



HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE ROAD MAP

In today's world, you need more than a high school diploma to get the jobs you want and reach your goals for the future. It really is important for you to attend a public, private, or community college — or pursue some type of advanced technical training — after completing high school.

But you need to plan ahead and pay close attention if you want to make a smooth transition to college. Navigating the route from your first day of high school to graduation becomes more complex when it's filled with decisions, responsibilities, and deadlines related to finding the right college and gaining admission.

Beginning with your freshman year, you can be sure that you're on the right path by following the "road maps" included here. The things you'll need to do along the way — begin researching colleges, take the SAT or ACT, apply for financial aid — are sequenced throughout your freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years.

This college advisement guide was developed to support you and your future! By mapping out an educational plan that leads past high school, you are assured of greater success.

Adapted from the Sonoma County Office of Education "High School to College Road Map" and used with permission.

GO! Beyond High School

Local, Relevant College
& Career Resources
for the North Coast



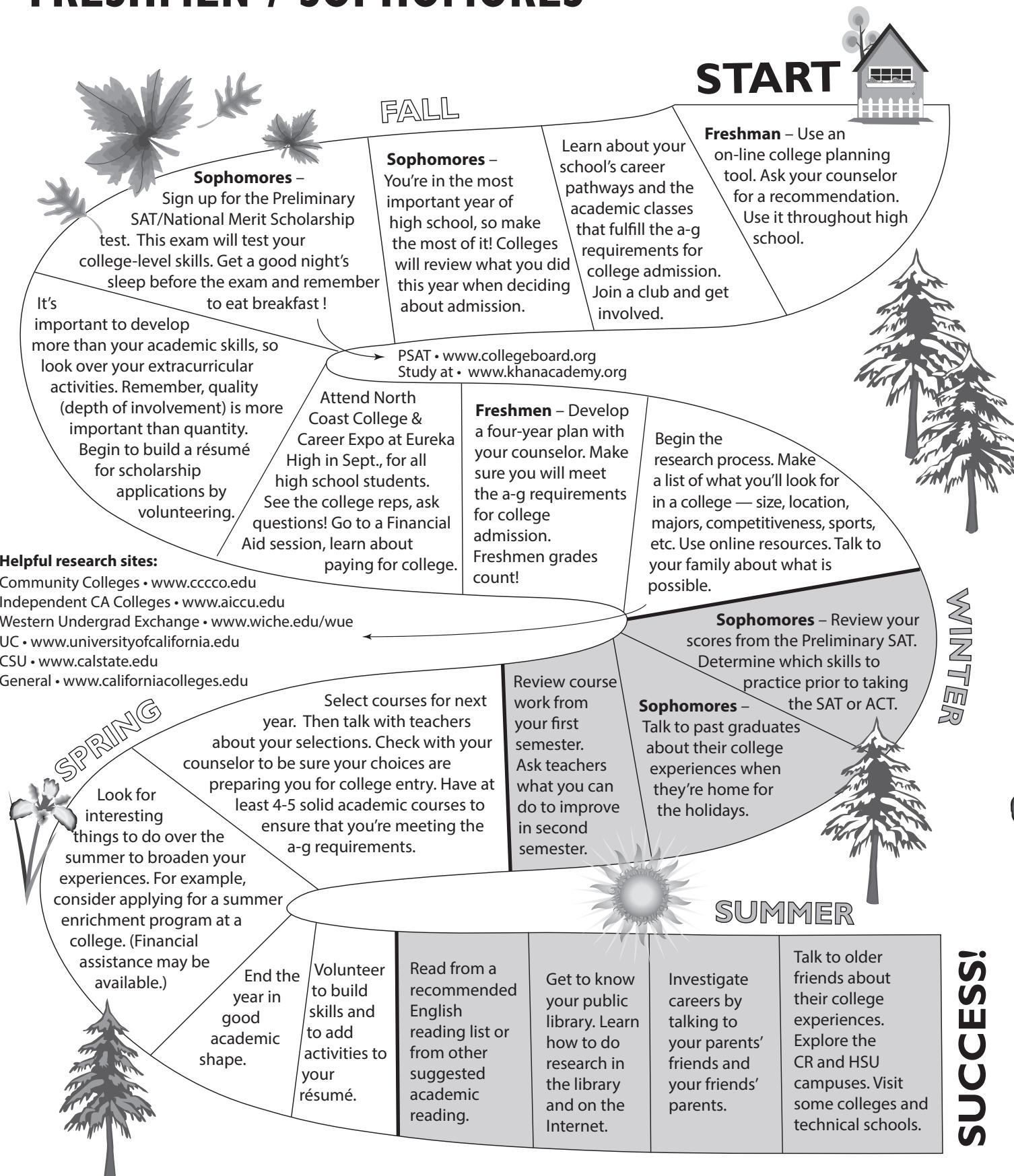
**Humboldt County
Office of Education**

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HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE ROAD MAP

FRESHMEN / SOPHOMORES



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JUNIORS

Helpful research sites:

Community Colleges • www.cccco.edu

Independent CA Colleges • www.aiccu.edu

Western Undergrad Exchange • www.wiche.edu/wue

UC • www.universityofcalifornia.edu

CSU • www.calstate.edu

Using online resources, continue to research colleges and technical/ trade schools.

Advise your counselor and congressional representative if you are planning to apply to a military academy.

Meet with college admissions counselors who visit your school. If qualified, register to take AP exams in May. www.collegeboard.org

Federal and state aid links:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov>
www.fafsa.gov
www.caldreamact.org
www.csac.ca.gov

SPRING

Keep up your grades. Junior year grades are important for college admission. Visit campuses over Spring Break. Refine the list of colleges and technical schools that interest you.

Plan your senior year. Complete the a-g pathway or match your course selections to the requirements of your college choices.

Take your assessment tests seriously. These scores can determine readiness for college level coursework in English and Math. CAASPP scores can determine placements in college courses.

Begin researching local scholarships. Check out Humboldt Area Foundation and your high school's counseling web page.

Humboldt Area Foundation:
www.hafoundation.org

Put together a list of ten schools you'd like to attend. Find out about costs and financial aid. Talk to your parents about what is possible.

Check out:
www.calcolleges.edu

Take SAT Subject Tests, if needed.

If you hope to participate in college athletics, you need to be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse. See your counselor.

Apply for summer enrichment programs at community, public, and private colleges.

Write your representatives in Congress to request applications to military academies.

Visit campuses. Select your top six and bookmark their online applications.

Look for interesting things to do over the summer. Volunteer or get a part-time job to broaden your experiences.

SUCCESS!

My high school code is _____

Get your school code from your counselor or at www.actstudent.org/regist/lookups

START



FALL

Attend North Coast College & Career Expo at Eureka High in Sept., for all high school students. See college reps, ask questions! Go to a Financial Aid session.

Take advanced math, science, English, and foreign language classes. Check your graduation and a-g status.

PSAT • www.collegeboard.org
 Study at • www.khanacademy.org

WINTER



Review your Preliminary SAT results with your counselor. Look into taking an SAT/ACT Prep class to improve your scores.

Learn as much as you can about financial aid. This is how you can help pay for college.

Begin specific college investigations. Use your online resources to learn more about colleges and their offerings. Make an appointment with your counselor. Talk to your family about what is possible.

ACT • www.actstudent.org
 SAT • www.collegeboard.org

SUMMER



HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE ROAD MAP

SENIORS

START

FALL

Gather information for completing a financial aid application.
Begin first draft of your college essay or personal statement.

If you are applying to more than one college, rank your preferences by location, academic program, or other characteristics. Does the ranking match your gut feeling?

CSU • www.calstate.edu
UC • www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Attend North Coast College & Career Expo at Eureka High in Sept., for all high school students. See the college reps, ask questions! Go to a Financial Aid session, learn about paying for college.

Register and take SAT/ACT tests starting in September.

December is the last opportunity. Ask your counselor about a fee waiver.

Visit your school's college/career center. Refine your college choice list. Talk to your family about what is possible. Organize a file for each college that interests you. Check application deadlines. Create a calendar for the fall; don't miss out. Questions? See your counselor and check your school's counseling web page. Check your graduation and a-g status.

ACT • www.actstudent.org
SAT • www.collegeboard.org
Fee waivers: <http://tinyurl.com/test-fee-waivers>

Oct. 1: You can apply for financial aid. Need help? Attend a Cash for College workshop. fafsa.gov or caldreamact.org

Retake the SAT/ACT exam if you want to improve your scores.

Oct. 1: UC/CSU applications are available.

Check progress in fulfilling application requirements:

- Get deadlines and forms for rolling admissions at independent colleges: www.aiccu.edu.
- Obtain necessary recommendations.
- Give teachers/counselors any forms to complete two-three weeks before they're due.
- Write essay for entrance requirement.

Complete online applications for private colleges, trade schools, and apprenticeships. Keep a copy of all information submitted. See a counselor to review semester classes and graduation requirements.

Look for private scholarships. Apply early.

December is the last month to take the SAT/ACT.

If you are applying for early action/early decision, submit your application in November.

Prepare for scholarships. Review your résumé of all high school and community activities and awards. Request letters of recommendation early.

Review Student Aid Report (SAR) (FAFSA and Dream Act). Correct any errors.

Set up a WebGrants account to see your Cal Grant status. webgrants4students.org

If you are considering the military, sign up for the ASVAB test. www.official-asvab.com

March 2: Cal Grant priority deadline for FAFSA and Dream Act applications. www.csac.ca.gov www.fafsa.gov [www.caldreamact.org](http://caldreamact.org)

Have your first semester grades sent to any colleges that request them.

If qualified, register for AP exams. www.collegeboard.org
Apply for scholarships. See your counselor. www.hafoundation.org www.fastweb.com

Interested in CR? Sign up to meet with a community college counselor for admissions information. Take the English and Math placement exams. Participate in a college orientation class.

SUMMER

SUCCESS!

Request that your final transcripts be sent to the college you'll attend in the fall. If you are a prospective college athlete, NCAA must also receive your transcript.

Attend your college orientation

Once you have decided which college to attend, notify your counselor and all colleges that accepted you. Be fair to the college and to other students by responding promptly by May 1.

Compare costs! Make a budget before making acceptance decisions. Make final decision and send deposit by deadline.

Keep track of acceptances, denials, and financial aid awards. Claim your Cal Grant Award at webgrants4students.org

Take AP Exams in May, if qualified. Check housing application deadlines.

Don't get senioritis. Colleges want to see a strong second semester.

SPRING

<https://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx>