

HOW TO GET TO COLLEGE



www.gotocsu.com



6-8TH GRADES

- Take **English and Algebra I** or another rigorous math course and aim for good grades.
- Take a **language other than English**.
- **Begin your student planner** on www.csumentor.edu.



9TH GRADE Freshmen

- Take the **"a-g"** courses listed below to meet the CSU's admission requirements: college prep English, Algebra I or Geometry, and a foreign language.
- **Aim for As and Bs in all your classes;** focus on homework and develop good study skills.
- Take the **ACT EXPLORE exam**, a tool that helps you plan for high school and college.
- **Begin or update your high school course planner** on www.csumentor.edu.



10TH GRADE Sophomores

- Take **Geometry or Algebra II**.
- Take **college prep English**.
- Take the **PSAT exam** to help you prepare for the SAT or ACT and to keep you on track for college.
- Take courses from the **"a-g" course list below:** History, English, math, visual and performing arts, laboratory science, and a foreign language.
- **Update your high school course planner** on www.csumentor.edu.

How to PAY FOR COLLEGE

- See if you qualify for financial aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- You may also be eligible for a Cal Grant: www.calgrants.org
- Check out the many scholarship opportunities: www.scholarships.com
- Learn how to save for college: www.scholarshare.com

"a-g" 9th-12th Grades COURSES

The California State University requires the following college preparatory pattern of classes (referred to as the "a-g" courses) for admission:

- a HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE** 2 years (1 year of U.S. History and 1 year of Social Science)
- b ENGLISH** 4 years required
- c MATH** 3 years (4 years recommended)
- d LABORATORY SCIENCE** 2 years with a lab class
- e LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH** (Foreign Language) 2 years of the same language
- f VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS** 1 year
- g COLLEGE PREPARATORY ELECTIVES** 1 year of any college preparatory subject

Visit your school counselor for a detailed list of classes or visit www.gotocsu.com.

You can do it!



11TH Juniors GRADE

- **Take college prep English and advanced math:** English (writing and critical reading) and Algebra II or advanced math.
- **Review the “a-g” classes** you still need to take for CSU admission with your counselor.
- **Update your high school course planner** on www.csumentor.edu.
- **Do your best on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.** Your CAASPP EAP results will help determine if you are ready for college level courses before attending the CSU. In a college level course you earn credit towards a baccalaureate degree. Visit www.csusuccess.org/caaspp.
- **Register for the AP exams in the spring.** You can earn college credit if you score well on the test(s) and will be exempt from taking the EPT and ELM.
- **Register for the PSAT** if you didn't take it in the 10th grade.
- **Take the SAT or ACT in the spring as an additional way to determine if you are ready for college level courses.** Many CSU campuses require you to take the SAT/ACT by October of your senior year.



12TH Seniors GRADE

- **Complete all final “a-g” course requirements,** including college prep English and advanced math. Trigonometry or Analytic Geometry/Calculus are also recommended.
- **If your CAASPP EAP results indicate “Standard Met”,** you are required to take an approved senior year-long English and/or math course and pass with a grade of “C” or better in both semesters.
- **If your CAASPP EAP results indicate “Standard Nearly Met” or “Standard Not Met”,** you must take the required CSU EPT and/or ELM exam(s) unless you meet other EPT/ELM exemptions. Visit www.csusuccess.org to practice your English and/or math skills.
- **If you are planning on transferring** from a California Community College, visit the CSU's website for transfer pathways: www.calstate.edu/transfer/roadmaps.

EARLY SEPTEMBER:

Register for the October SAT or ACT, if you haven't already taken the exam.

OCTOBER 1-NOVEMBER 30:

Apply to the CSU early—the deadline is November 30!
Begin to apply for scholarships.

JANUARY-MARCH:

Apply for financial aid by March 2 (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

MARCH-MAY:

Prior to enrolling, register for the CSU's EPT and ELM exams (unless you are exempt).

LATE SPRING:

Students taking AP classes should register for the AP exams.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACT (American College Testing)
AP (Advanced Placement)
CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress)
CSU (California State University)

EAP (Early Assessment Program)
ELM (Entry Level Mathematics Exam)
EPT (English Placement Test)
PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test)
SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)



SCHOLARSHARE

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