

Your Future! Plan Ahead, Make High School Count



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Take Control of Your Future!

Do you want more knowledge, more job opportunities, and a lot more money? College is for you! The world is changing everyday and it is harder to find well paying jobs if you do not have a college degree... so if you want the freedom to choose a good career and earn a high salary, then you should start preparing for college while you are still in middle school.

Be Prepared

Right now is the best time to prepare for college. During the next four years, you need to take the right foundational courses to help you get into the college that best suits your needs. The chart below lists the minimum courses that are required for freshman admission to the California State University, the University of California, and many independent colleges and universities. This pattern of courses is the same as recommended for community colleges. Talk to your counselors and teachers and use this chart to plan ahead and track your progress!

...❖ high school planning chart This planning chart belongs to:

Requirements (a-g Courses)	Years Required	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
A. History/Social Science U.S. History, U.S. Government, Civics, World History Cultures, and Geography	2 Years of History/Social Science, including one year of U.S. History OR one semester of U.S. History and one semester of American government. CSU requires one additional year of Social Science. UC requires one year of either world or European History, or cultures and geography.*						
B. English	4 Years of college preparatory English composition and literature (including no more than one year of Advanced ESL/ELD). UC requires a minimum of two years of English – three preferable completed by the end of the 11th grade.						
C. Mathematics Algebra, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, or Higher Level Mathematics	3 Years (four years recommended) of college-preparatory mathematics required, including Elementary Algebra, Geometry, and Intermediate Algebra. Integrated math sequences may be used to satisfy “c” subject area requirements. For UC, one of the three courses must be Geometry or Integrated Mathematics with sufficient Geometry content.						
D. Laboratory Science	2 Years required. CSU requires one year of biological and one year of physical science, one from the “d” subject area and the other from the “d” or “g” area. UC requires two years (three years strongly recommended), providing fundamental knowledge in two of the following disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.						
E. Language Other Than English (Foreign Language)	2 Years (or equivalent to the second level of high school instruction) of the same language other than English required (three years recommended). American Sign Language is acceptable.						
F. Visual & Performing Arts Dance, Drama/Theater, Music, Visual Art	1 Year (or two, one-semester courses) in the same discipline required, chosen from the following: Dance, Interdisciplinary Arts, Music, Theater, Visual Arts.						
G. College Preparatory	1 Year of an elective chosen from any area on approved a-g course list.						

*UC requires at least 11 of the “a-g” courses to be completed prior to the start of 12th grade. To meet Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) criteria, UC requires students to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and complete the following “a-g” courses prior to a student starting 12th grade: 1 year of History/Social Science, 2 years of English, 2 years of Mathematics, 1 year of Laboratory Science, 1 year of Language Other Than English, and 4 yearlong College Preparatory Electives (chosen from the “a-f” subjects listed in the above table or another course approved by the university).

... ❖ california educational systems at a glance

System	California Community Colleges (CCC)	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)	Independent Colleges and Universities
Number of campuses	114	23	10	80
College entrance test	None Required	ACT or SAT are required for students with grade point averages under 3.00*	ACT with Writing or SAT with Essay	ACT or SAT (check with college or university of your choice)
Degrees offered	Some Bachelor's degrees offered	Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees	Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, and professional degrees	Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, and professional degrees
In-state student fees/tuition (subject to change)	\$46 per unit (before financial aid)	\$5,742 (before financial aid)	\$12,630 (before financial aid)	\$36,600 (before financial aid)
Financial aid	You can afford to go to college! Financial aid is available from colleges and universities, State and Federal governments, businesses, and other organizations. The State's Cal Grant program fully covers fees and/or offsets some living or book expenses for qualifying students at California Community Colleges, California State University and University of California. The maximum Cal Grant at independent California colleges and universities is \$9,084; the average financial aid package at these institutions is \$29,038. To get a sense of the cost of college for you and your family after financial aid, go to campus web sites and search for the "Financial Aid Calculator or Estimator."			
*Applicants who are not required to submit test scores are encouraged to take standardized admission tests for advising and for placement in appropriate courses				

... ❖ california colleges and universities

California Community Colleges (CCC)

- Admit all students who are 18 years old or a high school graduate
- Enroll high school students under special arrangement to earn college or high school credits
- Prepare students to transfer to any college or university for a Bachelor's Degree
- Have low fees and offer financial aid
- Offer a wide variety of opportunities to enhance your future and enrich your life
- 15 community colleges are offering Bachelor's Degrees in vocational fields. Some of these programs will begin in 2015. A list of the colleges and vocational fields included in this program is on:
http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/ExecutiveOffice/Board/2015_agendas/January/California_Community_Colleges_Baccalaureate_Degree_RECOMMENDED_PILOT_PROGRAMS_final_Jan-2015.pdf.
- For more information, visit the website
www.californiacolleges.edu
www.icanaffordcollege.com

California State University (CSU)

- Each campus has its own personality, academic focus, and strengths
- Each campus has its own special geographic features and traditions
- CSU offers quality education in the liberal arts and sciences and specialized training for a variety of career fields
- On-campus housing is available on most campuses
- For more information, visit the website
www.calstate.edu
www.californiacolleges.edu

University of California (UC)

- Each campus has its own personality, academic focus, and strengths
- Offers various advanced degrees, including medicine and law
- Has many nationally ranked academic and athletic programs
- On-campus housing is available on all campuses
- For more information, visit the following websites
www.universityofcalifornia.edu
www.californiacolleges.edu

Independent California Colleges and Universities

- 80 not-for-profit, fully accredited private colleges that offer over 350 different degrees
- Average Financial Aid package is almost \$30,000, and 79% of all students receive institutional grant aid.
- Each school is different which offers students the opportunity to choose the type of educational environment that best suits their needs
- For more information, visit the website
www.aiccu.edu/planning-ahead
www.californiacolleges.edu

Specialized Schools and Colleges

- Most students 18 years of age or older are eligible for admission; however, at WASC accredited specialized colleges, it is recommended that students follow the High School Planning Chart on the reverse side
- Courses or programs offered are specialized (i.e., fashion design or automotive technologies) for direct entrance into careers

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