

Graduation requirements are just the beginning. Set yourself up for success in college and career.

- Become fluent in a **foreign language**. MPS offers courses in Arabic, American Sign Language, Chinese, Dakota, French, German, Hmong, Japanese, Latin, Ojibwe, Somali and Spanish.
- Ask your counselor if a **career-focused pathway** is right for you. Whether you are interested in healthcare, engineering, automotive or digital media careers, we can help you get ahead.
- Take **one or more challenging courses**, like Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB), which can help prepare you for college or career.
- Consider taking college courses while you're still in high school. You can **earn college credit at no cost** through the College in the Schools program or the Post Secondary Education Options (PSEO) program.
- **Volunteer** at an organization that you care about. The experience will be invaluable and you'll make important connections that may help you later on.
- Work a **part-time job** to show colleges and employers that you are responsible, reliable and trustworthy. If you can get a job at an organization you'd like to continue working for after high school, even better.



GET SET FOR
SUCCESS





PAYING FOR COLLEGE

What is financial aid?

Many students are eligible for financial aid from the government or philanthropic organizations. Types of aid include:

- **Grants:** Funds that do not need to be paid back. These funds can come from the government or a private organization and are usually awarded based on financial need.
- **Scholarships:** Funds that do not need to be paid back. These funds come from the government or a private organization and can be awarded based on financial need, academic achievement and/or other merit.
- **Loans:** Funds that need to be paid back to the lender. These funds can come from the government in the form of low-interest loans or from private banks or lenders.

How do I get it?

Your school counselor and staff from the AchieveMpls Career and College Centers can help you with this process. Just follow these steps:

FALL

- Talk to your **school counselor** about scholarship options. Some deadlines are right away in the fall, so it is best to start early.
- Complete your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** or **Dream Act Application**. These applications make you eligible for loans, grants and work study options from the federal government. This step is required as part of your My LifePlan.

WINTER/SPRING

- Check **Naviance** for additional scholarship opportunities.
- Attend a financial aid application **event at your school**. Staff from the AchieveMpls Career and College Centers will help you with your applications.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Helping you discover what you
want to become.

CLASS OF 2015-18



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE



- 1. High school credits.** You'll need to complete 21.5 credits in language arts, math, social studies, science, fine arts, physical education, health and electives.
- 2. My Life Plan.** This roadmap helps you define your interests, learning styles and career goals while you form a concrete plan for your career and college options after high school.
- 3. Assessments.** The class of 2016 is required to pass the GRAD tests in writing, reading, and math or take the ACT or another post-secondary entrance exam (e.g. Accuplacer, ASVAB, SAT). If you will graduate in 2017 or later, you are not required to achieve a specified score on an assessment in order to graduate or meet graduation assessment requirements.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students graduating in 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018: Keep doing what you're doing! We are not changing the requirements for you because so many of you have already mapped out your path to graduation.



MY LIFE PLAN

My Life Plan is a roadmap that helps you define your interests, learning styles and career interests while you form a concrete plan for your career and college options after high school.

- **In middle school**, you will develop an understanding of the value of post-secondary education. You'll learn to capitalize on your strengths, how to make successful transitions, explore careers and financial planning, develop habits of success and make academic plans based on possible career paths.
- **In ninth and 10th grade**, you will continue to learn about yourself. You'll consider your interests and personality and how these aspects relate to the world of work. You'll learn how to manage your public profile and how to prepare yourself for post-secondary education.
- **In 11th and 12th grade**, you will transition to actually forming and executing a plan, ranging from career and college searches to college and job applications.

Contact your school counselor or the AchieveMpls Career and College Center at your school for help with My Life Plan.

