Welcome to your junior year! For those of you who are college-bound, this is probably the most important year of high school.

When you apply to college next fall, you will need to submit test scores, your high school transcript, and sometimes letters of recommendation. Your junior year is the time to set the groundwork for all of this. Also keep in mind that this year’s grades will be the most current grades colleges see when they are evaluating your high school transcript. Here are five things to do this school year to prepare for college.

**Get the best grades possible.** Nothing is more significant for college admissions than how you perform your junior year, and the classes you choose are a reflection of your level of motivation and intellectual curiosity. If you don’t already have good study habits, now is the time to work on them – you can be sure you’ll need them in college! Participate in class and take the time to connect with staff members – your teachers, counselor, coaches, etc. You are likely to need a few letters of recommendation, and no one will be able to say awesome things about you if they don’t even know you!

**Take all your standardized tests.** Take the PSAT in October as a practice for the real thing. (Listen for signup announcements in September.) Sign up now to take the SAT or ACT in spring. A spring test date will give you the chance for a redo next fall if you’re unsatisfied with your scores. If you are taking any AP classes this year, be sure to sign up for the AP test that goes along with it. College admissions officers will be looking for the AP test scores that correspond to each of the AP classes you’re enrolled in.

**Volunteer. Be involved.** Do something with your extra time that shows you have interests and enthusiasm for life. Take advantage of opportunities to try new things. It might be a part-time job, involvement in sports, volunteering at the soup kitchen, or taking a role in an extracurricular drama production. You don’t have to overdo it, but just do something. It’s really the quality, not the quantity that matters. Admissions officers are looking more at how your involvement fits in with the whole picture of who you are, rather than how many hours you are busy – and they want to see that you’re not a couch potato.

**Research careers.** Most students are still looking for career direction to take, so don’t feel like you’re behind if you haven’t figured it out yet. Use Naviance, our career research tool, for a good start. Logon info is available in the Career Center. Another way to figure out what you might like is to look at a couple college catalogs and see what classes sound like they would be fun to take. Visit [labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

(Continued on Pg. 2)
for very detailed information on careers in California. Talk to family friends and neighbors who have jobs that you might be interested in. Come into the Career Center for information about job shadow opportunities.

Research/visit colleges. Use collegeboard.org’s college finder to give you an idea of the kinds of things you should think about when choosing a college. Do some self-evaluation to figure out which of those things are most important to you. Keep in mind that colleges cost money, and that your dream college may not be affordable. But don’t let that stop you from applying; financial aid awards can be quite variable. Try to visit the colleges you’re seriously considering, check out the local area around the college, and attend an admissions presentation. It’s a big decision, and the extra information will help you make a choice that you’ll be happy with.

Is Community College for You?

Are you one of those students who know exactly what schools you want to apply to, but are worried about paying for it? Or are you confused as to where you want to go or what major you’ll pursue? You might want to pencil community college into your plans:

Are you anxious about leaving home?
You might not be ready to take the huge leap to on-campus life. An easier transition might be from high school student to community college commuter to four-year scholar.

Do you want to start a career quickly?
Community and technical colleges offer many programs that allow you to join the workforce with an associate degree or certificate. You’ll find exciting programs like automotive technology, graphic arts, nursing, information technology, and culinary arts at two-year schools.

But aren’t community colleges just an extension of high school?
Community college is college - it has courses and facilities just like a university, and is filled with students who want to learn just like you. In addition you can find pre-college, skill-building classes if there are areas where your skills are lacking, and classes to learn or upgrade job skills.

Still unsure?
Whatever your college situation, factoring community college into your plans has the potential to save you money and still give you the education you deserve. Visit the Career Center or talk to your Counselor if you have questions.

Want to try a college class?

You are eligible to enroll in college courses at Folsom Lake College or El Dorado Center if:

- You have completed the 10th grade and are 16 years old by the first day of instruction;
- You have a minimum high school grade point average of 2.7;
- You demonstrate exemplary academic achievement in the subject to enroll;
- You must be mature enough to avoid jeopardizing your safety or the safety of others.

If you are considering taking a college level course please make an appointment to see your counselor. You will also need to fill out the Advanced Education Packet and follow the instructions in the packet before you can sign up for classes at Folsom Lake. Be aware that deadlines are very important and space in classes is limited, especially for current high school students.

Are you one of those students who know exactly what schools you want to apply to, but are worried about paying for it? Or are you confused as to where you want to go or what major you’ll pursue? You might want to pencil community college into your plans:
# SAT vs. ACT: How do the tests compare?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When is it administered?</td>
<td>Seven times per year</td>
<td>Six times per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the test structure?</td>
<td>Ten-section exam: Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental. The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.</td>
<td>Four-section exam: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a penalty for wrong answers?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is the test scored?</td>
<td>200-800 per section, added together for a combined score. A 2400 is the highest possible combined score.</td>
<td>1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are all scores sent to schools?</td>
<td>Yes, unless “Score Choice” is chosen. (This is a new feature in 2009-10.) Reasoning Test scores cannot be broken down into subsection scores.</td>
<td>No. There is a “Score Choice” option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there other uses for the exams?</td>
<td>Scholarship purposes.</td>
<td>Scholarship purposes. Certain statewide testing programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best time to register?</td>
<td>At least six weeks before the test date</td>
<td>At least four weeks before the test date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need more information?</td>
<td>The College Board <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a></td>
<td>ACT, Inc.: <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of test</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td>$54.50 (With Writing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of free score-sends</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of additional score-sends</td>
<td>$11.25 each</td>
<td>$12 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Test Dates Remaining this School Year

**ACT**
- October 25, 2014
- December 13, 2014
- February 7, 2015
- April 18, 2015
- June 13, 2015

**SAT**
- October 11, 2014
- November 8, 2014
- December 6, 2014
- January 24, 2015
- March 14, 2015
- May 2, 2015
- June 6, 2015

Visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register now for a spring test date!
Junior Year Timeline

September: If you are considering college athletics, register with the NCAA / NAIA and let your Counselor know.

October: Take the PSAT, the practice test for the SAT. Attend the Regional College Fair at UMHS.

November: Take the ASVAB, a career aptitude test offered by the military.

Springtime: Take the SAT and/or the ACT - sign up online.


El Dorado High School Graduation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(World Hist., U.S. Hist., Gov’t., Econ.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(must include Algebra 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Technology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts/Foreign Language/CTE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A-G College Entrance Requirements

A. Social Science—2 years
B. English—4 years
C. Math—3 years **
   (Including Algebra 2)
D. Lab Science—2 years **
   (Biology, Chemistry, ChemA, Medical Arts II, Physics, Physiology, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science)
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.

Explore Your Options

If you haven’t been to the career center lately, your Junior year is definitely the time to stop by for a visit. Have you given much thought to your possibilities for a career path? Please make use of the Naviance online career research tool. Logon information is available in the Career Center. Or try the O*Net tool at mynextmove.org.

Don’t forget about the ROP program for job skill training. Taking an ROP class is an excellent way to enter the workforce with a highly marketable job skill. We have information on colleges, community colleges, technical schools, and apprenticeship programs. Many college representatives visit the Career Center to talk to interested students during lunchtime. Don’t think that your Junior year is too early—take advantage of the knowledge these people have to offer.

Military recruiters also visit twice each month during lunchtime. Juniors interested in the military academies or ROTC scholarships need to make contact this year to make sure all requirements are being met. Listen to the bulletin for weekly events, college information, and guest speakers in the Career Center. The Career Center is for everyone & we’re here to answer your questions – stop by to see us!

Ms. Bastian
Career Guidance Specialist
mbastian@eduhsd.net
(530) 622-3634 x1033