



# monarch

Curriculum Catalog

College Planner

## Table of Contents

<b>COLLEGE PLANNER COURSE OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>1</b>
UNIT 1: MY EDUCATIONAL FUTURE.....	2
UNIT 2: CHOOSING A COLLEGE .....	2
UNIT 3: ENTRANCE EXAMS AND APPLICATIONS.....	2
UNIT 4: PAYING FOR COLLEGE .....	3
UNIT 5: NON-COLLEGE OPTIONS.....	3

## College Planner Course Overview

College Planner is a one-semester high-school elective, with the following goals:

- guiding students in the entire college process
- planning for college
- selecting the right school
- the application process
- financial aid
- guiding students who may not be headed to college

The program focuses on the decision-making process of choosing a school, covering both the application process and financial requirements. Additionally, for those students who will not be attending college or university, the course surveys non-college options.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Articulate reasons for attending college and for choosing a specific institution over another.
- Identify the planning steps to be taken by students during each year of high school.
- Understand the basic differences between the SAT and ACT entrance exams, knowing how best to prepare for each one.
- Understand the major costs of attending college and what financial aid options are available.
- Identify post-high school options for individuals who will not be attending college.

Additionally, students will gain practice in report-writing, covering topics like God's plan, admissions essays, college costs, and more.

### Course Structure:

Each unit has its own theme.

#### **Unit 1: My Educational Future**

The first unit focuses on the big questions: What's God's will for my educational future? Why go to college? Why choose a particular school?

#### **Unit 2: Choosing A College**

The two main themes of Unit 2 are calendars and lists.

- **Calendars:** This unit includes a series of planning calendars, identifying what a student should be doing during each year of high school in preparation for college.
- **Lists:** Unit 2 also helps a student identify several colleges that might be the right choice, and then narrow that long list down, identifying each college's strengths.

#### **Unit 3: Entrance Exams And Applications**

The theme of Unit 3 is *entrance exams and applications*. It gives students an introduction to all major entrance exams: the PSAT, the SAT I and SAT II, and the ACT. In addition, the application process is covered, including application essays.

#### **Unit 4: Paying For College**

The theme of Unit 4 is financial aid. In addition to explaining grants, loans, and scholarships, it covers these two questions: *What Does College Really Cost?* and *How Much Will You Be Expected to Pay?*

#### **Unit 5: Non-College Options**

Unit 5 focuses on non-college options, such as apprenticeships and internships. In addition, the military is considered as an option.

These content areas are presented in a reading-based format, utilizing a combination of on- and off-computer assignments and activities, with the power of SOS automation and administration.

**Special Topics:**

Unit 3 contains an assignment on specialized college applications which require a try-out or an audition, such as athletics and fine arts.

Unit 4 contains materials for parents and students, which takes a brief look at the scholarship "scam" industry and helps families learn how to avoid being scammed.

**Multimedia Resources:**

The SOS College Planner program provides a variety of multimedia resources (audio, video, and animation presentations) to help students understand abstract concepts.

A special feature of the College Planner course is an extensive series of video interviews with:

- the admissions officer of a Christian university,
- the admissions officer of a technical college,
- a financial aid officer,
- a university professor,
- Bible college students, and
- a graduate student of a state university.

Unit 1: My Educational Future	
College Planner	<b>Assignments</b>
	1. Course Overview
	2. Who Are You and What Do You Want?
	3. Report: God's Plan for You
	4. Common Reasons to Go to College
	5. What's God's Will for My Educational Future?
	6. Quiz 1: Education Goals
	7. Why Choose a Particular School?
	8. What Are Colleges Really Looking For?
	9. Quiz 2: Making Educational Decisions
	10. Special Project*
	11. Test
12. Reference	

Unit 2: Choosing a College	
College Planner	<b>Assignments</b>
	1. What Type of School is Right for Me?
	2. Freshmen/Sophomores: Planning Calendars
	3. Juniors/Seniors: Planning Calendars
	4. Quiz 1: Picking the Right School
	5. Your Ideal School: Creating Your Long List
	6. Your Ideal School: Creating Your Short List
	7. Project: Choose Your School
	8. Quiz 2: Narrowing Down the Choices
	9. Special Project*
	10. Test
	11. Reference

Unit 3: Entrance Exams and Applications	
College Planner	<b>Assignments</b>
	1. College Entrance Exams: The PSAT
	2. College Entrance Exams: The SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject Tests
	3. College Entrance Exams: The ACT
	4. Quiz 1: Entrance Exams
	5. Applications and Recommendations
	6. Admissions Essays
	7. Essay: Admissions Essay
	8. Athletics and Fine Arts
	9. Quiz 2: The Application Process
	10. Special Project*
	11. Test
12. Reference	

Unit 4: Paying For College	
College Planner	<b>Assignments</b>
	1. What Does College Cost?
	2. Project: The Costs of College
	3. How Much Will You Be Expected to Pay?
	4. Types of Financial Aid: Grants and Loans
	5. Quiz 1: College Costs
	6. Types of Financial Aid: Scholarships and More
7. A Message to Parents (and Students)	
8. Quiz 2: Financial Aid	
9. Special Project*	
10. Test	
11. Reference	

Unit 5: Non-College Options	
College Planner	<b>Assignments</b>
	1. Interviewing: Some Questions
	2. Project: Your List of Questions*
	3. Mentoring
	4. Quiz 1: Getting Help with Questions
	5. Other Options: Apprenticeship and Internship
	6. Other Options: Military
7. Review	
8. Quiz 2: Other Options	
9. Special Project*	
10. Test	
11. Reference	

(\*) Indicates alternative assignment