



Advance your education, expand your possibilities and let the road take you to new adventures!

FRESHMAN YEAR!

Talk to your teachers, counselor, and parents about your future plans.

Ask your counselor about taking a free quiz to learn your career interests and starting your college and career portfolio at missouriconnections.org.

Take part in extracurricular activities to learn what you like to do and gain experiences leading to your goals.

Keep All Roads Open

Based on your favorite occupations or career areas, begin to develop a plan for education or training after high school. Begin exploring technical, two-year, and four-year postsecondary education options.

Make good grades and be in a position to qualify for merit-based scholarships.

Recommended High School Core Classes

English/Language Arts	4 units
Social Studies	3 units
Mathematics	3 units
Science	3 units
Fine Arts	1 unit
Additional Coursework	3 units*
Electives	7 units**

Look into taking Advance Placement (AP) courses to beef up your transcripts.

* Missouri public high school students are required by the State Board of Education to complete units in practical arts (1), physical education (1), health education (1/2), and personal finance (1/2)

** All students should complete at least 3 elective units total in foreign language and/or other courses within high school core content areas. Two units of a single foreign language are strongly recommended for college-bound students.

SOPHOMORE YEAR!

Stay On Course

Continue to learn more about occupations and education options.

Review your personal plan of study each year with your counselor. Take the right classes and focus your electives in areas that support your interests.

Consider signing up for ACT or SAT preparatory courses. Be sure to check out the free ACT practice at actstudent.org/testprep/index.html.

Show Me The Future

Get a feel for the type of salary it will take to live the life you are planning. **Show Me the Future** is a financial literacy and life skills game at <http://showmethefuture.org>. Research the average cost to attend college in Missouri at dhe.mo.gov/tuitionandfees.shtml.

JUNIOR YEAR!

Explore With Gusto

Attend career fairs and visit with school representatives who come to your campus.

Review your education plan with your counselor to ensure you will meet graduation requirements.

Continue to explore colleges and identify those that offer the programs that interest you. Visit campuses to get a feel for facilities, teachers, students, and communities.

Take College Entrance Exams

Get schedules and forms for standardized exams such as the ACT, SAT I, SAT II, and AP exams. Find out which of these is preferred by the schools you have selected.

If you plan to pursue a four-year degree, register for the PSAT exam offered in October.

Both ACT (actstudent.org/testprep/index.html) and SAT (collegeboard.com/student/testing/satprep_one/test.html) offer prep classes. You can take these tests multiple times if you want to improve your score—even during your senior year.

Keep Looking Ahead

Continue to take rigorous courses—they will help you succeed in college. Ask about ways to get college credit while in high school. Begin thinking about ways to get help paying for college. Investigate the activities and research you will need to do your senior year.

Brought to you by this newspaper, the Missouri Press Association and



TO ORDER:
 "Planning and Paying for College" information packet, go to:
www.highered.mo.gov/publications/publicationformpart1.do