



CRYSTAL LAKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 155

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Successful Crystal Lake Central scholars are encouraged to [create a four year plan](#) early in their high school career and modify the plan as their post-secondary goals develop and change throughout high school. As college admissions regularly change, please be aware that the examples provided are guidelines to use as a planning tool. **Following these plans does not guarantee that your student will be accepted into a certain college.**

See below to select and view sample four-year plans. A four-year plan can help students map out which courses they need to take to meet their college and career goals. These documents were developed to help your student understand the academic paths that previous Central scholars took to reach their post-secondary goals. The information and data points presented in these documents have been tracked by our Student Services team, to provide the most accurate course selections, ACT scores, and grade point averages of students who have been **ADMITTED** to four different types of post-secondary institutions (Open Enrollment, Selective Colleges, Very Selective and Most Selective Colleges).

Why should our students map out their high school courses?

- Four-year course maps can help students plan which courses they need to take to meet their college and career goals.
- School achievement – grade point average and the rigor of course taken – has been the single most important factor in college admissions since the College Board began tracking admissions information in the early 1980’s (*College Counseling Sourcebook* – The College Board).

How can you help your students prepare for course selection?

- Prior to course selection, discuss your students’ career and post-secondary goals.
- Match the post-secondary goal to the type of college (**Most Selective, Very Selective, Selective, or Open Enrollment**) that best fits your students.
- Identify the number of elective options your students have available for freshman year and encourage your students to request elective classes that match their post-secondary plans.
- Attempt to map-out elective options your students have available throughout their high school careers. This will help ensure your students take the desired elective classes later in their high school careers.
- Use your students’ current grades and test scores to help guide the discussion about appropriate levels.
- After reviewing the sample four-year plans below, go [HERE](#) to develop your own plan!

Questions to discuss when talking with your students about the rigor and relevance of their selected courses:

- Are you signing up for Advanced Placement classes, honors sections, or accelerated sequences?
- Are you choosing rigorous and relevant **electives** that stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities?
- Is your course selection reflective of future goals or career interests?

Sample Four-Year Plans for Different Kinds of Admission Selectivity:

[Most-Selective Colleges & Universities](#)

[Very Selective Colleges & Universities](#)

[Selective Colleges & Universities](#)

[Open Enrollment Colleges](#)