

# Educational/Career Planning Guide

## Calendar

### Junior

#### August

- Review your high school coursework and activity plans
- Enroll in dual credit courses
- Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
  - Challenging coursework
  - A strong GPA
  - Involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work or church
- Obtain a social security number (if you do not have one). You will need it to apply for college and financial aid

#### September

- Identify the sources of college and career information at your school. Start looking through guidance publications, college catalogs and guidebooks
- Put together a list of 10 colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to 3-5 schools. This may not apply to everyone.
- Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school
- Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), which will be given on **Wednesday, October 17, 2012.**
- Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and parent nights in your local area

## **October**

- Take the PSAT – **Wednesday, October 17, 8:30 a.m.**
- Inquire about summer college courses and other opportunities that may be open to you
- Attend the OHS College Fair – October 25 at 1:30 p.m.

## **November**

- Start looking into eligibility requirements for federal and private student loans. A good source of free, up-to-date information is found at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## **December**

- Take the ASVAB test November 29. This is a vocational aptitude test provides career and aptitude information to students. All juniors take this assessment.
- Start planning to take the ACT test. Check with the colleges you are considering, and find out specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about deadlines.

## **January**

- Go through the catalogs of the 3-5 schools that interest you most. If appropriate, apply for an interview or make a college campus visit.
- During college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid officer to find out what types of aid are available

## **February - April**

- Start seriously investigating private scholarship and other student aid programs.
- Go to [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) to find out about scholarships
- Register and study for ACT exams
- Continue investigating outside funding sources
- Register and study for the ACT if you have not already done so.
- Begin putting together a file of letters of recommendation, resume, and other activities that you will want to include on college applications

- Study for the MAP tests and final exams
- Apply for summer educational opportunities, camps, etc.
- Sign up for A+ tutoring or complete your 50 hours if you have not done so

## **May**

- Be aware of test dates and deadlines for remaining ACT tests. You may take it during your senior year.
- Prepare for and take MAP tests.
- Meet with your counselor to enroll in classes for your senior year and discuss post-secondary plans.

## **June**

- Take the ACT test if you did not take it earlier
- Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer
- Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests
- Do volunteer work especially if it applies to your career interest.
- If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs.
- If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit.

## Types of Post-Secondary Institutions

### Four Year Colleges

There are more than 1,700 colleges in the US that offer programs leading to a bachelor of arts (BA) or a bachelor of science (BS) degree. Most have residential facilities on campus, although some enroll predominantly commuter students. Several major types of schools are included in the four-year category.

**Liberal Arts Colleges** offer BA degree programs that combine a broad four-year education in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences with a major in a subject or area such as political science, literature, math, or biology. A large proportion of these are private colleges with fewer than 5,000 students.

**Specialized Colleges** or schools offer BS degree programs with less emphasis on broad liberal arts education and more focus on preparation for a specific career—such as education, music, art, engineering, business, agriculture, or family consumer science.

**Universities** usually include a liberal arts college and several other specialized colleges, such as business, engineering, education, agriculture, law, or medicine. Each of these individual colleges may have its own set of entrance requirements for freshmen. In addition to bachelor's degree programs for undergraduate students, universities may offer graduate programs leading to the master of arts (MA) or master of science (MS) degree, or the doctor of philosophy degree (Ph.D.), or to other degrees such as law (LLD) or medicine (MD).

### Two-Year Colleges and Vocational/Technical Schools

#### Two-Year Colleges

There are about 1,400 two-year colleges in the United States today, approximately three-fourths of them are public. The three major types of two-year institutions are (1) junior colleges, (2) community colleges, and (3) vocational/technical schools, colleges, or institutes.

Junior Colleges, which are generally the oldest two-year colleges, were originally established as transfer institutions that provided courses to parallel the freshman and sophomore offerings at four-year colleges and universities. Now, most two-year institutions are called community colleges. These public community-based colleges, which are often part of statewide college systems, provide educational services to meet

the diverse needs of a mixed student population. As a result, community colleges are constantly working to expand the educational opportunities that they offer. Additionally, they help students make better educational choices by emphasizing personalized career guidance.

Students who attend two-year colleges may enroll in various kinds of programs:

- Associate degree and transfer programs for students who plan to continue study at a four-year college
- Career oriented programs (some awarding a certificate or associate degree) for students who are primarily concerned with finding employment after 6 months to two years of post-secondary education
- Noncredit courses (often referred to as lifelong learning or life enrichment) that are not part of a regular academic program

In many community colleges, liberal arts and vocational/technical programs exist side by side, with considerable interaction; in others, the programs operate independently. Programs with courses that must be taken in sequence usually require students to begin in the fall term, but other programs may have flexible entry policies.

Many students who begin their college education at a two-year college do so because it is convenient, economical, or academically beneficial. Two-year college tuition is generally lower (compared to four-year schools) and most students live at home. Students often find that a two-year college enables them to combine work with schooling. Approximately 60 percent of the students enrolled in two-year institutions are part-time students. Many colleges have programs that allow students to earn an associate degree or certificate while attending classes part-time. Students who have not done well academically in high school may enroll in a two-year college to sample the courses and determine the level or type of education that best suits their abilities and needs. Other students may choose the two-year college because they want concentrated training to prepare them for entry into technical and skilled occupations that do not require a four-year college education.

Because most of their students live at home and commute to school, many public two-year colleges do not have dormitories. However, campus life and activities at these colleges may be similar to campus life at residential four-year colleges.

## **Transferring**

Students who enroll at one college with the intention of transferring credits to another college should study the catalog and work with the admissions staff of the second college in order to understand clearly which courses meet its requirements for freshmen and sophomores. Four-year institutions may vary greatly, even within a given state, in the kind and amount of transfer credit they will accept from two-year colleges. Difficulties may also arise in transferring courses with grades of C or lower. For the student who intends to continue at a four-year college, the importance of verifying the transferability

of courses –if possible before enrollment- cannot be overemphasized. Many colleges now have course conversion sites available on their web sites.

## **Vocational/Technical Schools**

Vocational/technical schools are similar to community colleges in that they offer career-oriented programs. Not all programs are two years in length. Programs may last a year, two semesters, one semester, etc.

Vocational/technical schools differ from community colleges in a number of important ways. In the past, unlike community colleges, vocational/technical schools did not always offer transfer programs or programs that parallel to those of four-year colleges. This has changed somewhat in recent years with the development of articulation agreements between institutions. Be sure to check with the various institutions about what programs will transfer and where they will transfer.

Most vocational/technical schools are concerned with the preparation of students for immediate employment. They are less likely than community colleges to include non-vocational or general subject matter in their career-related offerings. This may be an advantage or disadvantage depending on your goals and career plans. Training offered by a vocational/technical school is usually more detailed and may be of shorter duration than that offered by a community college, because the concentration is on strictly technical training. On the other hand, a community college may offer a more reasonable balance between breadth and specialization by including some general education courses in its career-related offerings.

Unlike community colleges, which usually maintain open door or modified open door admission policies, vocational/technical schools are sometimes relatively selective. One reason for this is that some vocational/technical schools offer programs that are highly specialized and not available at many other institutions. Thus, competition for places in some of these programs may be fairly intense. Be sure to apply early enough to be considered for programs that may have a limited number of openings.

## Dual Credit Program

Juniors and seniors at OHS, who have a good academic record, have the opportunity to enroll in dual credit courses through East Central College. This allows students to earn college credit for college level work while still in high school. In order to participate students must:

- Have a minimum 3.00 grade point average
- Recommendation from the school counselor
- Met minimum scores on a college placement exam for math and English
- Score at proficient or above on the MAP test
- Complete an application form for East Central College, Drury, or UMSL.

Students must pay fees directly to the college. Tuition for the 2012-2013 school year is as follows:

East Central College- \$111.00 per credit hour  
Drury University- \$65.00 per credit hour  
University of Missouri-St. Louis- \$60.00 per credit hour

Some courses also require a textbook purchase. The following dual credit courses are offered at OHS.

Pre-calculus	5 hours credit
Calculus	5 hours credit
College Algebra	3 hours credit
American History to 1877	3 hours credit
American History 1877 to Present	3 hours credit
Anatomy	3 hours credit
Chemistry	3 hours credit
Multi-media and Communications	3 hours credit

## College Entrance Exams

There are two major college entrance exams, the ACT and SAT. All Missouri public four-year colleges and most private four-year colleges require the ACT. Missouri two-year colleges do not all require the ACT but do encourage students to take it. Generally, high school juniors should plan on taking the ACT in the spring of their junior year. Nationally, most colleges and universities accept scores from either exam.

**ACT:** The ACT test is given at Gasconade County R-2 High School during the regular nationally scheduled test dates. Registration packets are available for your convenience in the guidance and counseling department. The ACT is a three-hour multiple choice test which covers the areas of language arts, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. Practice tests are also available in the guidance office

**SAT I: Reasoning Test** - The SAT I is a three-hour test, primarily multiple-choice questions that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. Students planning to attend a college that prefers the SAT I must also determine if any SAT II subject tests are required. SAT I and II packets are available in the guidance office.

**SAT II: Subject Tests** - Subject Tests are one-hour, primarily multiple choice tests in specific subject areas. Unlike the SAT I, which measures more general abilities, the SAT II subject tests measure your knowledge of particular subjects and your ability to apply that knowledge. Some colleges require or recommend one or more of these tests for admission or placement purposes. Check the requirements of colleges under consideration before deciding which test to take.

**ACT**  
**National Test Date Schedule**  
**2012-2013**

<b>TEST DATE</b>	<b>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</b>	
	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Late</b>
September 8	August 17	August 18-24
October 27	September 21	September 22-Oct. 5
December 8	November 2	November 3-16
February 9	January 11	January 12-18
April 13	March 8	March 9-22
June 8	May 3	May 4-17

Please register online or pick up registration materials in the Counselor's Office.

This year ACT will be testing all dates with the ACT Assessment Plus Writing.

**DON'T FORGET THAT YOU MUST UPLOAD A PICTURE STARTING THIS YEAR INTO THE ACT WEBSITE AND YOU MUST BRING A PICTURE ID AND YOUR TICKET WITH YOU WHEN YOU TEST!**

## College / Interview Days 2012-2013

The following is a listing of dates in which school is not in session. These would be excellent times to schedule a college visit. It is always best to call ahead and set up an appointment. Included in this packet is a list of colleges and telephone numbers. In order for a college day visit to be excused, you must pick up a form from the counselors office **before** you take a college day.

September 3	NO School
October 12	NO School
October 18-19	NO School
November 21-23	NO School, Thanksgiving Break
December 21- January 3	NO School, Christmas Break
January 21	NO School
February 15	NO School
February 18	NO School, President's Day
March 1	NO School
March 28-April 1	NO School, Spring Break

## College Admission Standards

The recommended admission standards for Missouri four-year universities and colleges are listed below. In addition to the core course requirements, some students may be denied admission for low ACT score and/or low high school grade point average. Please discuss any concerns you may have with your counselor.

## Core Curriculum

- 4 Units of English
- 3 Units of mathematics, Algebra I (Integrated I) and above
- 3 Units of laboratory science
- 3 Units of social studies
- 3 Additional units of upper level English, math, science, social studies and/or \*foreign language
- 24 Total units of credit

\*While 2 years of the same foreign language is strongly recommended only the University of Missouri at Columbia requires two years of foreign language for admissions.

## Scholarship Opportunities

Throughout the year the guidance department receives notification of scholarship opportunities for students. While most scholarships are open only to seniors, there are some that are available to juniors. Students will be made aware of these opportunities through the daily bulletin. Additionally, the bulletin board across from the guidance office displays many useful pieces of information. . Students are encouraged to involve parents in the search for scholarships. Religious groups, fraternal organizations, and employers may be sources of scholarships. Students are encouraged to inquire into the availability of institutional scholarships at the schools they are considering. Consult your guidance counselor for more information.

## **Local Scholarships**

The Gasconade County R-2 School District is privileged to have many outstanding locally funded scholarships. Information and applications for local scholarships will be given to students in January of their senior year. The availability of local scholarships and their amounts vary from year to year.

## **Financial Aide (FASFA)**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) application is the form students must complete after January 1 of their senior year in high school. Most financial aid including Pell Grants is determined from this form. **All A+ students** must complete a FASFA to be eligible for the A+ program. A financial aid/scholarship information night is held each year for parents and students.

## **Class Rank and Weighted Grades**

Class ranks and grades are not published, however, students may obtain their individual grade point average and class rank from the guidance counselor. Weighted grade point averages and class rank will be figured at the end of the seventh semester (first semester of senior year). The weighted grade point average and class rank are used by local scholarship committees and in determining class valedictorian and salutatorian.

## **Military Recruiter and College Representative Visits**

Representatives from post-secondary institutions and the military regularly visit our high school each year to visit with prospective students. Listen to the announcements as to when representatives will be available. Students interested in applying to a military academy or ROTC program should begin that process in January of their junior year. See your counselor for more information.

## **A+ Schools Program**

Beginning with the Class of 2002, Gasconade County R-2 High School graduates will be eligible for two years of free tuition and common fees from any Missouri public community college, vocational school, or technical school.

Upon being granted A+ Schools status, state funds will be available, and students will be entitled to receive financial reimbursement if they have met the following requirements:

- ❖ Attend a designated A+ school for three consecutive years
- ❖ Maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average at graduation
- ❖ High School attendance record of 95%
- ❖ Tutored or mentored other students for a minimum of 50 hours
- ❖ Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoided the unlawful use of drugs
- ❖ Enroll and attend on a full-time basis, a Missouri public community college or technical school and maintain a 2.5 grade point average
- ❖ Apply for all available federal financial assistance funds that do not require repayment

\*While there is no reason to believe that the A+ program will not continue, funding and rule changes to the A+ program are under the governance of the Missouri Legislature and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



