

# HOW TO GET TO COLLEGE



www.gotocsu.com



## 6-8<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.csumentor.edu).



## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE Freshmen

- Take the "a-g" courses listed below to meet the CSU's admission requirements: Algebra I or Geometry, college prep English, 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](http://www.csumentor.edu).



## 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE Sophomores

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

## How to PAY FOR COLLEGE

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

You can do it!





# 11<sup>TH</sup> Juniors GRADE

- **Take advanced math and college prep English:** Algebra II or advanced math and English (writing and critical reading).
- **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](http://www.csumentor.edu).
- **Take the EAP exam** to find out if you are ready for college-level math and English courses. Visit [www.csusuccess.org](http://www.csusuccess.org).
- **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 10th grade.
- **Register for the SAT or the ACT at least one month before the exam.** Many CSU campuses require you to take the exam by October of your senior year.



# 12<sup>TH</sup> Seniors GRADE

- **Complete all final “a-g” course requirements,** including advanced math and college prep English. Trigonometry or Analytic Geometry/Calculus are also recommended.
- **If your EAP test results indicate that you are “Ready-Conditional” for college-level mathematics,** you are required to take a 12th grade math course with a prerequisite of Algebra II and earn a grade of “C” or better to maintain your exemption.
- **If you are planning on transferring** from a California Community College, please visit the CSU's website for transfer pathways: [www.calstate.edu/transfer/roadmaps](http://www.calstate.edu/transfer/roadmaps).
- **If your EAP test results indicate that you are “Not Yet Ready for college-level math or English courses,”** visit [www.collegeeap.org](http://www.collegeeap.org) to practice your math or English skills. This may increase your chances of passing the CSU's placement tests.

## EARLY SEPTEMBER:

Register for the October SAT or ACT.

## 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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)).

## MARCH-MAY:

Prior to enrolling, register for the CSU's ELM and EPT 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)  
**CSU** (California State University)  
**EAP Exam** (Early Assessment Program Exam)

**ELM** (Entry Level Math)  
**EPT** (English Placement Test)  
**PSAT** (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test)  
**SAT** (Scholastic Assessment Test)

