

Use MnPOS to Choose High School Courses

Materials Needed

- Minnesota Programs of Study
website: www.mnprogramsofstudy.org
- Schedule of high school class offerings
- Career and Technical Education program information

Using MnPOS

Length: 2 sessions of 30-45 minutes each

Instructions

Helping 8th graders and high school students to take classes that are part of a Program of Study will prepare them for college or job training, and their future career.

1. Give a presentation or lead a class discussion about:
 - a. What is Program of Study and how students benefit from participating in a POS: www.mnprogramsofstudy.org/program-of-study.html.
 - b. How POS connect to career pathways: www.iseek.org/mnpos/toolkit/advisers/mnpos-choose.html.
 - c. Which Programs are offered at your high school and local colleges (use search function on www.mnprogramsofstudy.org).
2. Have students choose a Program of Study that matches their interests and career goals (www.iseek.org/mnpos/toolkit/advisers/mnpos-choose.html). Conduct individual discussions with each student to assess their Program of Study choice and their education and career goals.
3. If a student's chosen Program of Study is *not offered* at your school:
 - a. Choose a related Program that is offered at the school.
OR
 - b. Discuss how you can help the student to "create your own" Program of Study by selecting classes and participating in activities related to the student's chosen career pathway. Assess the customized plan to ensure that it meets required academic and graduation requirements.

4. Guide the student to choose classes that match their chosen Programs of Study using the Minnesota Programs of Study website.
 - a. On a Program of Study page, click “high school courses” to see the related classes by grade level. The amount of information about high school classes varies by school.
5. Help student to determine if any of their current or planned classes are eligible for college credit, or part of any type of industry-specific training (ex: Project Lead the Way), or advanced placement program (ex: AP or IB).
6. Using your high school class schedule and registration information, direct the students to sign up for the classes that fit their goals and schedule.
 - a. Encourage students to create a graduation planner that includes which terms they plan to take future classes.
 - b. Assess each students schedule to ensure that it meets required academic and graduation requirements.
 - c. The student can add their schedule and graduation plan to their Individualized Learning Plan or portfolio.

Evaluation of Learning

- Schedule of classes will be part of students’ records.
- Assess the student’s use of the Minnesota Programs of Study website.
- Monitor students’ career awareness.

Enhanced Learning

- Invite an alumnus or high school senior to talk to the class about the importance choosing the right classes in high school.
- Invite college admission representatives and/or military recruiters to talk about what they look for on high school transcripts.
- Have students add their education or career plans from the Minnesota Programs of Study website to their portfolios.
- Ask students what they learned about how their high school classed effect their postsecondary education or career plans.