

# NFC ACADEMY



## **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.

## **OBJECTIVES**

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**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.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

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In addition to the default course program, College Planner includes supplementary projects and essays for use in enhancing instruction or addressing individual needs.

## **GRADING INFORMATION**

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### **GRADING COMPONENTS**

Lessons	35%
Quizzes	25%
Projects	10%
Tests	30%

### **GRADING SCALE**

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
Below 60	F

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