

College and Career Exploration For Juniors

Course Syllabus

Created By: Thomas R. Stowell, MA

Course Description

This course is designed for juniors considering college, university, or technical training after high school. Topics include: applying to colleges, writing college essays, securing financial aid, finding scholarships, visiting college campuses, living on campus, selecting a major and other related items.

In addition, students will create a college and career portfolio that could be used during college and job interviews. This course also focuses on skills relevant to the world of work or to college life including: how to create a résumé and business letter, how to ace an interview, and other valuable skills for life. Frequent guest speakers and field trips will be a central part of this course.

What Are The Benefits Of Taking This Course?

This course is all about you and the decisions you will have to make in the coming year. In order to make good decisions about your future you must be informed. By taking this course, you will discover important information on everything from evaluating a college, finding scholarship information, and how to manage personal items such as your finances and personal health. Maybe you aren't quite sure what you want to do after high school or maybe you have known since you were in middle school. Whatever stage you are at in your future planning, you will get tons of information from discussions, field trips, and guest speakers. Since the topics we cover in this class come from your input, there's no way you can leave this class without lots of useful information!

Course Materials (if it is difficult to obtain any or all of the materials below, please see me or Mr. Burke)

1. Two binders – 1 for class (1 inch plain binder) 1 for your portfolio (1 inch black viewbinder)
2. Notebook Tabs (6 or 8 tab)
3. An active GroupWise e-mail account

NOTE: You may be asked to share the cost of some elements of our fieldtrips (i.e. lunch, etc.). Should this be a financial burden, please speak with Mr. Stowell as soon as possible.

A Word About Grading

Everyone will do well in this course – after all, it's setup for your success! All graded assignments will receive an A, B, or F – there simply isn't any need to give C's or D's. You will also take an active role in your own grading by completing self-assessments of your work. A pre and post assessment will be given to help you determine what you've learned in this course.

CONNECTION TO VERMONT STANDARDS:

1.12	Personal Essays	1.18	Information Technology
1.19	Research	2.1	Questioning/Problem Solving
3.1	Goal Setting	3.8	Personal Economics
3.15	Career Choices	3.16	Transition Planning

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND RELATED POINTS

OVERVIEW OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Professional Portfolio and Components	40 percent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Résumé- Cover Letter- College/University Profile- Personal Reflections (from presentations, presenters, visits)- Professional and Self-Assessments- Personal and Professional Goals Statement- 25 Years From Now..- Completed Common Application- Additional College Application Package- Other Items As Assigned- Job Shadow Materials	
Job Shadow Project, Reflection, Thank You Letter	20 percent
Weekly Tests and Quizzes	10 percent
Article Reviews and Facilitations	10 percent
Fieldtrip/Speakers – Personal Presentation, Reflections, Follow-up	10 percent
Complete Resource Binder	10 percent
TOTAL	100 Percent

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Week Of</u>	<u>Weekly Topic</u>
1/24	<p>Course Overview: Review syllabus and assignments Pre-Assessment: What do you already know? What Are Your Options? An overview of all of the possibilities available Personal Profile: Myers Briggs, Learning Style, Values, Interests, Skills</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u> What do you hope to get out of this course? What topics would you like to learn about?</p>
1/31	<p>The College Search – How do you begin? Identifying your “must haves” Understanding the Lingo - college terms and acronyms GUEST SPEAKER: 2/3 – Stephanie Gagnon from VSAC will introduce us to Vermont Guidance Central VIDEO – An Educated Choice – Part One</p>

- 2/7 **Resources for College Research** – Using a variety of resources to research colleges and programs including websites, books, guides, rankings, etc.
The College Search Continued – Individual college searches
The Marketing Tools Colleges Use: Understanding all of the letters, catalogues, viewbooks, and other materials colleges use to catch our interest.
Academics and Your Senior Year – Recommendations for senior year courses.
- Job Shadow Plan Due: 2/8**
- 2/14 **The College Admissions Process** – Your rights, responsibilities, and the timelines involved in applying to selected colleges.
College Applications – Common applications, supplements, on-line applications
Keeping College Information Organized
GUEST SPEAKER: SBHS Guidance – the SBHS process for applying to college
GUEST SPEAKER: UVM Admissions – **ACTIVITY:** Application Review
VIDEO: An Educated Choice – Part Two
- 2/21 **Mid-Winter Break – No Classes**
- 2/28 **No Classes 2/28 and 3/1– Town Meeting Day**
Standardized Testing – The SAT, ACT, CLEP, AP Exams, Others
Campus Visits – How to prepare for the visit and make a great impression
Marketing Yourself – Creating Résumés, Cover letters, Portfolios
Career Development Center – The Career Expo, Internships, Job Shadows
- 3/7 **FIELD TRIP 3/8 – St. Michaels College and VSAC**
Financing Your Education – scholarships, grants, loans, etc.
Personal Finances – preparing yourself for financial responsibility
- 3/14 **FIELD TRIP 3/17 - The University of Vermont**
The College Essay – How to create a top-notch college essay
College and Career Portfolio - Work Period
- 3/21 **Life on a College Campus**
Fitting In and Social Pressures
Physical and Emotional Health In College
GUEST SPEAKERS – Mariah Larkin-Danyou, SAP and Carol Davidson, RN
GUEST PANEL - University of Vermont Undergraduate Students
- 3/28 **The College Process From A Parent’s Point of View**
GUEST SPEAKERS: To Be Announced
Final Professional Portfolios Due: 3/31
Presentation of Portfolios – Sharing and assessing your portfolios
GUEST SPEAKER: To Be Announced
- 4/4 **VIDEO:** The Open Road
Post Assessment
What Comes Next? Making a workable plan for the coming year
Course Evaluations