

Planning Timeline: 11th Grade

The junior year of high school is a crucial year in career and academic planning. If you have not already done so, you should decide which occupation or occupation cluster you intend to pursue. Based on that decision, you will need to make preparations for entering the job market or further education. During your junior year, we suggest you do the following:

- Continue to learn more about occupations and education options using the exploratory website Broken Bow High School utilizes: www.nebraskacareerconnections.org.
- Attend career fairs and visit with school representatives who come to your campus.
- Continue to record accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences in your online portfolio on the Nebraska Career Connections website.

August/September

- Review your education plan to ensure you will meet graduation requirements and will be prepared to pursue the job, training, or education plans that best suit you.
- If you are considering attending college after you graduate from high school, obtain schedules, forms, and other information about 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.

October/November

- Take the PSAT at a local high school on one of two dates it is offered in October if you want to use it as a practice exam for the SAT or if you plan to apply for scholarships for which it is a screening exam.
- In November, review your PSAT results with your counselor and parents/guardians.
- If you are interested in an apprenticeship program which combines on-the-job experience with classroom instruction, speak with individuals who work in your field of interest. Labor unions often sponsor apprenticeships through local community colleges or self-study courses. Consider a part-time job with a company that hires people in the occupation that interests you. Being accepted into an apprenticeship can be difficult. Knowing an employer who hires apprentices or a person in the occupation of your choice may help you get into a program.

December/January

- If you have not taken the *Kuder Career Search with Person Match* and the *Kuder Skills Assessment* within the past year, re-take them now so your results will be up-to-date as you continue to make occupation and postsecondary education plans.
- If you haven't already done so, take the *Super's Work Values Inventory-revised* to help you determine which work characteristics are most important to you. These can be found at www.nebraskacareerconnections.org.
- Review the results of the assessments and research occupations in your top two career clusters.
- Based on the occupations that interest you, learn about the kind of education you need to pursue those occupations: technical school, two-year college, or four-year college/university and what major(s) would be most appropriate. Use the Choose a Major feature to determine what your major should be in order to be well prepared for your future occupation. Use the Select a College feature to find career-technology schools or colleges that offer the majors that most interest you and that meet your other requirements and preferences.
- Record the features and programs that you expect from your postsecondary institution in the Note Taker. As you explore and compare postsecondary options, use your list of requirements to narrow your choices to those that best meet your needs.
- Search Colleges to review and compare over 7,400 postsecondary institutions. Save the schools that interest you in your "My Favorites" list.
- If you plan to take the SAT test, you may wish to sign up for an SAT preparatory course.

February/March

- In February, register for the March SAT or the April ACT exams.
- In March, take the March SAT I test.
- If you have been taking Advanced Placement Courses, sign up for the AP exams.
- Start planning visits to the schools and colleges that interest you. Take guided tours, meet with admissions counselors, and attend a class or two as a guest. If looking at schools with on-campus housing, stay overnight in a residence hall and eat at the dining hall, if possible. The more time you spend on campus and talking with faculty and students, the easier it will be for you to determine if this is the right postsecondary option for you.
- If you would like to join the military through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) while attending college, be sure to speak with a ROTC representative as part of your campus visits.
- After any campus visit or talk with a school representative, write down your thoughts about the school and its programs. What, specifically, did you like? What did you not like? This information can all be stored in the Note Taker and will be helpful as you narrow your list of schools.
- If you are considering a major that requires a portfolio for admission into the program, begin creating and compiling items to include in your portfolio. Examples of majors that might require a portfolio include art, media studies, fashion design, or music.

April/May

- Start researching financial aid and scholarship information using the Find Financial Aid feature. Check with your guidance counselor to learn about local scholarships. This can be found at www.nebraskacareerconnections.org.
- Take the April ACT test or in May, take the AP, SAT I, and SAT II exams, as appropriate. Almost without exception, colleges will accept scores from either the ACT or the SAT exams, though they may prefer one over the other. Some colleges require neither, so be aware of the entrance requirements for the schools that interest you most. Many people try to improve their score by taking these standardized tests more than once, so allow for that possibility in your personal timeline.
- Before school is over for the academic year, talk with teachers and counselors about writing letters of recommendations for you.

June/July/August

- Add academic accomplishments, test scores, and other relevant information from the previous academic year to the Resumé Builder and/or Note Taker of your *Kuder* Career Portfolio.
- Continue to visit postsecondary schools to learn more and answer questions that may have come up since earlier visits.
- Begin thinking about application requirements for schools and financial aid. Gather information you will need to complete those applications and practice writing application essays.
- Consider whether you might want to apply to a college that has an early decision option.

This information is provided by www.nebraskacareerconnections.org