



monarch

2018 - 2019 Curriculum Catalog

College Planner

Table of Contents

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

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

(*) Indicates alternative assignment