PATHWAYS TO YOUR FUTURE

Navigating High School and Beyond

Mr. Ehret

PGHS Counseling

October 20, 2026

Am I the only one who doesn’t know what I want to do after high school?





Most students in their Freshman year do not know what college they'd like to attend or what subject they would like to study.



High School is the perfect time for you to grow and learn more about yourself and your interests.

9th Grade Academic Plans

Individual visits with each 9th Grade Student

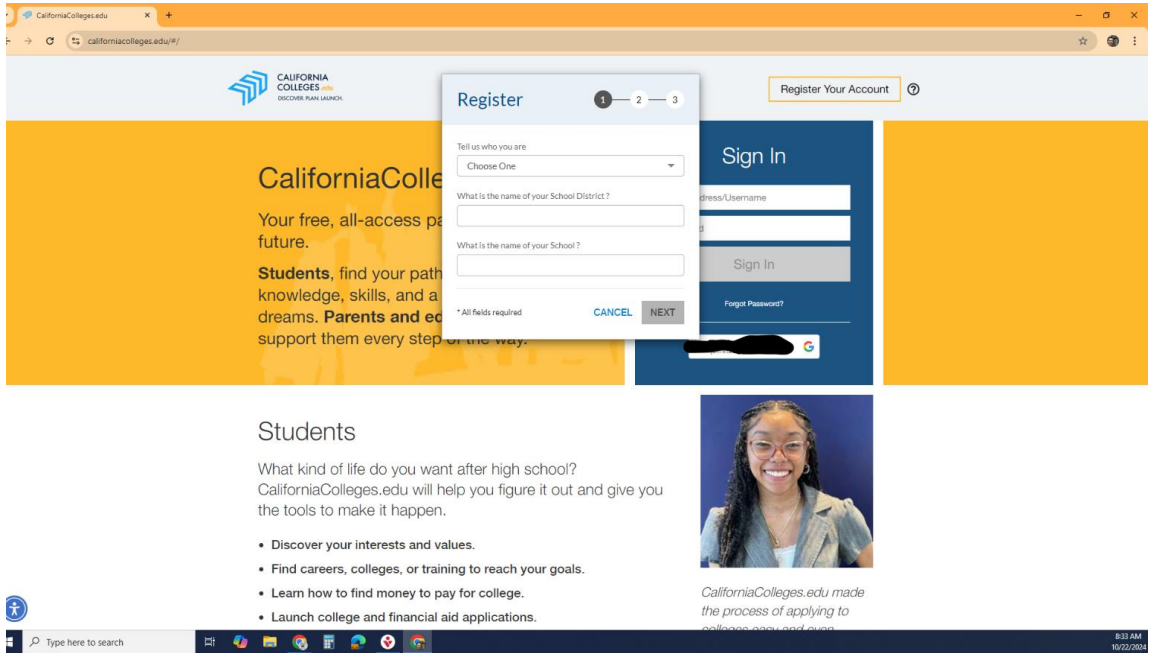
An opportunity to discuss:

- Goals for the future
- High school graduation requirements
- College admission requirements
- Identify potential courses to take during the high school years

Each student and their parent/guardian will receive access to the Google Document copy of the Academic Plan or CCGI Access

All students will meet with the 9th/10th grade Counselor in November and December 2026

CaliforniaColleges.edu (Live Link ☆) (CCGI)



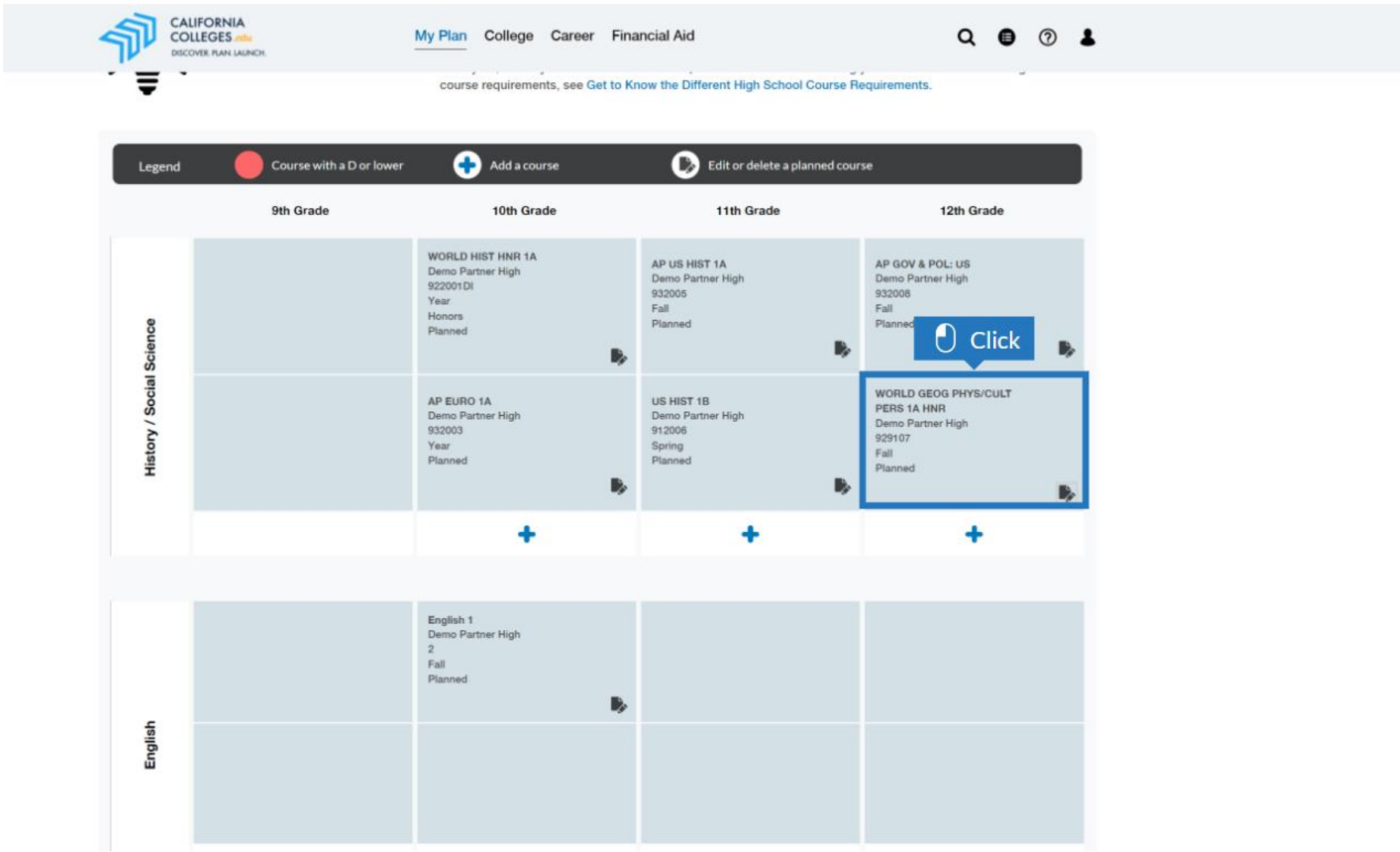
Families are encouraged to register a parent/guardian account to view their student's information within the program:

- 4 yr plan
- A-G Status
- Applications

CaliforniaColleges.edu (Live Link ☆) (CCGI)

Academic Planner Sample

- Courses
- Grades
- A-G Status



Academic Year at PGHS

- Comprised of **2 Semesters** Per Year
- Final grades are assigned at the end of the semester in December and May
- Students receive a **progress report at the quarter** midway through the semester
- Most courses will have a Final Exam at the semester end
- 9th grade students select a minimum of 7 classes per year
- Each course is assigned 5 credits per class per semester
  - 7 Classes x 5 credits each = 35 credits per semester
  - Failing (F) grades do not receive credits
- 230 Credits are required for high school graduation



Grade Point Average (GPA)

Unweighted GPA

A	4 points
B	3 points
C	2 points
D	1 point
F	0 point

How to Calculate your GPA

Fresh Acad/Ethn Stdies	3	B	
English 1	A	4	
PE Core 9/Health	1		D
Algebra 1 or Geometry	2	C	___
Biology	B	3	
Spanish 1 or 2	4		A
Open Period			

Unweighted vs Weighted GPA

Unweighted GPA is measured on a scale of 0 to 4.0. It doesn't take the difficulty of a student's courses into account. An unweighted GPA represents an A as a 4.0 whether it was earned in an Honors class, AP class, or grade level class.



Weighted GPA is often used by high schools to better represent students' academic accomplishments. Weighted GPA takes into account course difficulty rather than providing the same GPA conversion for all courses. At PGHS a **B** in an AP or Honors class translates into a 4.0 weighted GPA, while an **A** in a grade level class will also give you a 4.0 unweighted GPA.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Comparison

Unweighted GPA

A	4 points
B	3 points
C	2 points

Weighted GPA for Honors/AP and Community College courses

A	5 points
B	4 points
C	3 points

Semester GPA vs Cumulative GPA

Semester GPA is your GPA calculated for one semester only. The calculation does not include your GPA from previous semesters. Transcripts and progress reports often show the Semester GPA under the list of courses you took for that semester ONLY.



Cumulative GPA is based on ALL previous Semester 1 and Semester 2 grades taken during high school. At the end of 9th grade, your cumulative GPA will be calculated using 2 semesters of final grades. When you graduate as a Senior, your final Cumulative GPA will be calculated using all 8 semesters of high school.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding GPA

Is it better to take a general education class and earn an A or an Honors/AP class and earn a B or C?

- We strongly encourage all students to challenge themselves with classes that help them grow and develop as lifelong learners. "Playing it safe" and avoiding taking any Honors or AP courses in order to maintain a 4.0 GPA does not strengthen your overall college applications.

If I take all AP and Honors courses in Sophomore and Junior year, can I earn a 5.0 GPA for my college applications?

- No, the UCs/CSUs give weighted GPA points for a maximum of 4 year-long (8 semesters) Honors or AP courses from the Sophomore and Junior years. This is called a capped, weighted GPA.

GPA requirement | UC Admissions (Live Link ☆)

PGHS Graduation Requirements

	PGHS Requirement	Credits	Courses
History/Social Science	4 year-long courses	40 credits	Ethnic Studies/Freshman Academy, World History, U.S. History, Government/Economics
English	4 year-long courses	40 credits	
Mathematics	2 year-long courses	20 credits	Must complete through Geometry or equivalent
Science	2 year-long courses	20 credits	1 year of physical science, 1 year of life science
Visual and Performing Arts **or** Language Other Than English	1 year-long course	10 credits	
Electives	8 year-long courses	80 credits	
Physical Education	2 year-long course	20 credits	First year required in 9th grade with Health
Minimum grade for credit	"D-" Grade		
Credits required	230 credits required for graduation		
Community Service	48 hours		12 hrs needed each yr to have an open period


The Future
NEXT EXIT

Options After High School Graduation



- Earn a 2 year degree at a Community College
- Earn a 4 year degree at a University/College
- Complete a Certification Program
- Join the Trades/Go to a Trade School
- Work
- Do volunteer service
  - AmeriCorps
  - Internship
- Military service
- Take a Gap Year

California Community Colleges

Monterey Peninsula College (Live Link ☆)

There are 116 California Community Colleges

- Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) is our local community college

Community Colleges offer students the opportunity to earn:

- Dual Enrollment coursework for High School Students
- Certificates (COA, COT, COC)
- Two-year Associate Degrees (AA or AS)
- Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T or AS-T)

Students with an **AA or COA, COT, or COC** can be ready to join the workforce in **2 years or less**

https://www.mpc.edu/academics/academic-divisions/career-education-programs-a-z

California Community Colleges (Live Link! ☆)

Monterey Peninsula College (Live Link ☆)

The UCs and CSUs have transfer programs to support students who have completed their **Associate Degrees for Transfer**.

- The UC: Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) (Live Link ☆)
- The CSU: Associate Degree for Transfer | California Community Colleges - Enroll Today (Live Link ☆)

CA Community Colleges offer the CA Promise Grant (Live Link ☆) to full-time students

Can provide a second chance to apply at a preferred 4-year college



University of California System

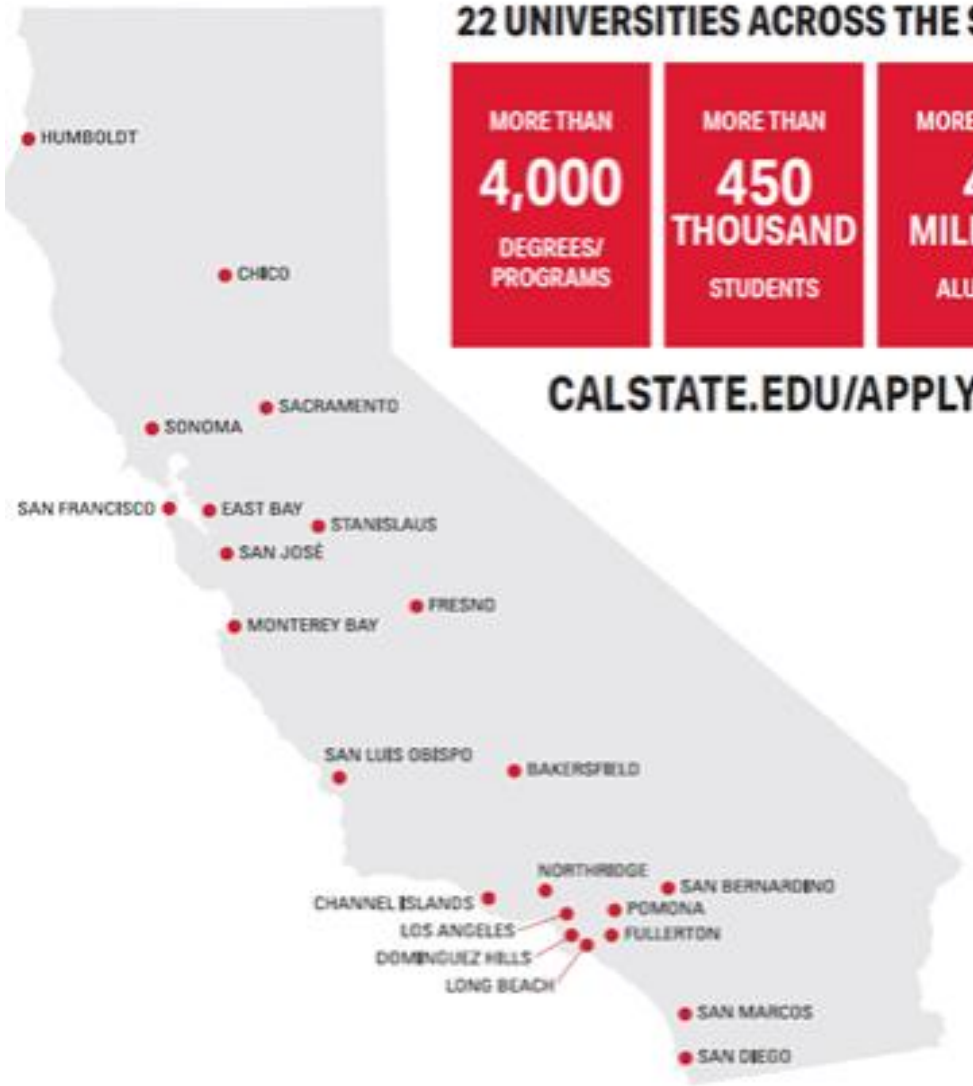
- UC Berkeley (CAL)
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UC Los Angeles (UCLA)
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC San Diego
- UC San Francisco (graduate studies only)
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz



22 UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE STATE

MORE THAN	MORE THAN	MORE THAN
4,000	450 THOUSAND	4 MILLION
DEGREES/ PROGRAMS	STUDENTS	ALUMNI

CALSTATE.EDU/APPLY



California State University Campuses

Cal State Apply | CSU (Live Link ☆)

- CSU Bakersfield
- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Chico
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Fresno
- CSU Fullerton
- **Cal Poly, Humboldt**
- CSU Long Beach
- CSU Los Angeles
- **CSU Monterey Bay** (CSUMB)
- Maritime Academy (SLO)
- CSU Northridge
- Cal Poly, Pomona
- Sacramento State
- CSU San Bernardino
- San Diego State
- San Francisco State
- San Jose State
- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- CSU San Marcos
- Sonoma State
- Stanislaus State

A-G Requirements for the UCs and CSUs

	A-G Requirement
15 year-long college preparatory A-G courses are required with letter grades of "C-" or better	
History/Social Science	A. 1 year World History or European History, 1 year U.S. History: 2 years required
English	B. 4 years required
Mathematics	C. 3 years required (through Integrated Math 3/Algebra 2) ✔ *4 years recommended*
Science	D. 2 years required (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Earth and Space Science) ✔ *3 years recommended*
Language Other than English (LOTE)	E. 2 years required in the same Language Other Than English (LOTE) ✔ *3 years recommended*
Visual and Performing Arts	F. 1 year required
Electives	G. 1 year additional a-g course required
Minimum grade for credit	**"C-" Grade (Minimum GPA: 2.5-CSU / 3.0-UC**

PGHS and A-G Requirements Comparison

	PGHS Requirement	Credits	A-G Requirement
History/Social Science	4 year-long courses	40 credits	A. 2 years required
English	4 year-long courses	40 credits	B. 4 years required
Mathematics	2 year-long courses	20 credits	**C. 3 years required (through Alg2[H])** ✔ 4 years recommended
Science	2 year-long courses	20 credits	D. 2 years required ✔ 3 years recommended
Language Other than English (LOTE)	1 year long course in LOTE **OR** VAPA	10 credits	**E. 2 years required** ✔ 3 years recommended
Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)	1 year-long course in VAPA **OR** LOTE	10 credits	**F. 1 year required**
Electives	8 year-long courses	80 credits	G. 1 year additional a-g course required
Physical Education	2 year-long course	20 credits	
Minimum grade for credit	"D-" Grade		"C-" Grade
Credits required	230 credits required for graduation		

Public State Schools Outside of CA

- Have similar admissions requirements, but not identical, as California State schools
- Are located throughout the United States
- Tuition at out of state public colleges **is based on residency**
  - Students are encouraged to research which national schools participate in the **Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE),** America's largest regional interstate tuition savings program
  - The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is an agreement among WICHE's 16 member states and territories, through which 160+ participating public colleges and universities provide nonresident tuition savings for Western students
  - Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) - Tuition Savings (Live Link ☆)

University of Washington

The University of Alabama

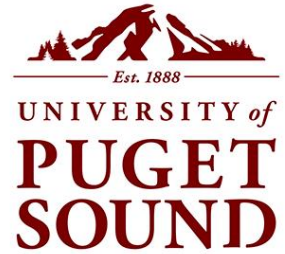
University of Colorado Boulder

UNM School of Engineering

University of Oregon

Private Colleges and Universities

- Have similar admissions requirements as California State schools
- Are located throughout the United States
- Tend to be smaller campuses
- May have smaller class sizes
- Tuition is not based on residency



















How Can I Prepare for the Future?

- Use your Community Service Hours to explore interests and passions
  - *Contact **Mr. Leatham, kleatham@pgusd.org** to learn more about Community Service Hours*
- Create a CaliforniaColleges.edu Account at the PGHS College and Career Center
- Plan for a high school schedule that keeps all your options open after graduation
- Select a challenging but balanced schedule
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Talk to your Counselor!🙂
  - Come visit us in A-Wing
    - Before School, Break, Lunch, or After School
  - Mr. Ehret: Mr. James Ehret jehret@pgusd.org
  - Mrs. Margaret Rice: mrice@pgusd.org



QUESTIONS?

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