

GET SET FOR COLLEGE!!

What do I want to do? What am I going to major in? What if I don't know? Which colleges should I apply to? Do I have the grades, the SAT/ACT scores to get in? What if I don't get accepted? It's easy to be overwhelmed with all these questions, but following these suggestions at ahsmoors.org can help you to prepare and get ready.



Prepare For and Take SAT or ACT

- Taking the SAT or ACT at least once during your junior year can help you know which areas you need to study for to increase your scores if you retake it.
- If you are [eligible](#), you may obtain a Fee Waiver from the Counseling Office
- It is recommended that you [take a practice test](#) to see which test is better for you so you can concentrate on preparing for ONE of the tests
- You can practice the SAT at [Khan Academy](#) and the ACT at [Kaplan](#)
- Learn all you need to know: [SAT Information](#) or [ACT Information](#)

Review Career Goals

- Don't force yourself to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life; just think about the first career. You will most likely [change careers](#) several times over your lifetime.
- Start by logging in to your "4 Year Plan" in Powerschool. Here, you will find links ([Career Cruising](#), [California Colleges](#), [My 10 Year Plan \(GFSF\)](#)) to help you re-examine your career goals. Please update the Career Information so we can better guide you to be "College and Career Ready."

Here are more resources:

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook \(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics\)](#)
- [Career One Stop](#)
- [Job Corps \(Technical Training and Education\)](#)

Think About What You Want to Study

- Time is money. It's fine to explore, but you typically need to "declare a major" by the end of your sophomore year of college. When you decide on a course of study that is most suited to your interests and talent, you can fully focus on your future.
- All of the colleges will have information on majors, minors, degrees or certificates that they offer on their websites. Here are additional resources: [What should I major in?](#) [What can I do with this major?](#)

Research Colleges YOU Would Like to Attend (not just apply to)

- Look for some colleges that are "reach" (might not get into), "target" (should get in to) and "safe" (will get in to). This is a link to an [article](#) on how to choose your college.

- However, there's no better way to know how a college feels to you, than to actually VISIT the campus. You can make trips on your own with your family, sign up for field trips with the [Career Center](#) or sign up to listen to college representatives who come to the Career Center.

Here are links to more college systems and information:

- [California Community Colleges](#)
- [The Common Application \("Common App" for private colleges\)](#)
- [The Western Undergraduate Exchange \("WUE"--reduced tuition in 15 states\)](#)
- [National Collegiate Athletic Association \(NCAA\)](#)
- [National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics \(NAIA\)](#)
- [Historical Black Colleges \(HBCU\)](#)
- [Christian Colleges](#)
- [Big Future \(College Board\)](#)
- [The University of California \(UC\) System](#)
- [California State University \(CSU\) System](#)

Prepare an Activity Sheet

- List all of your extracurricular activities; highlight any awards or special accomplishments
- [Student Activity Sheet](#)

Write your Personal Essays (PIQs, Common App, etc.)

- Write drafts of Personal Statements. The UC's require Personal Insight Questions (PIQ's) and the Common App also has essay prompts. You can often just reword them slightly to fit many scholarship applications as well.
- [Personal Insight Questions](#) [Common App Essay Prompts](#)

Gather Documents to Apply for Financial Aid

- To apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), please get [the following documents](#) ready.
- Wait till the school year starts to create an [FSA ID](#) (electronic signature). For additional information, see: [Federal Student Aid](#)
- For information on applying for the Dream Act, please see: [California Student Aid Commission \(CSAC\)](#)
- If you are going to attend college in California, you should also be aware of additional aid:
 - [Cal Grants \(free money depending on your GPA and eligibility\)](#)
 - [Middle Class Scholarship \(for families under a certain income level\)](#)
 - [CHAFEE \(foster youth\)](#)
 - For a full list of additional aid available, please see CSAC's page on [Financial Aid Programs](#)
 - Check the AHS [Scholarships Information](#) regularly for updates