

# College Planning 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Gibson Ek High School

## Counseling Department

Counselors	Email	Schedule
Shawn Mulanix	mulanixs@issaquah.wednet.edu	Daily

These are some steps you can take as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. This list will help you navigate the college planning process.

### Milestones

- ✓ Prepare for and take the PSAT/NMSQT given every year in October of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. ✓ Prepare for and take at a spring administration of the SAT or ACT. (we recommend taking 2) ✓ Determine if you should prepare for and take 1 or 2 SAT Subject Tests.
- ✓ Start generating a list of colleges and post high school options.
- ✓ Begin college campus visits.

## Important Activities

### At Gibson Ek

Revise your Learning Plan and specify in your vision where you want your life to go after high school. It's time to start thinking about specifics and defining the direction you want to go. Set goals that you can work on in your 11<sup>th</sup> grade year to help you get there.

- Take Interest and career surveys offered.
- Attend the College Planning Days fieldtrip in March of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year to learn about 2 and 4 year public and private colleges Washington.
- Take the ASVAB if you haven't done so in previous years (this is not just for students interested in the military).
- Engage in the internships, job shadows, and informational interviews, including those that feel more closely related to a future potential career. Find out what it takes to enter the professions you are interested in!
- Attend college visits.
- Research admissions requirements of colleges you are interested in.
- Begin developing a list of Dream, Fit, and Safety colleges.

### Outside of Gibson Ek

What you do outside of school can be just as important and impactful on your future as what you do in school. Engage in activities that relate or develop your interests and passions. Search out

opportunities that can help you learn important job skills and allow you to be an active member of your community.

- December/January: sign up for a spring administration of the SAT or ACT (we recommend the March date and April dates). Consider signing up for the June dates as a second test. Student only need to choose either the ACT or SAT. Many of the local tutoring centers offer opportunities for a SAT/ACT diagnostic test, but students can also go [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) and [act.org](http://act.org) to get practice questions to see what format they like best.
- If SAT subject tests are required for and schools you are interested, the May and June test dates are good opportunities for these.
- Participate in extracurriculars: clubs, sports, etc (colleges would rather see a student participating in 1 meaningful activity than a string of unconnected experiences)
- Apply for and get a job! Earning your own income feels great. It also enables you to start saving for your future.
- Search out summer opportunities. Jobs, volunteer work, summer only internships are great ways to further learn about your own interests and gain experience.
- With your family, do some research about the cost of college and postsecondary education. Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. Read the U.S. Department of Education's Funding Your Education (about federal aid programs). [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/) • Attend college and career fairs.
  - Visual and Performing Arts College Fair: Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm - 8:30 pm Fisher Pavilion, Seattle Center: [GOTOMYPVAFAIR.COM](http://GOTOMYPVAFAIR.COM)
  - National College Fair: Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am - 12 pm & Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 12pm - 4 pm Washington Convention Center: [GOTOMYNCF.COM](http://GOTOMYNCF.COM)
- Tour College Campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like.

## Resources

**Big Future** [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org) College Board

**Ready Set Grad** [readyssetgrad.wa.gov](http://readyssetgrad.wa.gov) Washington Student Achievement Council

**Check out a College** [www.sbctc.edu](http://www.sbctc.edu) Washington State Community and Technical Colleges

**Apprenticeship Program Tool** [www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/Programs/](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/Programs/)  
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

**SAT Dates & Registration windows** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) College Board ACT

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