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College Selection . . . How students begin

There are thousands of colleges and universities in the country. How are you going to find the one that's right for you?

Location: A school's climate can be an important consideration for many students, as well as distance from home. Some students choose to go to school relatively close to home, others want to get as far away as possible. For many, college marks the first opportunity for students to live on their own.

Cost: How much you can afford to pay for your education is obviously a major factor in determining where you apply. You don't necessarily have to eliminate schools from your list because the tuition is too high. Instead, begin investigating the many forms of financial aid that are available, including scholarship opportunities. Create accounts at www.scholarships.com and www.fastweb.com and get started today. **Use a secondary email account to avoid spam!!**

Size: Two of the major distinctions between small and large schools are the number of course offerings and the student-faculty ratio. Most large schools have extensive course offerings; however, many courses will probably be extremely large lecture classes, sometimes numbering hundreds of students. At smaller schools there will be more limited course offerings and fewer majors or departments, but most classes will be pretty small.

Setting: If you attend school in a large city, you will have any number of cultural events and activities but you

will also have crowds and noise. Rural campus settings can be very scenic, making it easier to work and study. However, rural campuses are also more isolated and you may find yourself campus-bound for longer periods of time.

Student Life: As you investigate schools, look at the range of activities that are available. It is important that you choose a school where you will feel comfortable, both at work and at play. The best way to judge the social atmosphere at a school is to visit while school is in session.

Tours: Make actual college visits during spring break, during the summer or whenever possible. Also take advantage of the college presentations that take place in the College & Career Center in the Fall where you can speak one-on-one with reps from colleges and universities from all over the United States.

Research colleges online at:
www.collegeboard.org;
<https://www.californiacolleges.edu>
www.assist.org;
www.aiccu.edu





EXPLORE

[Career Search Tool](#)

ASSESSMENTS

[Interest Profiler](#)
[Work Values](#)
[Intelligences](#)
[Personality](#)
[Skills](#)

EXPLORE

[College Search Tool](#)
[Major Search Tool](#)

APPLY

[Launch from CaliforniaColleges.edu](#)
[California Community Colleges Application](#)
[California State University Application](#)
[University of California Application](#)
Other Applications
[Common Application](#)
[Common Black College Application](#)

PHS Class of 2027 Graduation Requirements

A-G College Requirements

English	40 credits
Social Studies	30 credits
	(World Hist., U.S. Hist., Gov't., Econ.)
Math	30 credits
	(must include Geometry)
Physical Science	10 credits
Life Science	10 credits
Health	5 credits
Computer Technology (ICT)	5 credits
Physical Education	20 credits
Fine Arts/ Foreign Language/CTE	20 credits
Additional Credits	70 credits
Total:	240 credits

- A. **Social Science**—2 years **
- B. **English**—4 years
- C. **Math**—3 years**
(Including Algebra 2)
- D. **Lab Science**—2 years **
(Biology, Chemistry, Adv. Chem , Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics)
- E. **Foreign Language**—2 years **
- F. **Visual Performing Art**—1 year
- G. **College Prep Elective**—1 year

**Competitive schools recommend taking at least one additional year.



Military Academies:

If you are a college-bound student who is considering a career in the military, it's not too late to get a nomination to one of the military academies.

Visit <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/services/academies/> or <https://mcclintock.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>

Have it finished by the end of summer! Keep your grades up and visit your counselor!!

You should also plan to attend our Military Academy Night in Fall 2026 at the District College Fair.



Scholarship Advice:

- Get involved in your community; become a volunteer. Check out the various service clubs at Ponderosa such as Key Club.
- It's not too late to take on leadership roles in school, athletics, clubs, church, etc. You don't have to be involved with everything, find something you like and dig in deep!
- Begin your student resume now and include the honors, awards, activities, achievements, community service, athletics, etc. (You will need a resume when you apply for local scholarships next year).
- Excel in your classes. Strive for the higher GPA.
- Think of people you might ask for letters of recommendation in the fall. Scholarships usually ask for two or three letters and they sometimes ask that one letter be from a non-faculty member.
- Begin researching scholarships on our local scholarships database (**DO NOT create an account or apply until senior year!**)

<https://scholarships.edcoe.org/>



SAT/ACT Test Dates:

You can also access free online practice tests through the College Board and ACT websites.

The UC & CSU systems will NOT use SAT/ACT scores for admissions purposes for the Class of 2027

SAT Test Dates 2026: May 2

Regular Registration: April 17
Register online at www.collegeboard.com

June 6

May 22

ACT Test Dates 2026: June 13

Regular Registration: May 8
Register online at www.actstudent.org

July 11

June 5

PHS School Code 053373



Career Technical Education/ ROP Courses

Quick Reference Web-sites:

Univ. of California System
<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

California State Univ. System
<https://www.calstate.edu/apply>

California Community Colleges
www.cccco.edu

Western University Exchange
<http://wue.wiche.edu>
 (for out-of-state colleges w/lower tuition agreement for CA students)

The purpose of the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is to provide students with marketable skills upon completion. ROP works in cooperation with local businesses in the community to provide students on-the-job training on up-to-date equipment.

Anyone 16 years of age or older is eligible to participate in ROP programs. However, enrollment is limited, and first priority is given to high school seniors.

EDUHSD offers the following ROP courses:

- Animal Health
- Automotive Engine
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Careers
- Diesel Engine
- Fire Control Technician
- Health Careers
- Law Enforcement
- Metal Fabrication

How much does ROP cost?

There is no registration fee for high school students. Students may be required to pay for uniforms, kits, tools, textbooks, and/or health tests or shots. Check the district website a complete list of fees.

Who provides transportation? Students must provide their own transportation. Transportation is not provided to and from ROP courses and /or community job sites.

Don't miss out on the EDUHSD Regional Career Expo on March 5, 2026 at Union Mine High School.

- 50+ Careers represented
- **Need a job?**— Part of Career Expo is a Hiring fair! Walk away with a summer job!

Calendar These Important Dates



JUNIOR YEAR CALENDAR

March:

Attend Career Expo on March 5th. Study for the SAT and/or ACT test if you plan on taking one of the tests. (Revolution Prep & Khan Academy resources). Begin Military Academy admission process—obtain letter from Congressman/Senator.

April:

Visit prospective colleges. Research colleges using College Board.

May & June:

Take AP tests. Take SAT and/or ACT tests.

SENIOR YEAR CALENDAR

Summer:

Visit more prospective colleges. Volunteer and participate in community service projects.

August & September:

Register for SAT and/or ACT tests.

Attend EDUHSD College Fair at Union Mine.

October:

Apply for admissions to California State Universities, University of California, and private Colleges/Universities.

Obtain FSA ID for financial aid documents.

November:

Apply for admissions to California State Universities and Universities of California. Take the ASVAB Career Exploration / Military Assessment.

December & January:

Complete your FAFSA Application. Apply for community based scholarships.

February & March:

Apply for Community College. Submit FAFSA before March 2nd.

Apply for community based scholarships.

April & May:

Watch for college deadlines and deposits. Send Letter of Intent. Graduate!!!!

NCAA INFORMATION—NCAA Eligibility Center

Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

All high-school athletes wishing to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or Division II must register online with the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Information about the Clearinghouse can be found in the *Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/CBSA.pdf.

In the past NCAA has required prospects who intend to enroll at NCAA Division I and Division II institutions to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agencies. NCAA has voted to waive their testing requirement for the Class of 2023 and beyond.

What requirements do I need to be able to practice, play and get a scholarship at a Division I or Division II school?

You need to complete the following:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete a minimum of 16 core courses (10 of which must be completed before senior year)
- Present a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of a 2.3 in those 16 core courses;

When should a student register with the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse?

Students should register with the eligibility center by the end of their junior year in high school. At this time, a transcript, which includes six semesters of grades, should be uploaded to the eligibility center through a third-party company (linked below):

[https://brui.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/
AcademicsDepartments/Counseling/Transcripts--
Diplomas/index.html](https://brui.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/AcademicsDepartments/Counseling/Transcripts--Diplomas/index.html)

How do I know what Ponderosa classes are considered NCAA Core Courses?

Students should meet with their counselor to have their transcript reviewed for core course eligibility.



NCAA Eligibility Center