

SOPHOMORES

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW



Sophomores are three years away from high school graduation. There are many important things to think about to reach the goal of receiving a high school diploma and entering post-secondary options.

Top 10 Important Things to Remember

1. Meet with your counselor to evaluate your school transcript to make sure you are taking the appropriate classes for graduation and college.
2. Begin planning what you want to do after high school.
 - ❖ College? Do I qualify? Four-year? Two-year? Trade/Tech School? Military? Work? NCAA?
3. Research post high school choices and attend college fairs in the area.
 - ❖ California Colleges-The official source for college and career planning in California- www.californiacolleges.edu
 - ❖ The California State University-www.csumentor.edu
 - ✓ Select Plan for College tab and fill out the High School Planner
 - ✓ Explore Campuses
 - ❖ University of California-<http://universityofcalifornia.edu>
 - ❖ Common Application- Explore private colleges and universities at www.commonapp.org
4. College bound students should take the PSAT Spring Semester.
 - ❖ This test prepares you for the college entrance SAT exam as a junior and senior
 - ❖ **Space is limited.** You have to read the bulletin to know when and where to sign up.
5. Get involved in school and in extracurricular activities. Join a club or a leadership class like ASB or Link Crew. Go out for a sport or take a fine arts class. Volunteer in the community or for your church.
6. If you are interested in playing sports at the college level, it is recommended that you register with the NCAA at https://web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp before the end of your sophomore year.
7. Maintain your grades and achieve a grade of "C" or better in A-G courses. A GPA of 2.0 or greater is required to play sports. You can keep track of your grades, assignments, and attendance on your PowerSchool Student Portal.
8. Study hard for all of your benchmark tests. You must pass your benchmark in order to pass your class.
9. Enjoy your sophomore year! Go to all your classes and get involved. If you are having trouble in any of your classes, please visit sign up for the XL Program. Communicate with your teachers, your counselor and your parents. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER TO GET HELP! YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!!**



College Exploration

Directly to a 4-year college/university from high school:

1. Make a list of colleges/universities that you are interested in attending; approximately 4-6 schools. Be sure to include some universities within the state of California.
2. Start off by exploring the university website.
3. What are the majors offered?
4. What are the admission requirements? Check out the student profiles.
5. What is the size and/or the student-teacher ratio of the university? Keep in mind that large universities may have large classes. (i.e., 100 students in a class).
6. How much does it cost to attend?
7. What financial aid options are offered?
8. What type of housing is available?
9. How are roommates selected?
10. Are programs offered to help students adjust to college life (i.e. EOP, CAMP, Smittcamp, etc)?
11. Attend a college fair.
12. Schedule a campus visit.

Transfer from a Community College:

1. Which community college is for you (www.cccco.edu)?
2. What school or school system (UC, CSU, private) do you want to transfer to and graduate from?
3. Does the school you are interested in transferring to have a TAG (transfer admission guarantee) agreement with a specific community college?
4. What are the admission requirements for transfer students?
5. What is your major?
6. How long do you want to attend a community college before transferring? Full-time? Part-time?
7. Know which classes are transferrable (www.assist.org).
8. Are programs offered to help students navigate the transfer process (i.e. EOP-S, First Year Experience, Puente, Fresno City Honors Program, etc.)?
9. What financial aid options are offered?
10. Attend a college fair and ask questions about transfer admissions.

Career Exploration

1. Take a career survey.
 - a. Interest survey—www.cacareerzone.org
 - b. Personality survey—www.bigfuture.org
2. Join a club. Many clubs are career-oriented (i.e. FBLA, Mock Trial, Robotics, etc.)
3. Volunteer in the community.
4. Ask the adults in your life questions about their career (your parents, your school staff, your doctor, your coach, etc.)

Keep all information in a folder or notebook. Discuss your plans with your parents. Be sure to check the university websites periodically as admission requirements and fees change.