



COURSE SYLLABUS

FY 2025-26

IDS 106 General Education Seminar: Career Exploration
Online-Self-Paced Course

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the main components of identifying a major aligned with a career path through self-assessment. Students will explore their work interests, personality, skills, values and life goals in order to find purpose in their academic curriculum. This course will include career planning and industry research to formulate a real-world perspective on current jobs and the requirements needed to achieve them.

COURSE GOALS

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Create an initial academic plan by identifying personal, academic, and social strengths and challenges through web-based career survey tools.
- Develop critical thinking and research skills to increase career awareness and achieve a greater understanding of the world of work.
- Research local and national career opportunities, including educational, certification requirements, and salary expectations.
- Explore professional social media platforms to network with and learn more about their majors, internships, and other career possibilities.
- Use web-based survey tools that explore themselves, including values, priorities, personality, and interests.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs)

Written and Oral Communication

- State an idea in writing and support it by using specific examples
- Present ideas and work to classmates orally in a logical, organized and compelling manner

Critical Thinking

- Apply critical thinking skills to determine elements of an assignment
- Determine which academic support services can help them complete various assignments
- Apply problem solving skills to common circumstances that might interrupt the completion of assignments
- Document, analyze, put into practice, and improve time management skills



Personal and Professional Development

- Describe a successful college student
- Identify personal, academic and social strengths and challenges
- Develop an initial plan to achieve academic and career goals that reflects both their strengths and their challenges
- Reflect on personal progress in this and their other courses in relation to their stated goals
- Describe one career exploration method

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY AND CLASS STRUCTURE

Online and Classroom Etiquette: In order for us to work together and our class to be successful, we must respect all members and all viewpoints even if they are different from our own. Being open to other viewpoints allows all of us to learn and grow.

The following is encouraged and expected for in person meetings:

- Respect everyone and treat all with kindness.
- Behave in an appropriate adult manner. No disruptive behavior will be tolerated.
- No inappropriate language will be tolerated.
- Respectfully pay attention and listen closely to the instructor and your classmates as you would expect them to listen to you. Please do not hold private conversations.
- Take a perhaps much-needed break from your technology and fully engage with your class by silencing your cell phone and placing it out of sight.

Please adhere to our online and classroom etiquette, as that will allow you and your classmates to be successful in the course and make for a pleasant and collaborative learning environment.

Professors at MCC develop their own course syllabi and class policies. Therefore, rules that apply to one instructor's class may be different from other classes taught by different instructors. At the beginning of the semester, I will review my policies in detail, so students will have a clear understanding of expectations. **Please read this syllabus carefully and keep it for future reference.**

COMMUNICATION

The best way to contact me is via email. Keep in mind, however, that when you email your teachers and professors, you should write in a professional manner. Please do not hesitate to ask questions through email. I am happy to help.

Students are strongly encouraged to check their email regularly for important information and updates.

COURSE TOPICS/ASSIGNMENTS

A general class schedule of topics and assignments is included in this syllabus and will be reviewed during the first class. It is each student's responsibility to keep track of all required reading, assignments and due dates. Understanding the syllabus will help you to be successful in the course. If you have any questions, please address them with me.



ATTENDANCE/ ABSENCE

This is a self-paced online course. You should utilize time during your **Plus Block** throughout the year, to complete the tasks. However, you may work on the course or complete the course at any point prior to June 1st.

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES (SASS)

The collegiate experience at Middlesex Community College is open to students of varying abilities and levels of adaptive skills. The SASS office provides accommodations, services, and resources to empower each student to attain the highest level of academic success and learning independence. To access these services for eligible students, contact:

Email: studentaccess@middlesex.edu

Bedford Campus: Enrollment Center Building, 2nd floor or call: 781-280-3640

Lowell Campus: Cowan Center Building, 3rd floor, Room 304 or call: 978-656-3384

SUBMISSION OF WORK

Assignments

All assignments can be found in your **Edgenuity account**. There are some assignments that must be completed in your **Naviance account**. Be sure to review the assignments/tasks on a weekly basis in order to remain up to date with the requirements of the course.

Edgenuity

Edgenuity is a web-based classroom learning management system that allows students and instructors to share course material, post grades, and more. Throughout the year, students will be asked to access Edgenuity for updated assignments, announcements, and discussion boards. Grades will also be automatically calculated through the Edgenuity platform, so students always have access to their grades and averages. Please become familiar with the program. Plan to check your Edgenuity account for this course every week. If you are having trouble navigating Edgenuity, please speak with your PLUS Block teacher or guidance counselor.

How to login to Edgenuity

1. Go to <https://www.edgenuity.com/login/>

STUDENT LOGIN

2. Select
3. Use your cpslions email and password to login
4. Begin taking Career and College Exploration II

Your work will be saved automatically throughout the year. Be sure to check your progress towards completion. **All students must complete the course before June 1st in order to receive college credit and be eligible for Innovation Pathway or Early College Programming.**

SCOIR

SCOIR is a web-based college and career planning tool. There is a variety of content and activities that will help students identify “interests, strengths and needs” so that they may develop clear and attainable goals for life after high school. Along with career exploration activities, students and families have access to career



video content, career and college interest inventories, and high school specific college data. SCOIR also facilitates the college application process.

How to login to SCOIR:

First time login:

1. Go to your CHS email
2. Search for an email titled 'introducing SCOIR!'
3. Click the orange button titled 'Register My Account'
4. Create a password and then click 'Sign Up'

For subsequent logins:

1. Go to app.scoir.com/signin
2. Use your cpslions email and password to login
3. You can also access SCOIR using your Clever

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are responsible for maintaining high standards of honesty and integrity when completing assignments for their courses. Any student found to have committed academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism or cheating, will face academic penalties.

CHS's Honor Code: We, as members of Chelmsford High School, promise to act with honor and integrity in all areas of campus life. As individuals, each of us is responsible for the integrity of our own work and actions, and each of us is accountable for all that we say, write and do. We pledge that we will not misrepresent our work, nor give or receive unauthorized aid. We further promise to behave in a way that shows respect for the personal rights and dignity of all members of our community. We will be respectful of college property and the property of others. We will support and promote the integrity, safety, and well being of the school community. We will adhere to the Honor Code and take responsibility for our own conduct.

GRADING

Grading System

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following criteria:

- Successful completion of all required coursework: Edgenuity 75%
- Successful completion of all required coursework: SCOIR 25%

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the academic support programs and services (such as tutoring, reading/writing skills lab, etc.) available to them to help ensure and support success. Information about these services can be found at <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentlife/support.aspx>.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

Middlesex Community College follows the Carnegie Unit for credit. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 45 hours of work for each credit. **The most common breakdown for one credit is one hour of class**



instruction and two hours of homework for 15 weeks each semester. A three-credit course demands nine hours each week. A six-credit class demands eighteen hours each week.

Why this course: Chelmsford High School works closely with Middlesex Community College to provide courses and resources to prepare students for life after high school. This one-credit course is offered to all 10th grade students who have successfully completed IDS 101, free of charge, and will focus on interest identification and career exploration.

These courses are required for all students who wish to pursue Innovation Pathways, Early College Designation, or an Associates Degree while at Chelmsford High School. Even if you choose to remain on a traditional high school path, this course will be very beneficial. With an emphasis on self-assessment and reflection, students will work to generate a personalized academic plan and career interest paths for their time at CHS and beyond. Students will also be introduced to CHS's Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs), and engage with the college's academic, student support and co-curricular services, along with other college resources, to develop and strengthen those skills, abilities and explore interests.

When you complete this course, you will have earned one college credit, free of charge.

A final word—it is entirely possible to do very well in this class. Log in, at minimum, once per week during Plus Block, to review and complete all of the assignments to the best of your ability with sincere reflection and attention to detail, and you will be on the road to success. When we have in person sessions during selected PRIDE blocks, be sure to attend. This is true not only in this course, but also in all of your high school and college courses. I wish you much success!

COURSE OUTLINE

Topics and Requirements

Topics	Focus	Activities to Complete	Suggested timeline
Topic 1	Course Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review course syllabusLogin to Edgenuity and review the course outline.Login to Naviance.Complete MCC Dual Enrollment form	FEB 2-13
Topic 2	What is Work? Sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The purpose of work</i><i>Personal Benefits of work</i><i>Basic Work Qualifications</i><i>Work Environment</i>	Edgenuity: <i>For each sub-topic-</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review all VocabularyWatch the Direct Instruction VideosOnline contentTake the Quiz SCOIR:	FEB 23-MAR 6



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Basic Employability Skills</i>• <i>Problem Solving</i>• <i>Lifelong learning and technology</i>	On the home page in the box titled <i>Discover Best Fit Career For You</i> , Click <i>Your Assessments</i> and complete the PrinciplesYOU Assessment .	
Topic 3	Career Research Sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Predict Career Information</i>• <i>Career skills, tasks and tools</i>• <i>Career education, training and qualifications</i>• <i>career wages and benefits</i>• <i>career outlook</i>	Edgenuity: <i>For each sub-topic-</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review all Vocabulary• Watch the Direct Instruction Videos• Online content• Take the Quiz	MAR 9-27
Topic 4	Planning for Your Career Sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Workplace Etiquette</i>• <i>Workplace trends</i>• <i>Decision making steps</i>• <i>Goal Setting</i>• <i>Mentoring</i>• <i>Conflict Management</i>	Edgenuity: <i>For each sub-topic-</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review all Vocabulary• Watch the Direct Instruction Videos• Online content• Take the Quiz	MAR 30- APR 16
Topic 5	Preparing for your Career Sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Resumes</i>• <i>Cover letters</i>• <i>Job Applications</i>• <i>Your Professional online presence</i>• <i>Finding job leads</i>• <i>What to expect during an interview</i>• <i>researching potential employers</i>• <i>interview behavior/skills</i>	Edgenuity: <i>For each sub-topic-</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review all Vocabulary• Watch the Direct Instruction Videos• Online content• Take the Quiz	APR 27-MAY 15



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>interview follow up</i> | | |
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*This syllabus and course outline are subject to change. Students are responsible for attending classes and visiting **Blackboard** to keep updated on any changes that take place. Please refer to the Middlesex Community College Student Handbook and website for additional policies*

Finding Success in College Classes

Even for the most prepared and meticulous students, college can be a bit of a challenge. While there is no standardized formula to make it through college, we can offer some proven tips for being successful in a college class academically, socially and professionally.

1. COME TO CLASS.

Teachers pay attention to the level of involvement students demonstrate throughout the semester. These will be the same teachers you will turn to for letters of recommendation and you can't expect them to vouch for you if you've barely set foot in their classes. A big part of college is about establishing connections and working on your abilities to network.

2. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SCHOOL RESOURCES

Most students overlook the vast network of readily available resources colleges have and go through the semester on the bare minimum – attending classes alone. Make it a rule to frequent the campus libraries, tutoring and writing centers, computer labs and career centers for free, valuable support.

3. VISIT YOUR ADVISOR REGULARLY.

Make it a habit to meet with your advisor early and often and seek their opinion on which classes to take each semester and how to meet your academic goals. Register as early as possible for your classes – they fill quickly, and you don't want to pile on classes before you graduate. Your advisor can guide you to the best campus resources, inform you of important deadlines, familiarize you with college policies and procedures, and keep you up-to-date with campus events and organizations that could benefit you.

4. STAY CONNECTED.

Check your MCC email every day! – this is your main source of important information. You should pay attention to the student handbook and visit the school website to ensure you don't miss anything. Important dates, deadlines and information are always posted there. Connect with other students in each of your classes and exchange numbers. This can assist you in joining study groups, clarifying information, or catching up after missing a class.

5. MAINTAIN BALANCE.

Missing out on even a couple of classes can set you back a month or more, so you will benefit immensely from spending your time in a sustainable way. When planning out your week, make sure you set aside enough time each day for studying, socializing, extracurricular commitments and taking care of yourself to make sure your brain is rested and alert.

6. SET REASONABLE GOALS.



Try to set achievable and measurable goals each semester. This will keep you motivated, acting as a record of the progress you've made as well as helping you push yourself to continue setting and achieving goals. Don't overwhelm yourself with long-term goals but do plan ahead and think about how you see yourself in the future both personally and professionally. Try to refrain from making grade-related goals; instead try to think about what you hope to get out of each class that will move you further along your career path.

7. GET (AND STAY) ORGANIZED.

Hold on to the syllabi you're handed in the beginning of the semester as they cover course expectations, assignments, due dates, grading and other class policies, as well as professors' contact information and office hours. Compile these into an organizer on your computer or phone and add homework assignments as they are given.

8. BE CONSISTENT.

There is nothing easier than putting off work at the beginning of the semester, only to see it pile up as the semester progresses and cramming before a test is the surest way to overload and fry your brain. Make it a rule to keep up with assignments and study frequently – this way you will reduce the volume of information you need to take in as well as reducing stress and being able to sleep the night before exams and presentations.

9. TAKE NOTES AND REVIEW THEM OFTEN.

Notes taken in class are not supposed to lie forgotten on your desk. They are your single most useful tool in figuring out the pattern of teaching of every professor, which in turn will give valuable information regarding exam formats, essay questions and extra credit assignments. Reviewing notes helps you retain up to 80% of the material without any additional studying.

10. HONE YOUR PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS.

Courses such as math, physics, chemistry and statistics require good analytical skills, so be sure to spend time at home working on problems. When you get stuck on a problem, seek help quickly to make sure you understand what is being asked. This can apply to any class, though. When you have a question or are unclear about something, take the initiative to see if you can find the answer for yourself. Your professors will be impressed by your motivation and resourcefulness.

11. DEVELOP A REGULAR STUDY ROUTINE.

Consistency is key in developing a studying routine that will maximize your term results. The rule, typically, is to factor in two hours of study time for every hour you spend in class to allow for the material to sink in. This also helps you develop discipline and structure your day in the most efficient way possible. Research has shown that the more you practice a regular routine, the easier it becomes.

12. WORK ON YOUR STUDY TECHNIQUES.

Even successful students often need to revise their studying styles when they get to college. Ideally you want to find a specific system that works for you and develop an approach that leads to the establishment of a routine. Consider joining a study group – peer pressure can be a great way to motivate oneself to get things done. Some colleges offer courses that can help you discover your learning style and build solid study habits – talk to your academic advisor for suggestions. Don't forget to take advantage of the resources available to you (See #2).



13. STRENGTHEN YOUR WRITING SKILLS.

Writing is an essential part of the college experience and you can only benefit from working to perfect yours. Enrolling in an introductory composition course is a good idea for any student, especially those who feel they struggle to express themselves in writing. The skills you learn will help you excel in the rest of your classes and being a strong writer will help you throughout your academic and professional career. Most college campuses have writing and tutoring centers that can help you develop your skills (Again, see #2).

14. DON'T FORGET TO REWARD YOURSELF.

Motivation is the single most powerful catalyst for positive change, so be sure to take advantage of that. Every goal – small or big – you manage to complete ought to be marked in a way you see fit