campus
- Before the College Fair: A Checklist
- Attending College Fairs
- Understanding State Residency Laws

Week 2

- Building Positive Credit
- What is Credit
- What are Credit Reporting Agencies?
- Creating a Checking and Savings Account
- How to Improve Your Credit Score

Week 3

- Questions and Answers About Your Credit Report
- Understanding the Financial Aid Process
- The FAFSA Part 1
- The FAFSA Part 2
- College Costs: Tuition, Fees, and Room & Board Part 1
- College Costs: Tuition, Fees, & Room & Board Part 2

Week 4



- Paying for College Part 1
- Paying for College Part 2
- Dependent and Independent Status
- Investigate Scholarship Options

March

Week 1

- Determine Your Eligibility
- The Common Application
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- Sharpening Your Writing Skills

Week 2

- Understanding State Residency Laws
- What is a GAP Year?
- Understanding College Application Requirements
- Comparing SAT and ACT Scores

Week 3

- Top Ten Admissions Test Taking Tips
- SAT II Subject Tests
- College Admissions Interviews
- Narrowing Down your College list

Week 4

- College Visits
- College Visits Questions and Answers
- Important Reminders for College Visits
- Financial information that counts for FAFSA
- Junior Year Counts for Financial Aid Senior Year



April

Week 1

- Understanding your SAT and ACT Test Scores
- How to Get Organized to Apply for College Senior Year
- Are college Prices Really Going Up
- Types of College Loans
- What will your Education Cost?
- Preparing for High School AP Final Exams

Week 2

- Understanding Student Loan Debt
- Smart Borrowing
- Researching Local and National Scholarships
- College Scholarships: The National Merit Scholarship

Week 3

- An Overview of the FAFSA and the Application Process
- Types of Financial Aid
- State Financial Aid
- State – Sponsored College Financial Aid Programs
- How to get Money for College

Week 4

- Writing an Affective College Admissions Essay
- Researching College Essay Topics
- Covering your Past
- Discussing Goals and Plans
- Plans, Goals and Dreams: Exploring the Future in Your Personal Statement



May

Week 1

- Unique College Majors
- What is a College Major, and Minor?
- How to Continue Researching your Colleges
- Summer College Admissions Programs
- Continue Planning out your Careers

Week 2

- Creating your High School Finals Exam Schedule
- Are Grade an Indicator of Success
- How Much Do Grades Really Matter
- Planning your Summer College Prep Schedule

Week 3

- Summer Enrichment Programs
- College Planning don't stop in the Summer
- Taking with your Parents about College Cost
- Do you meet the Criteria for College Admissions?

Week 4

- Summer to Do List
- Transition to 12th Grade
- Does Senior Year Count
- Staying Focus for College Admissions during the Summer
- The Truth About Getting Ahead: Starting College Applications in the Summer



11th Grade Student Worksheet Samples

- Activities Worksheet
- Career Planning Worksheet
- College Admissions and Financial Aid Log
- College Choice Worksheet
- College Comparison Worksheet
- Counseling Questionnaire Worksheet
- Credit Check Worksheet
- Data Sheet Log
- Two-Year High School Plan
- Post-Secondary Matching Chart
- Prepare for the PLAN and PSAT Worksheet
- Questions to Ask College Reps
- Reducing Test Taking Anxiety Worksheet
- Standardized Test Requirement Chart
- Student Weekly Assignment Log
- Test Preparation Worksheet
- What Classes Should You Take Worksheet
- With a Little Help from a Mentor Worksheet



Eleven Grade Parent Curriculum Course Overview

September

Week 1

- Program Walkthrough
- Attending New Student Orientation
- Helping your Child Plan Ahead
- Junior Year: What to Expect
- What will your Child Learn in 11th Grade?
- Continue Taking Challenging Classes
- How Important is Junior Year?
- The New SAT
- College Admissions Testing Schedule
- Which College Admissions Test is Best for Your Child: SAT or ACT

Week 2

- The Importance of Extracurricular Activities/Community Service
- Meeting with your Child's School Counselor
- Meeting Local and State Graduation Requirements
- Junior Year College Planning Timeline
- How to Really Learn about Colleges
- Khan Academy

Week 3

- Diploma Double Check
- What's on your Child's Transcript
- Understanding College Cost
- 11th Grade College Planning Timeline (Parts I and II)
- Helping your Child Build a College List

Week 4

- What are College Admissions Test?
- Create a College Admissions Test Prep Plan



- SAT or ACT
- SAT/ACT How Soon/How Often
- Understanding College Admissions Scoring

October

Week 1

- Asking for Help
- High School Classes Colleges Look For
- The Importance of AP's and Honors
- What is Dual Enrollment
- Virtual Campus Tours

Week 2

- Understanding your Child's Report Card
- Helping your 11th Grader make the Most Out of Junior Year
- Finding Information on College Websites
- Researching Potential College Majors
- Best Liberal Arts Colleges

Week 3

- Junior Year Counts for Financial Aid
- What are the Types of Financial Aid?
- How Lives in your House
- Steps for Helping your Child Plan a Career

Week 4

- Getting Accepted- Eleven Factors Colleges Look for in Students
- What's a Good Academic Record for College?
- Steps for Planning Your Child's Career
- Differences Between High School and College
- My Major



November

Week 1

- Two-year Colleges vs. Four-year Colleges and Universities
- Pros and Cons of Community College
- Myths About College Selection
- What is a CEEB Code?
- Compare Colleges

Week 2

- Differences Between Colleges and Universities
- Four Year Colleges vs. Technical Schools
- Building a Post-Secondary List
- Meeting with College Admissions Reps

Week 3

- When Should I Take the ACT
- ACT The Essentials
- SAT The Essentials
- Costs to Register for the SAT
- Registering for the ACT

Week 4

- Requesting ACT and SAT Fee Waivers
- How to Request Information from Schools
- Get on Your School's Mailing List
- The Process of College Planning
- Career Assessment Time



December

Week 1

- What Does School Work have to do with the Real World?
- Developing a Resume
- Dress for Success
- College Rankings Websites

January

Week 2

- Types of College Admissions
- Understanding College Admissions Requirements
- Ten Key Factors Colleges Look for in Students
- When Should I Apply to College

Week 3

- Selective College Admissions
- College Admissions Frequently Asked Questions Part 1
- College Admissions Frequently Asked Questions Part 2
- Planning Your Strategy for Post-Secondary Education

Week 4

- Developing a Good Academic Record for College
- What is the Difference Between a College Major and a College Minor?
- The Process of College Planning
- How to Find the Right College



February

Week 1

- Helping your Child Choose a College or University
- How Many Schools Should Your Child You to?
- High Demand Professions
- Five Hot College Majors

Week 2

- Cramming Techniques for Exams
- The X Factor in College Admissions
- Top 10 Bad Reasons to Choose a College
- Apply for Free

Week 3

- Auditions and Tryouts on Campus
- Before the College Fair: A Checklist
- Attending College Fairs
- How to Get Organized to Apply for College Senior Year

Week 4

- Understanding State Residency Laws
- What is Credit
- How to Improve Your Child's Credit Score
- Questions and Answers About Your Credit Report

March

Week 1

- Understanding the Financial Aid Process
- The FAFSA Part 1
- The FAFSA Part 2



- College Costs: Tuition, Fees, and Room & Board Part 1
- College Costs: Tuition, Fees, & Room & Board Part 2

Week 2

- Paying for College Part 1
- Paying for College Part 2
- Dependent and Independent Status
- Investigate Local and National Scholarship Options

Week 3

- Determine Your Eligibility
- The Common Application
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- What is a GAP Year?

Week 4

- Understanding College Application Requirements
- Comparing SAT and ACT Scores
- Top Ten Admissions Test Taking Tips
- SAT II Subject Tests

April

Week 1

- College Admissions Interviews
- College Admissions Interviews Questions
- Narrowing Down your College list
- College Visits
- Important Reminders for College Visits

Week 2



- Creating a Final Exam Schedule
- Preparing your Child for Final Exams
- Summer to do List
- Spending the Summer on Campus

Week 3

- Anticipate Your Child's Tuition Cost of his/her Top 5 Schools
- Make College an Expectation
- Start Comparing Colleges and Financial Aid Plans
- Junior Year Checklist

Week 4

- Continue Helping your Child Explore College Majors
- Over the Summer Visit Potential Colleges your Child is Interested In
- An Early Introduction to 12th Grade
- Discuss your Child's 12th Grade Class Schedule
- Transiting your Child to 12th Grade