

Key Transition Knowledge and Skills

Key Transition Knowledge and Skills refers to the information and behaviors necessary to understand the norms, culture, expectations, and systemic processes for gaining entrance into and navigating the postsecondary environment that aligns to one's career or academic aspirations.

Component	Element	To succeed in college and/or the workplace, high school students need to be able to do the following:
Role & Identity	<i>Role Identity</i>	While in school, maintain a primary identity as a student scholar; secondary identities are encouraged for personal development (e.g., musician or band member).
	<i>Role Conflict</i>	Minimize identifying with roles that conflict with being a student scholar (e.g., gang member); anticipate adaptations in role necessary to respond to changes in status and behaviors expected during transition (e.g., going from having seniority in high school to being a freshman again).
	<i>Role Models</i>	Access and establish relationships with role models who have successfully made postsecondary or career transitions similar to those being aspired to.
Self-Advocacy	<i>Resource Acquisition</i>	Become familiar with institutional resources needed to manage the emotional, social, and procedural aspects of the postsecondary environment one aspires to (e.g., writing center, health center, social organizations).
	<i>Institutional Advocacy</i>	Navigate the institutional structures and persist to effectively overcome procedural and logistical challenges.
Postsecondary Awareness	<i>Postsecondary Aspirations</i>	Establish specific goals for after high school and continually evaluate the alignment between aspirations, qualifications, and evolving skills and interests.
	<i>Postsecondary Norms & Culture</i>	Understand the norms and culture of the postsecondary environment to which one aspires.

Postsecondary Costs	<i>Tuition Awareness</i>	Understand the range of tuition costs for different types of institutions including community colleges versus four-year colleges, in-state versus out-of-state colleges, public universities versus private colleges, etc.
	<i>Financial Aid Awareness</i>	Understand the processes and supports available to reduce the costs associated with postsecondary education and training, and the requirements for eligibility and application.
Matriculation	<i>Postsecondary Eligibility</i>	Be familiar with the entrance/eligibility requirements for postsecondary training or education; continually evaluate and improve fit between aspirations and eligibility requirements.
	<i>Admissions Procedures</i>	Know the timeline, requirements, and deadlines for the application and admissions process; be familiar with the evaluation criteria and have a plan for how to maximize the chances of success.
	<i>Program Selection</i>	Understand the differences between types of programs and which one is best suited to attaining postsecondary aspirations.
Career Awareness	<i>Career Options</i>	Explore available options, preferably first-hand, for careers and workplaces that maximize one's skills and current qualifications.
	<i>Career Requirements</i>	For the career options explored, understand the differences in entry-level educational requirements, training, pay grade, benefits, and working conditions.
	<i>Career Readiness</i>	Develop and maintain a realistic awareness of the alignment between strengths and weaknesses, academic qualifications, and desired career requirements.

