

To Prepare for 12th grade

Most Juniors take 4 or 5 CUPrep courses as well as Folsom Lake College Courses:

1. AP Lit
2. Econ (fall, Government (Spring)
3. Math PreCalc or AP Calc or FLC Calc

To Fill out their schedule, students choose from:

- Personal Finances
- Preparation for College (fall semester-Mrs. Eggert)
- Photography
- Drama
- Technical Theater
- Robotics/Drones
- Art History & Japan Trip (counts as a full year of college prep Art History)
- Taiko Ensemble
- Independent study music
- PE
- Folsom Lake College Courses
- R.O.P. Course

There are key decisions and processes that your student should be making in the next six to nine months.

1. Your student needs to decide whether or not they will be going to a University or to the Community College (or somewhere else) after they graduate. College applications are due in October and November of the students' senior year. This means:

- a. University bound students need to study for the SAT exams. Test info is at www.collegeboard.org
 - i. I recommend purchasing the Princeton Review SAT prep books that contain sample tests and a CD with study questions
 - ii. Take the practice tests, figure out what you do not know and go back and learn that material. There are two parts to studying for the test
 1. Know how to take the tests
 2. Know the material – This is more important
- b. Community Colleges require that students have a high school diploma, but taking classes at CC that you should have completed during high school will cost you time and money. Complete **ALL** high school courses in the core subjects while still in high school, especially English (through AP English Lit) and Math (at least through Algebra 2) courses.
 - i. Carefully check to see that your CC classes transfer to the University you will eventually attend. P.E. classes and some electives are interesting, but will not count as transfer credit and really should not be considered “College” classes.
 - ii. Some “transferable” courses count as “generic” college electives, and will not count towards your ultimate major or even G.E. requirements. Generally speaking, level 300 courses or higher at Folsom Lake College will transfer, others are considered remedial and are equivalent to high school courses.

2. Visit Universities the Spring of your Junior year. Now is the time to narrow down your choices to four or five schools.
 - a. Decide the environment you would like to live/go to school in.
 - b. Choose schools that offer clubs, groups, sports, other social activities that you would likely join
 - c. Choose schools that specialize in your major. If you don't have a super clear picture of what you want to do, you are normal. Pick schools that lean to your strengths and offer the opportunity to take classes that will help you decide. If you are a science person, go to a good science school with lots of options in engineering, physics, chemistry and geology. If you are a more social studies type person, pick schools that offer many different degrees in the humanities.
 - d. Find out what you can afford. Almost anyone can afford a UC or CSU college. Tuition is only \$7000 to \$14,000 per year. Private school tuition runs from \$23,000 to \$55,000 per year. Tuition is part of the cost – Living is another. Figure about \$10,000 to \$12,000 additional costs for housing, food, and transportation beyond tuition.
 - i. Students usually fund college by:
 1. Cal Grants and Pell Grants (based on need)
 2. Student workstudy
 3. Student loans
 4. Parent loans
 5. Parent and other family member contributions
 6. Local Grants/Scholarships
 - e. Consider seriously doing your first two years at Folsom Lake College – it is free and can save you a fortune in student loan payments if can't afford University Tuition and housing.

Some College Information You Should Consider

1. **When going to a Community College, students must complete all the pre-major courses required for the major they will take when they transfer to a University.** The common misconception is that Com. College is where students will “go for two years to get their G.E.’s out of the way.” **This is not the case.** Just completing categories of General Education requirements without a direction may lead to students taking classes that are not useful for their major or lead to a situation where they have to take additional years in the University to fulfill degree requirements.
2. **Taking Community College Courses while in High School** is the best way to help you be competitive in your University application process. These will count towards your Bachelor's degree as well as towards High School Graduation. Make sure the classes are level 300 or higher and transfer to UC/CSU – Check with Mr. Harris if you are unsure about a class.
3. **You can take a Community College class in the summer.** I recommend taking English 300, Art, or a Humanities course. Make sure it is 300 level course or higher.
4. **ROP is underused.** ROP is open to students, grades 11 &12 and for students 16 and up (whichever applies.) They have great courses ranging from Animal Health to Computer Network Systems. Those courses earn high school credits depending on the number of hours per week the student goes to class. (i.e. a ten hour per week class equals ten credits per semester). We have a link to the ROP website on our web page.

4. The University of California and California State Universities will accept students as freshmen or as “transfers.” This means that once a student graduates from High School, they must enter the University in the fall. If they go to a CC (other than during the summer of their Senior Year) after graduation, they must complete at least 60 semester credits of college before they become a “transfer” student.

This means that graduating at Christmas, then going to the CC for spring semester will place a student in the category that they must complete all 60 credits (2 years of college) before they can go to a CSU or UC. On the other hand, if a student knows he/she will be going to a CC, they should consider graduating early (at Christmas) so they can begin full time CC work earlier.

There are only a couple of exceptions to the above rule, and they change from year to year, and from college to college. Check it out with the admissions department of the UC or CSU you want to attend. Private Colleges all have their own rules and usually will take students any year, not just as freshmen or juniors.