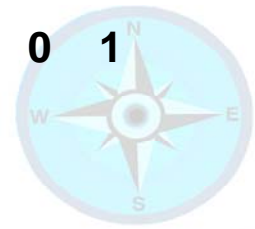


N A V I G A T I O N 1 0 1**GRADE: 12****LESSON: 3****THEME: IMPROVING ACADEMICALLY****LESSON GOALS:**

- Help students take stock of what they've accomplished and update their academic goals.
- Review postsecondary milestones for the remainder of the year.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- How am I doing?
- How can I do better?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **Annual Academic Goal Worksheet** (*next page of this lesson plan – one copy for each student*)
- **Postsecondary Milestones** (*next two pages – share with parents*)
- **Testing Timeline Sheet** (*Counseling dept.*)
- **Admissions Timetable Sheet** (*Next few pages of lesson*)
- **Grade Tracking Sheet** (*Also in this lesson*)
- **Each student's current grades**

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

1. **Discuss how classes are going.** Your students are now seniors and will soon be graduating. How are they doing? Are they on track to graduate on time? How many are taking advanced or “gatekeeper” classes? Make sure students remember how to check their grades. Make a note of students who seem to be struggling, as you may wish to refer them for more help. Handout **Annual Academic Goal Worksheet**. Students should fill this out, take it home and have a parent sign it and bring it back the next Nav. session.
2. **Review postsecondary milestones.** You have discussed the postsecondary process many times and reviewed the assessment exams students will need to take. Distribute the **Postsecondary Milestones** handout and focus on page 2, the major milestones that will occur over the remainder of this year. Are students prepared? Are they making progress? Handout **Testing Timeline** and **Admissions Timetable** sheets and go over those as well.
3. **Have students update Academic Goals.** Six week mark, print out each students grades and hand to them. Distribute the **Grade Tracking Sheet** and have them fill this out. *Please collect these.*

STUDENT PRODUCTS:

- **Academic Goal.** Each student should develop at least one goal. Please save for Lesson 5.



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POSTSECONDARY MILESTONES



The postsecondary admissions process has already started. Whether you hope to attend a four-year university or a community or technical college, join the military, begin an apprenticeship, or go into the workforce, you will follow many of the same steps.

11th GRADE: RESEARCH YOUR OPTIONS

Begin taking required assessment exams

- If you are planning on attending a four-year college, take the **PSAT** in fall of junior year.
- If you are planning on attending a four-year college, take the **SAT Reasoning Test** for practice in spring of junior year. Also take **AP** tests for any AP classes you have taken. Consider taking **SAT Subject Tests**.
- If you are planning on attending a community college, take the **ASSET** or **COMPASS** test in spring of junior year for practice.
- If you are planning on joining the military after graduation, take the **ASVAB** in spring of junior year for practice.

Research colleges and programs

Use your junior year to research postsecondary programs. Try to visit several colleges or training sites if you can. Where would you like to attend? Here are some issues to consider:

- **Type of program.** Do you need a two-year or four-year degree for your career goals? Do you want to pursue an apprenticeship? You might want to research community colleges, apprenticeships, and four-year universities to learn what different types of programs can offer.
- **Area of study.** What do you want to study? Does the program offer a “major” in that subject area? How good is its reputation? What other credentials – such as an apprenticeship or research opportunities – will you need?
- **Location.** Do you want to be close to home or far away? Do you want to live in a big city, small town, or rural area?
- **Job opportunities.** What can you learn about your chances to work part-time – or find an internship or apprenticeship – while you’re in school? How will you find a job after you graduate?
- **Your chances.** Based on your grades and test scores, what are your chances of being admitted?
- **Cost.** Don’t let cost discourage you. But do consider what tuition, books, room and board, and other expenses will total each year. Research financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Use the **FAFSA 4caster** to predict the financial aid you could receive: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.



POSTSECONDARY MILESTONES, CONTINUED

12th GRADE: TAKE ACTION

FALL: Take required assessment exams

You will want to take the **SAT Reasoning**, **SAT Subject Tests**, **ASSET**, **COMPASS**, and/or **ASVAB** junior or senior year. You may also want to take the **ACT** test. Take **AP** tests next spring.

FALL: Apply to postsecondary programs

Guidance counselors recommend applying to six to eight postsecondary programs. You might want to consider a mix of community and four-year colleges, depending on your educational needs and goals. For four-year colleges, you'll need to decide whether to apply for "Early Admission" (you'll be notified by mid-December but may be locked in to a choice) or "Regular Admission" (you'll be notified by next April). For each application, you'll need:

- **Application Fee.** These fees vary. They may be waived if you need help.
- **Recommendations.** You'll probably need several recommendations (usually three) from teachers or other adults who know you.
- **Essays.** You'll have to write one or two essays on subjects chosen by the college to introduce yourself.
- **Information about extracurricular activities.** Colleges will want to know what you've done outside of school.
- **Transcripts and test scores.** Your transcripts will be sent by your high school. Assessment exam scores will be sent by the administrator of the exam (generally, College Board or ACT organization, depending on the exam). You'll have to request that these be sent to each college.
- **FAFSA.** If you want financial aid, your family will need to complete a FAFSA form and request that it be sent to each college.

SPRING: Make your decision!

If you go through the normal application process, you should know by April whether you've been admitted or not. You can then decide which college to attend. Please note that community and technical colleges often have shorter application processes.

SPRING: Finish the school year in style!

Some students think that once they've been admitted to college they can stop working. But that's not true. If your grades drop suddenly or you don't complete all the work needed to graduate (particularly your culminating project) you could jeopardize your status at college. Make sure you finish the year with strong grades and a good attitude.

