



# KEEP YOUR FUTURE IN MIND. . . SET YOUR GOALS EARLY



**CHOOSE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL THAT WILL. . . .**  
**CONTRIBUTE – TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.**  
**ALLOW - YOU TO EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS/AND EARN AN ENDORSEMENT.**  
**PREPARE – YOU FOR COLLEGE, TECHNICAL SCHOOL, MILITARY, OR WORK.**

## **HELP REACH YOUR GOALS BY:**

### **MAKING THE MOST OF SCHOOL SUBJECTS**

Employers, colleges and technical schools are concerned about your scholastic record as well as your attendance.

### **PARTICIPATING IN VOLUNTEER WORK**

Investing your time in our areas of interest will give you valuable information and experience.

### **GETTING INVOLVED IN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

School, church and community organizations allow you to gain experience in organizational skills, leadership training and accepting responsibility.

### **WORKING AT A PART-TIME JOB**

Part-time jobs can help you learn about different career fields.

## **Planning Ahead For College**

### **9<sup>TH</sup> Grade**

- Follow the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, and plan to earn at least one endorsement.
- Be serious about your grades. Your class rank and GPA are an important part of the college admission process.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and keep records of honors and awards you receive.
- Visit colleges (2 and 4 year), art, business and technical schools.
- Find out what it will take to be considered “College/Career Ready” by the time you graduate.
- Explore your career interests and the type of post high school education required in Xello.

### **10<sup>TH</sup> Grade**

- Participate in your individual planning session with your counselor and parent, to update your PGP (Personal Graduation Plan) that you began in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Take challenging course work and advanced academic classes.
- Attend the HEB ISD College and Career Night to receive information from many college and business representatives.
- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Concentrate on grades and stay involved.
- Continue your college visits in the summer.  
Work on doing what it will take to be considered “College/Career Ready” by the time you graduate.

# Graduation Requirements for Students Beginning 9th Grade in 2014-2015 or After

The default plan for HEB ISD students is the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, which includes one endorsement choice. Multiple endorsements are possible.

<p><b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b></p> <p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*English I</li> <li>*English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>English IV</li> </ul>
<p><b>MATHEMATICS</b></p> <p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebraic Reasoning followed by Algebra II</li> <li>Algebra II followed by a 4th math credit</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCIENCE</b></p> <p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Biology</li> <li>Advanced Science Courses</li> <li>(3 credits-must include Chemistry or Physics)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b></p> <p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Geography</li> <li>World History</li> <li>*U.S. History</li> <li>U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>Economics (one-half credit)</li> </ul>
<p><b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b></p> <p>One credit</p>
<p><b>LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH</b></p> <p>Two credits in the same language</p>
<p><b>FINE ARTS</b></p> <p>One credit</p>
<p><b>SPEECH</b></p> <p>One-half credit - must be Professional Communications, Debate, Oral Interpretation or Communication Applications</p>
<p><b>HEALTH</b></p> <p>One half-credit</p>
<p><b>TECHNOLOGY</b></p> <p>One Credit</p>
<p><b>ELECTIVES FOR ONE ENDORSEMENT</b></p> <p>Four credits</p>
<p><b>TOTAL CREDITS: 26</b></p>

<b>ENDORSEMENT CHOICES</b>	
<b>STEM</b>	
Science	Technology
Engineering	Math
<b>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</b>	
Architecture & Construction	
Arts, AV Technology, & Communications	
Business, Marketing, & Finance	
Hospitality & Tourism	
Information Technology	
Manufacturing	
Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	
Education & Training	Health Science
Human Services	Law & Public Service
<b>ARTS AND HUMANITIES</b>	
Art	Dance
Music	Theater
Social Studies	World Languages
<b>MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES</b>	
Allows a student to complete prescribed courses from:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each of the four foundation subject areas</li> <li>• Advanced Placement / International Baccalaureate courses from each of the four foundation subject areas</li> <li>• 4 advanced courses from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas not in a coherent sequence</li> </ul>	

Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, all students must successfully complete and submit one of the following forms:

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- TAFSA (Texas Application for State Aid)
- Texas Education Agency's Opt-Out form

Students will need to submit the form during the fall of their senior year in order to graduate from high school.

**It is the responsibility of each college-bound student to research admission requirements, as each college's requirements may differ.**



\*Course has a STAAR EOC. The required passing standard must be met for each EOC in order for a student to receive a high school diploma.

**PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT**  
 A student may earn performance acknowledgments on their high school transcript for outstanding performance:

- In a dual credit course
- On an AP or IB exam
- For earning a nationally or internationally recognized industry certification
- In bilingualism and biliteracy
- On the PSAT, ASPIRE, SAT or ACT

## Testing Requirements for High School Graduation

---

STAAR EOC: In order to receive a high school diploma, students must earn the required credits for graduation and must pass 5 STAAR End-of-Course exams (EOC).

These exams are:

- Algebra 1
  - For the majority of students, Algebra is generally taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP Algebra students will take this EOC in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Biology
  - For the majority of students, Biology is generally taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP Biology students(CJH only) will take this EOC in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- English 1
  - This course is taken at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. The test is a combined Reading/Writing test.
- English 2
  - This course is taken at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level. The test is a combined Reading/Writing test.
- U.S. History
  - For the majority of students, this course is taken in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Performance Acknowledgment

---

For students who begin 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-2015 and thereafter, a student may earn a performance acknowledgement for:

- Outstanding performance (as determined by the Texas Education Agency)
  - in a dual credit course
  - in bilingualism and biliteracy
  - on an AP test or IB exam
  - on the PSAT, the ASPIRE, the SAT, or the ACT
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

## Other Standardized Testing Options for Junior High Students

---

PSAT – All 8th graders will take the PSAT 8/9. This is a practice SAT exam that helps to identify students with AP (Advanced Placement) potential. Students scoring high enough on the PSAT as a 8<sup>th</sup> grader may earn the distinction as a “Superintendent’s Scholar” and receive additional test prep.

# GPA Counts!

**GPA – Grade Point Average** - Refers to a grade point scale that assigns more points to grades earned in certain classes. Courses designated as AdvAc, Dual Credit, and certain selected and approved CTE courses will fall on the Tier II scale. Courses that culminate in a national or international exam, i.e. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other District determined courses will fall on the Tier III scale. All other courses fall under the Tier I scale.

## GRADE SCALE AND GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS

<u>NUMBER GRADE</u>	<u>TIER III</u>	<u>TIER II</u>	<u>TIER I</u>
98-100	6.000	5.000	4.000
93-97	5.666	4.666	3.666
90-92	5.333	4.333	3.333
87-89	5.000	4.000	3.000
83-86	4.666	3.666	2.666
80-82	4.333	3.333	2.333
77-79	4.000	3.000	2.000
73-76	3.666	2.666	1.666
70-72	3.333	2.333	1.333
Below 70	0	0	0

A grade point average (GPA) is a calculated average of the numeric grades you earn in school following a 4.0, 5.0, or 6.0 scale. Every semester, you will receive a GPA based on the grades you earned in all of your classes during that semester. Throughout high school, you will also maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all your semester one and two grades beginning with freshman year. For some who begin earning high school credit in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, those credit earning courses count toward GPA.

### Your GPA is important for your future because:

1. Even before college, your GPA can determine whether you are eligible or not to take Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses during your junior and senior years of high school.
2. For admission, prospective colleges consider both your GPA and your class rank, which is determined by your GPA. So the higher your GPA, the better your chances are of getting into the college of your choice. Your rank will also dictate how well you need to score on the SAT or ACT for college admissions.
3. Your GPA is a major consideration for both academic and athletic college scholarships as well as financial aid.

### Start improving your GPA now.

4. You cannot wait until your junior or senior year to start worrying about your cumulative GPA. Every single class you take for high school credit gets averaged in, so all your grades are just as important. If you bomb every class in the first year or two, it will be impossible to graduate with an above average GPA. For example, if you receive all D's or 1.0's in 9th and 10th grade and all A's or 4.0's in 11th and 12th grade, your cumulative average GPA will be 2.5, which doesn't meet the minimum many schools require for admission.
5. However, a little planning and hard work during your freshman year can go a long way toward a better cumulative GPA and make all the difference when you send in your college applications. In fact, the GPA on your college application may only reflect the first 3 or 3 ½ years of high school anyway since you will need to apply before your first semester grades of senior year are calculated.

### GPA Tips & Tactics

- Work hard in your freshman and sophomore years to increase your chance of admission into AP, IB, honors and accelerated course—they're your ticket to a higher GPA since they're given more weight on the GPA scale.
- While a low GPA will not keep you from getting into college, some four-year colleges do require a 3.0 or higher for admission. The myth of an "easy" senior year is FALSE – Every grade you make counts!
- Don't slack off once you receive your acceptance letter. Your future college will continue to monitor your grades through the end of your senior year and expect a final transcript.

## WHAT COUNTS IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

**What admissions staff found as “considerably important” in a national survey:**

Factor	Considerable importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in college prep courses	76.0%	12.5%	9.3%	1.4%
Strength of curriculum	51.8	35.3	7.3	5.5
Admission test scores (SAT, ACT).	54.3	27.9	13.7	4.1
Grades in all courses	77.1	13.8	6.4	2.8
Essay or writing sample	18.9	35.9	22.1	23.0
Student's demonstrated interest	13.7	25.5	32.1	28.8
Counselor recommendation	14.6	46.0	25.8	13.6
Class Rank	9.2	24.0	34.6	32.3
Teacher recommendation	10.9	46.4	28.0	14.7
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	6.9	30.6	30.6	31.9
Portfolio	6.2	5.7	27.6	60.5
Interview	4.7	17.4	31.9	46.0
SAT II scores	2.4	6.1	21.2	70.3
Extracurricular activities	7.9	36.0	36.9	19.2
State graduation exam	1.9	7.6	21.9	68.6
Work	2.8	15.6	47.4	34.1

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2017

\*\*\*Texas public universities and colleges will automatically accept the top 10% of the graduating class from public high schools, if the student graduates with a Distinguished Level of Achievement Diploma. The University of Texas at Austin automatically accepts the top 5 %\*\*\*



# It's Never Too Early To Start Planning!

## Financial Aid

Most financial aid is awarded based on financial need.

$$\frac{\text{Cost of Attending College} - \text{Family Contribution}^{**}}{\text{Financial Need}}$$



More than \$8,180,000,000 in financial aid is awarded to students in Texas each year

## Types of aid

- Grants and Scholarships\* (Free Money) = 47%
- Work Study (Part-time jobs) = 1%
- Loans (To be paid back, with interest) = 52%

\*\*Student Aid Index calculates based on the income and assets of the student and their parents or spouse, if applicable. The analysis formula used considers both taxed and untaxed income, as well as any assets and benefits received, such as unemployment or Social Security information provided using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

## How Can I Prepare for College

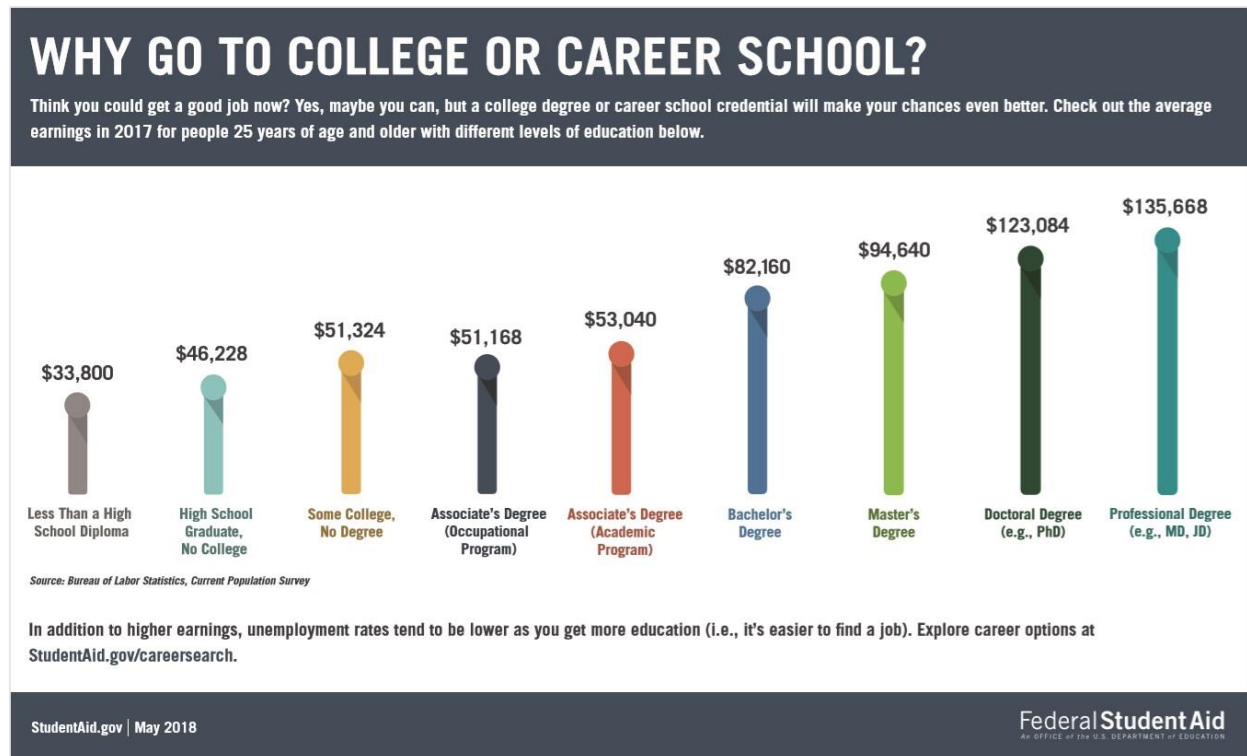
- ❖ Prepare for college academics by taking the most rigorous classes you can.
- ❖ Grades are important; many scholarships are awarded on academic achievement.
- ❖ Participate in community activities as well as extracurricular school events.
- ❖ Begin to learn about the different colleges and universities through the internet and with campus visits.
- ❖ Investigate career options for your future and explore opportunities to learn more about specific careers.

# Why Go to College?

## (How about ... to get a good job!)

Can't I get a good job now?

Yes, maybe you could, but a college degree will make your chances even better. Check out the earnings and unemployment rates below for people 25 years and older with different levels of education.



Sometimes it's hard to stay in school if you think you need to be working to earn money. But if you get an education beyond high school, you'll have a wider variety of jobs to choose from, and you'll earn more— especially in the long run.

### But I don't know what career to go into!

If you can't decide what to do, talk to your school counselor or visit [StudentAid.gov/prepare](http://StudentAid.gov/prepare) to find out how to prepare for college and explore your career options.

### Doesn't college cost a lot of money?

Think of college as an investment: You spend money now so you can earn more later. The U.S. Department of Education may help you pay for your education. Take a look at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov) for information about our federal student aid programs. The site also links to a free scholarship search at [StudentAid.gov/scholarships](http://StudentAid.gov/scholarships).

Still have questions? Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)



# Helpful Websites

The following web sites can be beneficial to you throughout the application process and in your quest to financially support your college career. HEB ISD does not endorse or recommend any specific website. These are for informational purposes only.

<u>College for All Texans</u>	<a href="http://www.collegeforalltexans.com">www.collegeforalltexans.com</a>	scholarships for Texans
<u>College is Possible</u>	<a href="http://www.collegeispossible.com">www.collegeispossible.com</a>	a campaign to provide information related to preparing for, paying for, and choosing the right college
<u>College Net</u>	<a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a>	school information
<u>Fast WEB</u>	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>	extensive listings of scholarships
<u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u>	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>	government financial aid application
<u>High Scholarships</u>	<a href="http://www.highscholarships.com">www.highscholarships.com</a>	scholarship search for high school
<u>Nelnet</u>	<a href="http://www.nelnet.com">www.nelnet.com</a>	college planning, financial aid information
<u>Sallie Mae College Answer</u>	<a href="http://www.collegeanswer.com">www.collegeanswer.com</a>	college planning, financial aid information
<u>SAT</u>	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	SAT registration and testing information
<u>Scholarships</u>	<a href="http://www.scholarships.com">www.scholarships.com</a>	scholarship search, financial aid information
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>	<a href="http://www.ed.gov">www.ed.gov</a>	college funding
<u>Wired Scholar</u>	<a href="http://www.wiredscholar.com">www.wiredscholar.com</a>	scholarship search, preparation



XELLO  
TOOLS TO  
HELP YOU  
PLAN FOR  
THE FUTURE

# The Xello difference: A model that connects self-knowledge to future success

Built with thousands of hours of research with educators, Xello puts students at the center of their journey of self-discovery. Every student will build the skills and knowledge necessary for success in their own unique future.



## **Build Self-knowledge**

Students define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities right for them.



## **Explore Options**

Students learn about career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich engaging content and lessons.



## **Create a Plan**

Students create dynamic, actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.



## **Learn & Reassess**

As students gain experience, knowledge, and skills, they can reassess and change their plans for the future.

Xello is an online program your child is using in school to help them prepare for the future. It offers a variety of activities from kindergarten to the end of high school. These activities help students build self-knowledge, explore their options, and create achievable plans. They develop the 21st-century skills needed to thrive in the world of work.

It's important for students to take ownership in planning for their future. But the caring adults in their life play an essential supporting role. Use your Xello Family account to see your child's work in future-readiness. Use this opportunity to discuss and support their future goals and plans. Please see your student's counselor for Xello assistance.



# Help Students Discover Post-Secondary Options

The screenshot displays the xello website interface. At the top, the xello logo is visible. The main heading is "EXPLORE SCHOOLS" with a large illustration of a school building. Below this, there are search filters for "Location" (with a dropdown menu) and "Cost / Year" (with a slider ranging from \$0 to \$50,000). A "Show Filters" button is present. The main content area shows a grid of school cards, each featuring a school name, a location, and a small image. The cards include: South Dakota College (Huron, SD), Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX), Eastern Illinois Agricultural College (Elliott, IL), Academy College (Bloomington, MN), Academy of Art University (Oakland, CA), Academy of Creative Art (Oakland, CA), Adams State University (Greeley, CO), Adelphi University (Garden City, NY), University of Technology Institute (Cincinnati, OH), Adventist University of Health Sciences (Gresham, PA), University College (Cincinnati, OH), Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Montgomery, AL), and Alaska Center College (Anchorage, AK). In the foreground, a laptop screen shows a detailed career profile for "ECOLOGIST". The profile includes a background image of a person in a field, a salary range of "\$35,000 - \$100,000", a "4 Year College" icon, and a "Stable Demand" icon. It features an "Excellent Match" badge and a "Save" button. Below the profile, there is a section titled "EXPLORE THIS CAREER" with a "Grade My Data" button and six interactive cards: "How I Feel About This Career" (Love It), "My Notes" (Add), "Important Factors" (Add), "Likes and Dislikes" (Add), "Helpful Articles" (Add), and "Related Videos" (Add).

# Encourage Students to Build Self-Knowledge

The first step of being future-ready is knowing who you are. Xello helps students discover more about themselves by encouraging them to record and reflect on their strengths, skills, and interests. They learn to think critically about how to apply all they discover to create a plan that gets them excited and ready to explore!

## Career Matchmaker

Students participate in an interactive assessment with situation-based questions. Their answers match them with careers that align to their passions and skills, engaging and exciting them in planning for the future.

## Personality Style Assessment

Based on the Holland Model, the Personality Style assessment helps students learn why certain careers are a good match for them based on their unique traits, likes and dislikes.

## Learning Style Assessment

By completing the Learning Styles assessment, students discover how they learn best, and are equipped with the tools and awareness to maximize their learning techniques.

## After High School

Students begin by thinking about what they might want to do after high school - giving them a base to start from when planning their future.

## Favorite Clusters

Viewing similar careers in favorite clusters helps inspire students and broadens their choices.

## Experiences

With an interactive timeline, students track their accomplishments in life, education, work, and volunteer experiences, prompting them to reflect on, and learn from, their experiences.

## Skills & Interests

Students identify and reflect on their skills and interests to learn how to apply them to their future.

## Storyboard

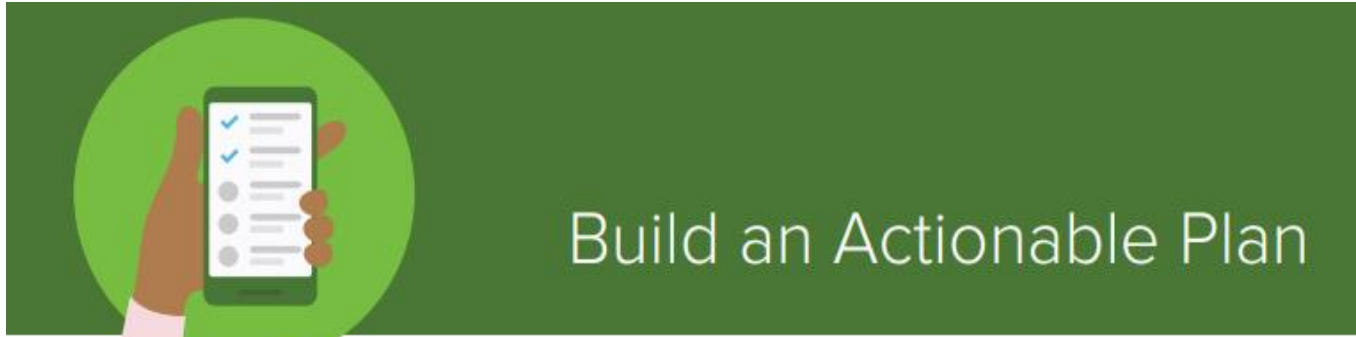
Students collect and store in one place their favorite photos, videos, links, and files to express their personality, represent their story, and visually capture their goals.

The screenshot displays the Xello platform interface for a student named Jameela Young. The profile includes a header with navigation links (About Me, Explore Options, Goals & Plans) and a search icon. Below the header is a profile picture and the name 'JAMEELA YOUNG' with contact information for email, LinkedIn, and a grade level (Grade 10).

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- CAREER MATCHES:** A row of five career cards: Photographer (\$14,000 - \$19,000), Camera Operator (\$15,540 - \$192,000), Photographer (\$14,400 - \$19,000), Biologist (\$46,000 - \$105,000), and Ecologist (\$18,000 - \$100,000).
- PERSONALITY STYLE:** A circular diagram showing traits: Organizer, Thinker, Doer, and Creator.
- LEARNING STYLE:** A circular diagram showing percentages: 45% Visual, 40% Tactile, and 15% Auditory. The result is 'You are a Visual-Tactile Learner'.
- AFTER HIGH SCHOOL...:** A section titled 'My goal: Move School or Training' with a 'Get Out' button and a 'Favorite Clusters' section below it.
- FAVORITE CLUSTERS:** A section titled 'Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources / Arts, AV Technology & Communications'.
- EXPERIENCES:** A timeline from 2016 to 2018 showing roles: 'PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS' (2016), 'CAMP COUNSELOR' (2017), and 'CASHIER' (2018).
- SKILLS:** A list of skills with star ratings: Listening (4 stars), Taking Criticism (4 stars), Communicating (4 stars), Abstract Thinking (4 stars), Photography (4 stars), and Visual Communication (4 stars).
- INTERESTS:** A list of interests: Filmmaking, Photography, Reading, Modeling, Art, and Soccer.
- PLACES:** A world map with location markers for 'Belmonte San Francisco, California, United States' and 'Live In Sacramento, California, United States'.
- STORYBOARD:** A grid of photo thumbnails with captions: 'Insect Photography Tips 8/15/20...', 'canyon trail photo', 'sunlight', 'Art shot', 'squirrels fight', and 'Widely?'





# Build an Actionable Plan

### COURSE PLANNER

High School Diploma

YEAR 9 7 credits selected	YEAR 10 (this year) 7 credits selected	YEAR 11 (next year) 7 credits selected	YEAR 12 7 credits selected
English ENG201 - English 2 - 30	English ENG201 - English 20 - 30	+ Add English 11 - 10	+ Add English 12 - 10
Maths 2U Mathematics A (Mathematics) - 34	English ENG202 - English 20 - 30	+ Add Math 11 - 10	+ Add Science 11 - 10
Science SC201 - Science 2 - 35	English 1 ENG203A - English 10 - 30	+ Add Science 11 - 10	+ Add Science 12 - 10
Geographic GEO201 - Geo. Study 2 - 35	English 1 ENG203B - English 10 - 30	+ Add Science 11 - 10	+ Add Science 12 - 10
French FREN1 - Fran. Study 1 - 35	English 1 ENG204 - English 10 - 30	+ Add Singing 11 - 10	+ Add Elective 11 - 10
English Contemporary First Nations - 32	Biopge BIO201 - Biopge 20 - 30	+ Add Singing 11 - 10	+ Add Elective 11 - 10
Visual Arts ART201 - Visual Arts 2 - 35	Chem CHE201 - Chem 20 - 30	+ Add Singing 11 - 10	+ Add Elective 11 - 10
Information and Communication ST201 - 35	Spanish SP201 - Spanish 20 - 30	+ Add Elective 11 - 10	+ Add Elective 11 - 10
	Music MUS201 - Music 20 - 30		

### MY TRANSCRIPTS

Send New Transcripts

- Nippon University - Status: 201 - Your high school is processing your transcript. Today
- University of Chicago - Status: Chicago, IL - Your high school is processing your transcript. Today

### PHOTOJOURNALIST

I will become a

**PHOTOJOURNALIST**

CAREER: PHOTOJOURNALIST

SCHOOLS: California State University, Sacramento

MAJORS: WashBio Biology

I love taking photos of nature and getting outside. Capturing light is really important to me and I like to take pictures of things in motion.