# Mississippi Career Exploration and Planning Expectations

Each student should have an individualized success plan to help them make career and college decisions, plan a course of study, and make financial aid assessments with family members.

## By the End of the 6th Grade

A student should be supported to:

- take an interest assessment
- explore careers related to students’ strengths, skills, and talents
- develop an awareness of career clusters and jobs relating to those career clusters
- identify employability and social skills i.e. work-readiness skills important to career success and apply basic technological skills relating to a variety of careers
- create an action plan with academic and personal goals

*A student should know:*

- why people need to work
- what college is, why people go, and the different types (2 year vs. 4 year)
- the relationship between personal qualities, education, training, and the world of work

## By the End of the 7th Grade

A student should be supported to:

- create an Individual Success Plan (ISP)
- develop an awareness of careers and companies based in MS
- revisit interests and continue to explore careers related to talents and skills
- review graduation requirements
- complete the student planning tool

*A student should know:*

- the importance of academic success and consequences of falling behind
- what an Individual Success Plan (ISP) is and how to create a 5 year academic plan

## By the End of the 8th Grade

A student should be supported to:

- complete a career cluster survey
- attend a career exploration day/career fair
- Check with your local high school and/or community college
- be exposed to finance literacy unit in a course or workshop
- review graduation requirements and high school opportunities as well as how academic and extracurricular choices vary from middle school
- review/revise ISP
- complete the student planning tool

*A student should know:*

- the concept of career clusters for further exploration
- possible career clusters of interest
- the relationship between community service/extracurricular activities and postsecondary/career goals

## By the End of the 9th Grade

A student should be supported to:

- revisit career cluster interest survey
- develop self-awareness of skills, work values, and interests
- explore various careers
- review 9th grade “College Planning Guide”
- meet with school counselor to discuss coursework and postsecondary (PS) career plans
- become aware of federal and state financial aid opportunities
- become aware of institutional and private scholarship opportunities
- review/revise ISP
- complete the student planning tool

*A student should know:*

- one or two career clusters for further exploration and development
- the relationship between HS coursework, attendance, grades, community service, and extracurricular activities to PS and career plans
- the general cost ranges of various PS options
### BY THE END OF THE 10TH GRADE

A student should be supported to:

- Review “College Planning Checklist” for 10th grade.
- Research colleges to find potential matches for career and personal interest (“Match and Fit”) using one or more of the following:
  - College Board College List Handout
  - Profile
  - Planning Guide
  - College Scorecard
- Meet with school counselor to review progress toward high school graduation and academic/career goals.
- Review criteria for state financial aid.
- Review types of federal financial aid.
- Emphasize institutional and private scholarship opportunities.
- Obtain information regarding assessments:
  - ACT
  - PSAT
- Set academic and college/career goals.
- Identify 2-3 adults to support him/her through the college and career selection process.
- Review/revise ISP.
- Complete the student planning tool.

**A student should know:**

- Educational requirements, cost, expected entry level, and midpoint salary for occupations of interest.
- Different types of PS credentials and institutions.
- General timing of college entrance exams and applications.
- The benefit of early college credit opportunities and PS access and completions.

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### BY THE END OF THE 11TH GRADE

A student should be supported to:

- Create an ACT profile account.
- Create a College Board Big Future account.
- Review “College Planning Checklist” for 11th grade.
- Research colleges to find potential matches for career and personal interest (“Match and Fit”) using one or more of the following:
  - College Board College List Handout
  - ACT Profile
  - Get2College Planning Guide
  - College Scorecard
- Schedule campus visits-virtual or in-person.
- Attend college fairs.
- Create a resume and a personal statement.
- Participate in a mock job interview.
- Identify an internship opportunity related to career pathway.
- Meet with school counselor to review progress towards high school graduation and academic/career goals.
- Review criteria for state financial aid.
- Review types of federal financial aid.
- Emphasize institutional and private scholarship opportunities.
- Discuss ACT, PSAT, SAT, and AP test administration.
- Set academic and college/career goals.
- Register for NCAA (if applicable).
- Review/revise ISP.
- Complete the student planning tool.

**A student should know:**

- Application deadlines, test timing, cost, and prep for industry based certifications.
- Career attributes related to career interests.
- Entrance requirements, including application deadlines, for expected PS career pathway.
- 3-5 match schools, one safety, and one reach school for PS career pathway.
- Financial aid deadlines for chosen PS options.
- General timing of college entrance exams and applications.
- The benefit of early college credit opportunities and PS access and completions.

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### BY 12/31 OF THE 12TH GRADE

A student should be supported to:

- Create an ACT profile account.
- Create a College Board Big Future account.
- Review “College Planning Checklist” for 12th grade.
- Research colleges to find potential matches for career and personal interest (“Match and Fit”) using one or more of the following:
  - College Board College List Handout
  - ACT Profile
  - Get2College Planning Guide
  - College Scorecard
- Attend college fairs.
- Schedule campus visits-virtual or in-person.
- Meet with school counselor and ensure 3 or more admission applications to PS institutions are complete.
- Attend a FAFSA completion workshop.

By the end of the 12th grade:

- Address any remedial needs.
- Obtain an internship opportunity relating to career pathway.
- Receive industry-based certification.
- Attend a financial aid award letter workshop.

**A student should know:**

- How career pathway and courses experiences articulate to degree programs at PS options.
- Estimated cost of each PS option.
- Affordability of PS options in relation to expected entry level career salary and anticipated debt.
- Terms and conditions of any scholarship or loan.