

SA High School Parent Committee

Parent Ed: Pathway to College with Eliot College Consulting

**The college timeline presented in this packet is just a sample and may be revised as our high school counselor sets the college planning curriculum. Additionally, information from specific colleges, universities, and other resources may change as we navigate through COVID.*

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE	2
Freshman Year	2
Sophomore Year	2
Junior Year - Fall	2
Junior Year - Spring	3
Summer Between Junior & Senior Years	3
Senior Year - Fall	3
Senior Year - Winter	4
Senior Year - Spring	4
UC/CSU A-G COURSE	6
UC Approved A-G Courses for the Science Academy	6
Student Profile for Admitted Students (Fall 2020)	6
Dual Enrollment Guidance	6
NOTES ON ACT & SAT TESTING	7
Subject Tests for High School	7
UC Recommendations for Fall 2021 Applicants	7
Majors Per UC Campus	8
Additional Resources	8
UC APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS	9
How Applications Are Reviewed	9
Selection Process by Campus	10
Do Campuses Make Their Admissions Decisions Independently from Other Campuses?	10
PREPARATION FOR STEM IN HIGH SCHOOL: ACADEMICS	
PREPARATION FOR STEM IN HIGH SCHOOL: ACTIVITIES	
SCIENCE ACADEMY A-G WORKSHEET (ECC)	

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

Freshman Year

- Challenge yourself with appropriate courses
- Take the PSAT Exam in October
- Seek extra help when needed
- Get involved!

Sophomore Year

- Continue to do your best in all your classes (UC admission is based on 10th and 11th grade GPA)
- Take an in-school practice PSAT and Pre-ACT in spring
- ***Find ways to be involved in service, leadership and activities to explore your interests outside of the classroom***

Junior Year - Fall

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT, administered in school in October* (students can qualify for National Merit Awards, but note, CA is **VERY** competitive)
- Results of PSAT are sent to students in December
- Use [Khan Academy](#) for personalized test prep for spring SATs (FREE)
- Utilize the resources available through the [College Board](#) (My SAT Study Plan, My Online Score Report, My College Matches, My Major, and Career Options/MyRoad) - A code to access these resources is in the bottom right hand corner of your PSAT score report.
- Take a sample ACT **and** SAT to determine which test you prefer and then only prepare for ONE of them.
- Plan your testing dates for the spring SAT or ACT and any SAT Subject Test your major may require (very few schools require these, however they can show mastery to stand out for engineering, math, science and sometimes business majors)*
- Take challenging courses and earn the best grades that you can - **Your cumulative GPA (9-11) at the end of junior year is the GPA that will be sent to colleges UC GPA (10-11)**
- Explore and build upon your academic interests outside of the class - take charge of your education
- Build relationships with your teachers. You will want to ask two teachers to write you a letter of recommendation in the spring
- Save any graded papers or projects with your teacher's comments to possibly submit with your college application
- Start exploring colleges - Universities, Liberal Arts Colleges, Public, Private, Large, small, in-state and out-of-state
- Tour local colleges and attend information sessions (in person and online) to learn about what you want in a college
- Read college guidebooks and use College Board's [Big Future](#) to help find colleges that fit your preferences

***Due to COVID, the October 2020 PSAT may be offered in January 2021. Also check colleges' testing policies for your application to understand who may be "test blind" or "test optional" to determine how much time you want to invest in SAT/ACT testing.**

Junior Year - Spring

- Make an appointment with your high school counselor to discuss senior year classes and plans (come prepared!)
- Register for SAT or ACT
- Consider [SAT Subject Tests](#) if you plan to major in Science or Engineering
- Think about the classes you like the best and consider potential college majors. Don't forget to save those graded papers and projects you're proud of!
- Continue to research a variety of colleges
- Plan to visit (in person or virtually) college campuses you are interested in - do your homework! - know if you are a competitive applicant and be sure to visit a range of selectivity
- Engage online with virtual visits, student panels, open houses and your local admissions representative.
- Talk to two teachers about writing college recommendations

Summer Between Junior & Senior Years

- Continue to research and visit colleges -always register & sign-in - don't be anonymous, some colleges track demonstrated interest in their selection process
- Connect with your local admissions counselor, they will often be the first reader for you application
- Compile a list of potential colleges with a range of selectivity: 2-3 Likely, 3-4 Target/50/50, 2-3 Reach and maybe 1-2 Wildcard (less than 15% admissions rate)
- Write a rough draft of your college application essays
- **After August 1st**, start working on your online [Common App](#) application, which is utilized by many colleges
- Find an interesting job / travel opportunity / research position / volunteer opportunity
- **Study for the SAT/ACT!** The more time you spend, the better your scores will be
- Register in August for the October SAT or ACT

Senior Year - Fall

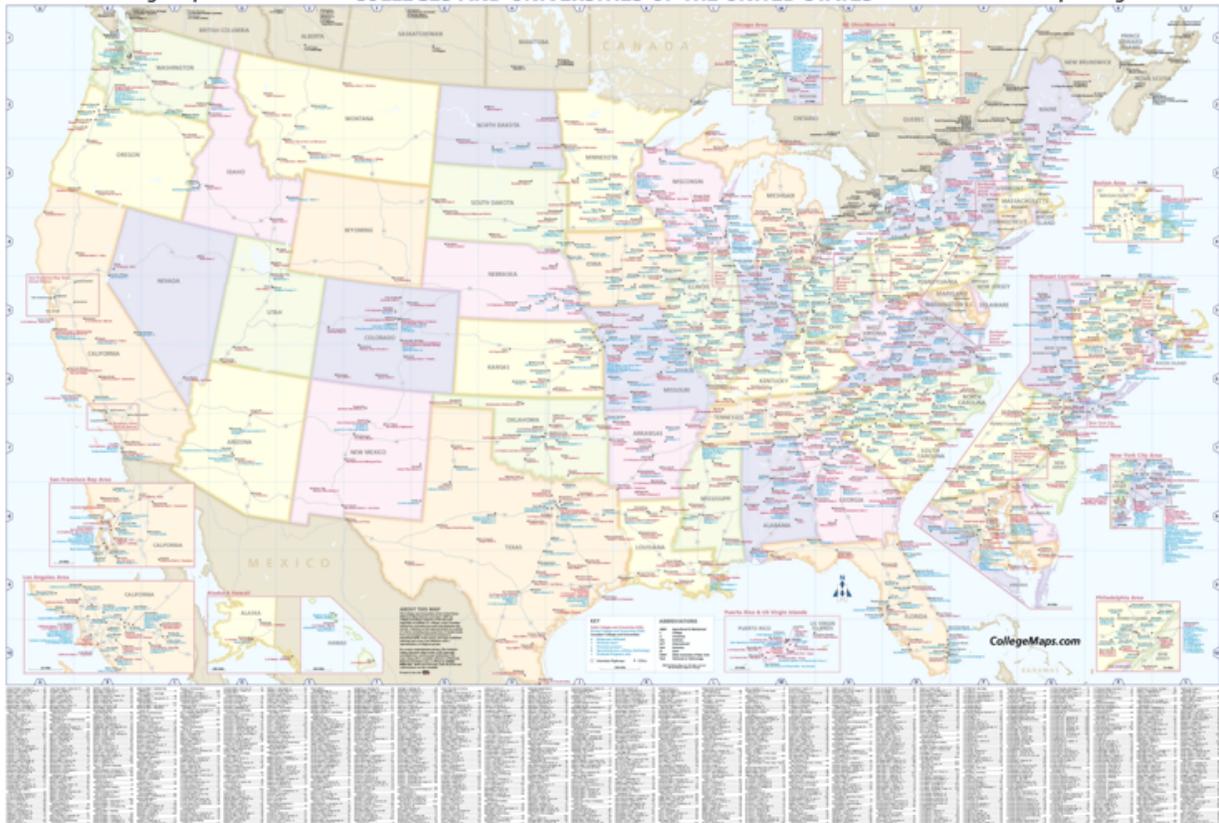
- Finalize a comprehensive list of schools
- **Meet with your high school college counselor** to discuss plans and options. Parents are welcome to make appointments to discuss options. Discuss timing of applications - Early Action, Early Decision (binding) or Regular. **Early is typically November 1 and Regular is January 1. UCs and CSUs are due November 30.**
- Students must list all colleges they are applying to in Naviance and Common App, if applicable
- Fill-in your application online for [Common App](#) schools or through the college's individual website
- Send scores to those colleges who require an official test score vs self-reported on your application: SAT via [College Board](#) or ACT via [The ACT](#) (Confirm policy on the college's website)
- Work on your essay(s) at home; if you need a proofreader, see your counselor or English teacher. Be sure to write it yourself in your voice. Colleges know when an adult has written it for you! Be authentic to reflect your personal skills, characteristics and values.

Senior Year - Winter

- Financial Aid Forms ([FAFSA form](#)) need to be completed **starting** October 1, using the last full year of tax returns from the prior year. **Oct 1 is NOT the due date.** You report your family's assets as of the date you file. *See College's website to see the final due date.*
- The CSS Profile is also needed for some schools - you can do this online at [College Board](#)
- Complete all applications well before the due date—waiting till the last minute can be an issue if the computer does not process your application in time due to high demand
- **1st semester grades are sent to colleges**
- Begin Scholarship search – Info available on Naviance for many scholarships
- Keep an eye on the Senior notices from your high school college counselor for local scholarships and visiting (virtually and in-person) admissions representatives

Senior Year - Spring

- Decisions from colleges will arrive throughout the course of the spring
- Weigh options and select a college- attend Admitted Student Days and Open Houses, if available
- Be sure to compare financial aid offers carefully and understand your Cost of Attendance less any grants or scholarships offered BEFORE loans to students and parents
- **May 1st is the Universal Decision Day.** Notify those schools you do not plan to attend and send a deposit at only **ONE** school even if you are remaining on a waitlist
- Request a Deferral if you plan to take a Gap year to work, research, travel - note that UCs do not accept deferrals
- Finish your senior year strong - so you are prepared for college which will require even more of you! *Remember colleges can rescind offers over the summer for poor grades.*
- Follow college's instructions for sending final high school transcript as well as any community college/college transcript with courses completed for grades
- Send final AP score report with all your scores to the **ONE** college you plan to matriculate to - understand their policy for accepting AP and college credits
- Read all emails from your college to pre-register for courses and more over the summer
- **Get ready to transition to COLLEGE! Congratulations!**



UC/CSU A-G COURSE INFORMATION

See chart to plan and track your 4 year A-G coursework.

Subject Requirements: 15 (A-G) courses, with 11 of those done by the beginning of 12 grade.

GPA min requirement: 3.0 (3.4 for CA non-residents), weighted by a maximum of eight semesters of UC approved honors or AP or Community College points.

UC Approved A-G Courses for Science Academy

[University of California A-G Policy Resource Guide](#)

Student Profile for Admitted Students (Fall 2020)

HOWEVER – [HERE IS A CHART](#) that shows the student profile for admitted (CA Residents) students in the Fall of 2020. *It's not just the high GPA - it's also the high number of A-G semesters and honors above the minimum.*

Dual Enrollment Guidance

Here is the UC's [Dual Enrollment Guidance](#). Other private and out-of-state public schools may have different policies.

- College courses are college courses, even if they are taught on the high school campus by an approved high school faculty member.
- California high schools cannot add California community college courses to their UC-approved A-G Course List, even though instruction may happen on the high school campus with a high school instructor.
- UC-transferable (3 semester or 4 quarter units) college courses that fall within the A-G subject areas, including those completed through dual enrollment, will fulfill and earn an extra point in the UC freshman admission GPA calculation - within our maximum honors points limitations - if completed with a letter grade of C or better. Refer to the Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions for more information about honors points and the GPA calculation.
- **NOTE:** one college course earns one grade and one honors point in the GPA calculation, even though the single course may meet one year of a high school subject requirement.
- The high school, *not UC*, decides what to include on the high school transcript. However, even if dual enrollment courses are reported on the high school transcript, students are still required to submit an official college transcript for their college coursework.
- **NOTE:** A freshman applicant is a student who has graduated from (or is still in) high school and who has not enrolled in a regular (non-summer) term at any college following graduation. Students who complete college courses while in high school are still considered freshman applicants, regardless of the number of credits earned.

[UC Quick Reference Guide for Counselors](#)

NOTES ON ACT & SAT TESTING *as of September 2020**

Eventually when you can start taking tests - which is usually in spring of junior year (SAT March, May, June, August, October) and (ACT February, April, May, July, September) **you do not need to take both the ACT and the SAT**. Take a sample test of each and decide which test you feel more confident about studying for. (You can also review this [comparison of the ACT and SAT](#) by ArborBridge test prep).

Very few colleges require the writing portion of either test – check your ideal school’s requirement before you sign-up. Typically both the SAT and ACT will allow 4 free score reports sent BEFORE you get to see the results. Take advantage of this to send to CSU and any Likely schools on your list. You may want to hold back on more selective schools to decide if you want to use the scores once you see them.

***During COVID-19, DO NOT put yourself at risk to take the test. Colleges want you to stay safe and take care of your health and your family’s health.**

Subject Tests for High School Class of 2021

As more schools soften their SAT Subject Test policies, very strong AP exam scores can serve as valuable differentiators.

Updates for the class of 2021

In response to COVID-19, many schools have adopted Test Optional policies. These policies also apply to Subject Tests. At present.

- [Brown](#), [Dartmouth](#), and [Duke](#) have softened to neither required nor recommended. However, they will still consider Subject Test scores if submitted.
- [Swarthmore](#) no longer considers Subject Test scores for admission.
- [MIT](#) has made the decision to no longer consider the SAT Subject Tests as part of the admissions process.
- [Harvey Mudd](#) no longer requires Subject Tests as part of the application.
- [Caltech](#) has dropped its Subject Test requirements. In response to COVID-19, the university also put a [two-year moratorium](#) on all standardized testing requirements and considerations.
- [Cornell](#) and [Carnegie Mellon](#) no longer consider subject tests for admissions.

Source: [Compass Education Group](#)

You can also find additional resources about College Admissions, Information & Testing and helpful books at [Doing College & Beyond](#).

UC Recommendations for Fall 2021 Applicants

Remember, *these are recommendations, not mandates*. You will not be penalized for failing to take the SAT Subject Tests. On the other hand, submission of these test scores (just like submission of AP and/or IB scores) may add positively to the review of your application.

- **Berkeley College of Chemistry and College of Engineering:** Math Level 2 and a science test (Biology E/M, Chemistry, or Physics) closely related to the applicant's intended major.
- **San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering and biological or physical sciences majors:** Math Level 2 and a science test (Biology E/M, Chemistry, or Physics) closely related to the applicant's intended major.
- The remainder of UC Campuses do not recommend Subject Tests for any area.

Majors Per UC Campus

Take a look at the [undergraduate degree programs \(majors\) the UCs offer](#). They are listed by discipline and by campus. The indented listings are areas of specialization within the major.

Additional Resources

- [FairTest](#) - Over 1,600 schools have gone test optional or test blind for fall 2021 admissions
- [Jeff Selingo](#) - influencer, New York Times bestselling author, Washington Post columnist, higher education strategist, and author of *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*. Here are some of his takeaways from a dozen town halls:
 - **Stop worrying about getting a test score.**
 - Although 400+ colleges, including some of the highest ranked campuses, suspended—or in some cases ended—their testing requirement, some families seem to be pulling out all the stops to get an SAT or ACT score.
 - Even if you don't trust test-optional schools in a normal year, this isn't a normal year. Take the University of Chicago, which before this year was the most selective college to have gone test optional. In a typical year, *only 15 to 20 percent of applicants took advantage* of the university's optional policy, about the same proportion who were eventually admitted without scores. **But this year officials expect they might not get scores from half of applicants.**
 - While top colleges can certainly craft a class from half their pool, they won't. Trust colleges on this one if they say they're test optional in admissions.
 - That said, ask about financial aid, since many colleges also award their merit-aid based on test scores. Most colleges are dropping the requirement there, too, although it's still early to know exactly how they'll award that aid.
 - **Bottom line:** For most applicants to most colleges, grades and test scores align, so a score this year won't tell admissions officers any more than they already know from a transcript. What's more, students tend to score higher the more often they take the tests. This year, it's unlikely teenagers will be able to take the test more than once, meaning they won't have their best score to submit anyway.
 - **Control what you can.**
 - Without test scores, those colleges where the ACT/SAT played a role in admissions—and *it always played less of a role than many students and parents*

thought—will lean into other parts of the application where students have more control over their destiny anyway.

- **The high-school transcript is the most important piece of your application—yes, even more than test scores.** While it's too late to change your senior-year schedule, you can spend your time earning good grades in those classes.

Bottom line: Spend less time worrying

UC APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Source: [University of California Admissions: How Applications Are Reviewed](#)

How Applications Are Reviewed

As we consider each individual application - and rest assured, we do consider each one - we look beyond grades and test scores.

We spend time evaluating your academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to you and your demonstrated capacity to contribute to the intellectual life at UC. The 14 factors we consider are:

1. Academic grade point average in all completed A-G courses, including additional points for completed UC-certified honors courses.
2. Scores on the following tests: ACT with Writing or the SAT with Essay.
3. Number of, content of and performance in academic courses beyond the minimum A-G requirements.
4. Number of and performance in UC-approved honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Higher Level and transferable college courses.
5. Identification by UC as being ranked in the top 9 percent of your high school class at the end of your junior year ([Eligible in the Local Context](#) , or ELC).
6. Quality of your senior-year program as measured by the type and number of academic courses in progress or planned.
7. Quality of your academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in your high school.
8. Outstanding performance in one or more specific subject areas.
9. Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field of study.
10. Recent, marked improvement in academic performance as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress.
11. Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation

-
- in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus.
12. Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of your high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs.
 13. Academic accomplishments in light of your life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status.
 14. Location of your secondary school and residence.

Selection Process by Campus

While all UC campuses use the same 14 factors to evaluate applications, they often apply these factors differently. Be sure to review the selection process of each campus:

- [Berkeley](#)
- [Davis](#)
- [Irvine](#)
- [Los Angeles](#)
- [Merced](#)
- [Riverside](#)
- [San Diego](#)
- [Santa Barbara](#)
- [Santa Cruz](#)

Do Campuses Make Their Admissions Decisions Independently from Other UC Campuses?

Each UC campus evaluates each application without knowing the status of the same application at another campus. In making admission decisions, campuses do not consider where you've applied or your admission status to other campuses. All campuses consider your application simultaneously, yet independently of all other campuses you applied to.

Preparation for STEM in High School: Academics

Subjects Fields of Study	Calculus	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Life Sciences	X	X	X	Up to major
Physical Sciences	X	Up to major	Up to major	X
Engineering	X	Up to major	Up to major	X
Mathematics	X	Up to major	Up to major	Up to major
Earth/Environmental Science	X	Up to major	Up to major	X

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

This chart shows lower division courses for STEM majors. Students should prepare for these subjects in high school to ensure success in these courses at UC.

- Calculus-based Mathematics: Required by all STEM majors
- Physics: Required by many STEM majors
- Chemistry: Required by many STEM majors
- Biology: Required by some STEM majors

Academic courses to take in high school for STEM major students

- Progress in calculus-based mathematics, the higher the level of math/calculus the better.
- Progress toward higher level in at least one of the following subjects: physics, chemistry, and biology. Subject should be in line with the STEM major of the student's interest.
- Students are encouraged to take the AP/IB/Honors course in the subject if offered at their high school.
- Students are encouraged to take STEM courses if offered at their high school.

Courses at community colleges are an option if not offered at students' high schools or does not fit their schedule. Community colleges also offer higher level courses in STEM subjects.

Online courses may be an option, <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/update-your-a-g-list/online-courses/>.

Preparation for STEM in High School: Activities

- School programs and clubs
- Internships and shadowing
- Research
- Employment/Entrepreneurship
- STEM-related programs



- Common to see students participating in STEM-related programs and clubs at their high schools
- Seek internship and shadowing opportunities (sometimes through family contacts)
- Some universities and companies have research opportunities specific to high school students
- STEM Related Programs
 - Example at in the UC system: COSMOS (The California State Summer School for Math & Science)
 - Intensive four-week summer residential program that provides academic experience for our rising generation of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.
 - @UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC San Diego and UC Santa Cruz.
 - Students participate in a selected “cluster”, with each cluster addressing advanced topics in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields,
 - There is an application process. A typical COSMOS student has a GPA of 3.5 or above.
- There have been more students that have found work in STEM or started their side business, most commonly in computer programming and repairs

Student Name: _____

Core Academic Courses: Required by CSU, UC & many Private Colleges/Universities

Subject: ALL courses must be college preparatory	Minimum/Recommended/ Competitive	9th Grade			10th Grade			11th Grade			12th Grade		
		S1	S2		S1	S2		S1	S2		S1	S2	
“A” requirements History/ Social Science	2 years required Honors/AP/ or college if possible for competitive												
“B” requirements English	4 years most rigorous courses possible for competitive												
“C” requirements Mathematics	3 years required 4 years recommended 5 years competitive												
“D” requirements Lab Science: 2 years in at least 2 out of 3 disciplines (Life or Physical Science)	2 years required 3 years recommended 4 years competitive												
“E” requirements Foreign Language: 2 years of ONE foreign language	2 years required 3 years recommended 4 years competitive												
“F” requirements Visual/Performing Arts Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts – one full year of same	Year long course required See high school for list of courses that count												
“G” requirements Electives:	1 year electives from above												
NON A-G COURSES:	courses not on UC approved list (e.g. religion, extra electives)												

Review list of UC approved courses for Science Academy: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist/institution/5425>

(don't include religion, PE, Drivers Ed or ROP classes for UC and most private colleges/universities GPA calculations)

GPA calculation: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1 9th #: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ H/AP ___ 10th#: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ H/AP ___ 11th#: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ H/AP ___ 12th#: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ H/AP ___

UC GPA: include 10th & 11th grade only and VPA; extra point for H or AP on approved list only for a maximum of 8 semesters.

___ # of points divide by ___ # of classes = ___ **un-weighted GPA**; add to points # of ___ H/AP divide by total number of classes = ___ **UC weighted**

Private GPA: include 9th through 1st semester of 12th. Most include **only academic subjects** - some may include VPA and Religion courses. Check with college.

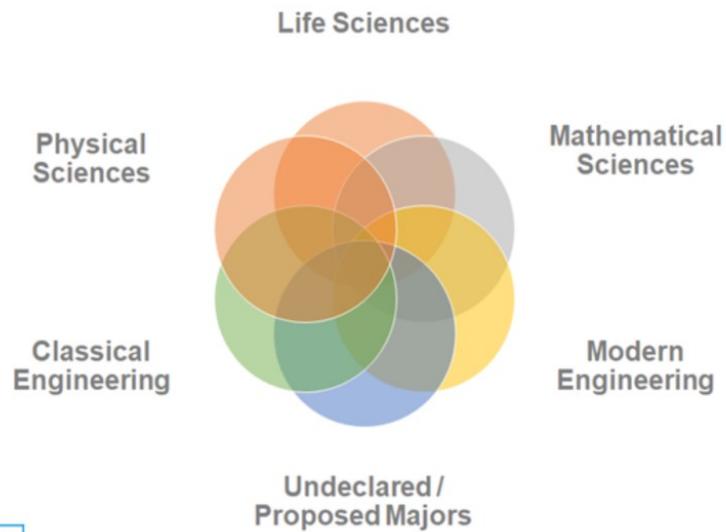
___ # of points divide by ___ # of classes = ___ **un-weighted GPA**; add to points # of ___ H/AP divide by total number of classes = ___ **weighted GPA**.

Student Name: _____

Dual enrollment classes taught by Community College/College professors can also fulfill A-G requirements if they fall well within the A-G category, although they will not show up on your high school's approved course list. The course must be 3 semester or 4 quarter credits taken for a grade. Although 1 semester of a college course fulfills a year requirement, it will only count towards one point of honors in GPA calculation.

Separate college transcript is required to be sent to your college - do well - it's the beginning of your college transcript!

STEM Subject Categories



Breakdown of major fields of study within STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Physical Sciences: Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy

Life Sciences: Biology, Biochemistry, Neuroscience, Botany

Classical Engineering: Math/Physics/Chemistry-based, such as Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, Chemical Engineering

Modern Engineering: (think of it as based on novel **tech-applications**) Computer Science & Engineering, Nanotechnology, Bioengineering/tech

Mathematical Sciences: Data Science, Statistics, Math

Colleges are looking for students that:

LEARN

INITIATE

CREATE

LEAD

ACHIEVE

INNOVATE

ARE KIND

CREATE COMMUNITY

ENJOY

MOTIVATE THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT

What kind of student are you and how do
you show it?