

Following this timeline will support you in your college and career exploration!

Reminders:

- GPA Eligibility: California State University (CSU) - 2.5 GPA, University of California (UC) - 3.0 GPA
- Your 11th-grade GPA will account for 50% of your CSU and UC GPA!
- The amount of Cal Grants (free money for college) also depends on your GPA - aim for above a 3.0!
- To be eligible for a CSU or UC, you must complete at least 15 A-G courses.
- Find your high school's course list here: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>
- For additional college planning resources, visit our resource page: <https://cep.berkeley.edu/resource-directory>.

FALL

- ☐ Submit a Free/Reduced lunch application - eligible students get fee waivers for college tests and apps!
- ☐ Build relationships with your college advisor and/or counselor at your school!
- ☐ Meet with your counselor to ensure you are on track to complete the [A-G course requirements](#)!
- ☐ Keep your grades up! (Colleges do not accept D or F grades). Seek tutoring/support if needed!
- ☐ Speak with your family about your college plans/dreams!
- ☐ Apply to scholarships and summer programs open to 11th graders
- ☐ Ask family, teachers, and mentors about their college experience
- ☐ Create/update your professional email to use for all college exploration purposes
- ☐ Continue learning about and researching college (workshops, online tours, field trips, tours, college rep visits, college fairs, etc.)
- ☐ Create free accounts and explore self, career, and major options:
 - [California Colleges](#): Discover your interests & values and find careers & colleges to reach your goals.
 - [California Career Zone](#): Learn which careers fit you and the next steps to pursuing college!
 - [College Board](#): Explore careers, identify majors for the career, and colleges that offer that major.
 - [Career One Stop](#): Explore a collection of videos on hundreds of careers available on
- ☐ Identify [majors](#) you are interested in! When creating a college list, ensure the school has your majors!
- ☐ Find extracurricular activities you are excited about (club, sport, leadership, volunteer, community programs, etc.). If you have already been involved, take on a LEADERSHIP role in these activities!
- ☐ Start keeping track of all your activities (What? When? How?)
- ☐ READ as much as you can; it will help you develop new ideas and build your vocabulary
- ☐ Undocumented? If comfortable disclosing your status, notify your counselor so they can support you as you prepare for college. Eligible undocumented students can receive financial aid! Learn more [here](#)!
- ☐ If you are an athlete interested in playing college sports, ask your counselor about [NCAA](#) requirements.
- ☐ Explore various college systems:

University of California (UC) Campuses	Western Undergraduate Exchange (save on out-of-state colleges)
California State University (CSU) Campuses	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
California Community Colleges	List of Participating Colleges on Common App
All Women's College & Universities	In-state (California) and out-of-state private universities

- ☐ Make a preliminary list of "target" colleges you are considering. Take into account location, size, campus resources, and student demographics.

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the entrance requirements for each college on your preliminary list.
- ☐ If you are considering applying to a college that requires and/or suggests the SAT or ACT, ask your counselor about test prep opportunities and the practice SAT ([PSAT](#)) given in October of Junior year. *Reminder: UC and CSU do NOT require the SAT or ACT.*
- ☐ If you are one of the TOP students in your class, from a low-income household, and interested in attending a private college, ask your counselor about these programs: [Questbridge College Prep Scholars](#) & [POSSE Scholar](#)

SPRING

- ☐ Remind guardians to file taxes! The class of 2025 needs 2024 taxes. The class of 2026 needs 2024 taxes.
- ☐ Review your senior year schedule with your counselor and make sure you will complete the A-G course requirements and enroll in honors, AP, and/or community college courses. Senior-year courses should be rigorous and should include math and science (especially if you are interested in [STEM](#) majors).
- ☐ If any college on your preliminary list requires the SAT or ACT, register for the May or June tests! Be mindful of registration deadlines! Ask your counselor for a fee waiver if you qualify!
- ☐ Take advantage of your summer! Enroll in academic/enrichment programs, complete an internship, take a community college course, and/or volunteer. Be aware of application deadlines.
- ☐ Begin actively searching for scholarships and financial aid.
- ☐ Continue researching colleges (online, field trips, tours, college rep visits, college fairs, etc.)

SUMMER

- ☐ If you received a D or F, you should be attending summer school!
- ☐ Work, volunteer, and take summer courses at the community college
- ☐ Visit local college campuses!
- ☐ Stay active!
- ☐ READ! READ! READ! Keep your mind stimulated!
- ☐ Reflect on the previous school year (good and bad) and the lessons learned
- ☐ Set academic, personal, and social goals for the coming school year!

Applying to college is like taking another class! The more you do during the summer, the less stressed you will be and the stronger your applications will be!

- ☐ Begin to finalize your college list! Be sure to include UCs, CSUs, and privates!
- ☐ If you need to cut down on the list of private schools, consider keeping those that use [Common App](#)
- ☐ Ensure all the schools on your list have your first and second choice major!
- ☐ Be aware of application deadlines!
- ☐ If applying via [Early Decision / Early Action](#) - *early October*
- ☐ UC and CSU - *November 30th (some CSU campuses have later deadlines, but aim for 11/30)*
- ☐ HBCU priority scholarship deadline - *early October*
- ☐ Private priority scholarship deadline - *early December*
- ☐ Start drafting responses for the [UC Personal Insight Questions](#)
- ☐ If applying to Common App Schools, start drafting your [Common App essay](#)