College Selection. . . How students begin

There are thousands of colleges and universities in the country. How are you going to find the one that’s right for you? Following are key issues you need to think about when searching for a school:

**Location:** A school’s climate can be an important consideration for many students, as well as distance from home. Some students choose to go to school relatively close to home, others want to get as far away as possible. Living at home or near home can save on travel expenses and cut down on long-distance phone bills. For many, college marks the first opportunity for students to live on their own.

**Cost:** How much you can afford to pay for your education is obviously a major factor in determining where you apply. You don’t necessarily have to eliminate schools from your list because the tuition is too high. Instead, begin investigating the many forms of financial aid that are available, including scholarship opportunities. Create accounts at [www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com) and [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and get started today. Use a secondary email account to avoid spam!! Don’t forget to compete in the local essay and other contests available in your Junior year (and earlier).

**Size:** Two of the major distinctions between small and large schools are the number of course offerings and the student-faculty ratio. Most large schools have extensive course offerings; however, many courses will probably be extremely large lecture classes, sometimes numbering hundreds of students. At smaller schools there will be more limited course offerings and fewer majors or departments, but most classes will be pretty small, often limited to 20 students or fewer.

**Setting:** If you attend school in a large city, you will have any number of cultural events and activities but you will also have crowds and noise. Rural campus settings can be very scenic, making it easier to work and study. However, rural campuses are also more isolated and you may find yourself campus-bound for longer periods of time.

**Student Life:** You are going to spend a significant amount of time going to college. Chances are you won’t spend the whole time studying. Many students become involved in extracurricular activities or organizations. As you investigate schools, look at the range of activities that are available. It is important that you choose a school where you will feel comfortable, both at work and at play. The best way to judge the social atmosphere at a school is to visit or stay overnight in a dormitory.

**Tours:** Make actual college visits during spring break, during the summer or whenever possible. If you cannot personally visit the campus, consider taking a “Virtual Tour”. Also take advantage of the College visits that take place in the College & Career Center in the Fall where you can speak one-on-one with reps from colleges and universities from all over the United States.

Log on-line to the PHS school website, click on College & Career Center and print “Questions to Ask During a College Visit”.

Research colleges on the web at [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com); [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org); [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org); [www.aiccu.edu](http://www.aiccu.edu)
High school juniors can take advantage of the FAFSA4caster website and learn about the financial aid process, gain early awareness of aid eligibility, and much more.

http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/

Ponderosa High School
Graduation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</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 (ICT)</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 Requirements

A. Social Science—2 years **
B. English—4 years
C. Math —3 years**
   (Including Algebra 2)
D. Lab Science—2 years **
   (Biology, Chemistry, Chem A, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics)
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.
**CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP)**

Students planning on attending college are required to take college entrance exams. Most students fulfill this requirement by taking the ACT or the SAT in the spring of their Junior year or the fall of their Senior year. (See page 4 for further info on SAT and ACT testing.)

April 11-22 PHS Juniors will participate in EAP testing. The California State University has developed an Early Assessment Program (EAP) which enables the CSU to place students in appropriate college level courses. Students who score a “Ready” or “Ready-Conditional” on the CST-ELA and Mathematics CST, may not be required to take further placement tests and may enroll directly in English 1A and College Math. To be eligible, Juniors must be in Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2 and opt to take the extra 15 questions on the SBAC test.

Students may also be exempt from taking placement tests if they:
- Score 3 or higher on AP English Language & Composition or AP English Literature & Composition exams.
- Score 500 on SAT critical reading or 22 on ACT.
- Score 3 or higher on the AP Mathematics or Statistics exams.
- Score 550 on the SAT Reasoning Math or SAT Subject Math I or II or 23 on the ACT.

Always check requirements with the college you are planning on attending.

**Military Academies:**

If you are a college-bound student who is considering a career in the military, it’s not too late to get a nomination to one of the military academies. Visit [www.boxer.senate.gov](http://www.boxer.senate.gov) or [www.mcclintock.house.gov](http://www.mcclintock.house.gov) and scroll to the bottom and click on “Academy Nomination”. Have it finished by the end of summer! Keep your grades up and visit your counselor!! You should also plan to attend our Military Academy presentation in conjunction with our October College Fair.

**Scholarship Advice:**

- Get involved in your community; become a volunteer. Check out the various service clubs at PHS: Key Club, Interact.
- It’s not too late to take on leadership roles in school, athletics, clubs, church, etc. You don’t have to be involved with everything, find something you like and dig in deep!
- Begin your student resume now and include the honors, awards, activities, achievements, community service, athletics, etc.
- Excel in your classes. Strive for the higher GPA.
- Search the “Scholarships for the Week” posted on the Career Center page. Look for the green highlighted text to see if the scholarship is one that is open to juniors. These scholarships tend to be contests—writing, speaking, art, and video making.
- Think of people you might ask for letters of recommendation in the fall. Scholarships usually ask for two or three letters and they sometimes ask that one letter be from a non-faculty member.
Ponderosa students have access to Kaplan’s free online test prep program. Visit kaplanatschool.com/ponderosa. In the top right corner you will see the “Get SAT or ACT Prep-Self-Paced for free” box. Select “Click here for your free promo code”. Once directed to the Kaplan at School page, copy the promo code you want and click the orange button for your test. Paste your promo code in and click “Apply Coupon”. Kaplan’s online test prep is normally $299 so this is a great value!

SAT Money Saver!!

Not receiving Bruin Texts from the College & Career Center yet?

Simply text this number 81010

With this message @phsclass17

To receive updates and reminders on a lot of important information and opportunities!

Quick Reference Websites:

College Board-SAT Registration
www.collegeboard.com

ACT Test Registration
www.actstudent.org

Scholarship Database
www.CALocalScholarships.org
www.fastweb.com

College Transfer & Majors Info
www.assist.org

Univ. of California System
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/
  admissions/index.html

California State Univ. System
www.csumentor.edu

California Independent Colleges
www.aiicc.edu

California Community Colleges
www.cccco.edu

California Student Aid/CalGrant
www.csac.ca.gov/

Federal Student Aid/FAFSA
https://fafsa.ed.gov
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.finaid.org

Career Exploration & Aptitude Testing
www.losrios.edu/hschool/index.html
  (Take a Career Quiz)
www.mynextmove.org/

ASVAB Career Exploration Program
www.asvabprogram.com

Western University Exchange
http://wue.wiche.edu
(for out-of-state colleges w/in-state tuition agreement)

Naviance Log In:

- PHS Home Page
- Click on Students tab
- Scroll down and click the Naviance link
- User Name: First four letters of your last name plus the last four numbers of your student ID
- Password: First name initial, Last name initial and the last four numbers of your permanent ID

SAT/ACT Test Dates:

SAT Test Dates 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>May 7</th>
<th>June 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration:</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>May 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Registration:</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>May 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register online at www.collegeboard.com

ACT Test Dates 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>April 9</th>
<th>June 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration:</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>May 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Registration:</td>
<td>March 5-18</td>
<td>May 7-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register online at www.actstudent.org

PHS School Code 053373

Helpful Hint…Use CSUMENTOR Code 3594 to have CollegeBoard send your SAT scores to ALL 23 California State University campuses for the price of one.
NCAA INFORMATION—NCAA Eligibility Center

Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

All high-school athletes wishing to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or Division II must register online with the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Information about the Clearinghouse can be found in the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA.pdf.

The NCAA requires prospects who intend to enroll at NCAA Division I and Division II institutions to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agencies. Start now and plan to have your ACT and SAT scores sent to the Clearinghouse (via code "9999") so that your certification decision will not be delayed. For more details consult the NCAA's website at www.ncaa.org or call the Clearinghouse.

What requirements do I need to be able to practice, play and get a scholarship at a Division I or Division II school?

You need to complete the following:

- Graduate from high school;
- Complete a minimum of 16 core courses (10 of which must be completed before senior year);
- Present a minimum grade-point average (GPA) in those 16 core courses; and
- Present a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT test.

When should a student register with the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse? Students should register with the eligibility center after the completion of their junior year in high school. At this time, a transcript, which includes six semesters of grades, should be sent to the eligibility center from the high school. Additionally, students should request all SAT or ACT test scores be forwarded directly to the eligibility center whenever they take the exam—use code “9999”.

What happens to your completed student release form?

1. When you complete the Student Release Form, send the original to the Clearinghouse with your fee payment of $75.00.
2. Give the authorization form to the registrar at each high school(s) you have attended. This form authorizes each school to send your academic transcripts, proof of graduation, and other academic information, directly to the Clearinghouse.
3. School officials will retain a copy for their files. It will authorize the school to send your final transcript after you graduate.
4. School officials will send the copy of the Student Release Form to the clearinghouse with an official copy of your transcript. The copy facilitates the matching of the transcript to your Clearinghouse file.

REMEMBER

Always seek advice and guidance from an athletic counselor at each college you plan to attend and obtain a college bound student athlete handbook from the NCAA.
Central Sierra ROP Courses

The purpose of the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is to provide students with marketable skills upon completion. ROP works in cooperation with local businesses in the community to provide students on-the-job training on up-to-date equipment.

Anyone 16 years of age or older is eligible to participate in ROP programs. However, enrollment is limited, and first priority is given to high school seniors and second priority to high school juniors. High school students enroll through their school counselor.

Central Sierra ROP offers the following programs:

- Animal Health
- Architectural Computer Aided Drafting
- AP Computer Science
- Automotive Engine
- Diesel Engine
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Careers
- Fire Control Technician
- Health Careers
- Metal Fabrication/Welding

How much does ROP cost?
There is no registration fee for high school students. Students may be required to pay for uniforms, kits, tools, textbooks, and/or health tests or shots. Check the Central Sierra ROP website www.csrop.org for a complete list of fees.

Who provides transportation?
Students must provide their own transportation. Transportation is not provided to and from ROP courses and/or community job sites.

If you are interested in taking ROP classes during your Senior year, contact your Counselor.

Don’t miss out on the El Dorado Union High School District Regional Career Expo in March 2016 and Regional College Fair in October 2016 at Union Mine High School. More info will follow.

Junior Year Calendar
March:
Study for the SAT and/or ACT test (using Kaplan and Khan Academy resources).
Register for College Entrance Exams: SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject and/or ACT tests.
Begin Military Academy admission process - obtain letter from Congressman/Senator.
Attend Career Expo @ Union Mine High School.

April:
Visit prospective colleges.
Research colleges using Naviance.

May & June:
Take AP tests.
Take SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject and/or ACT tests.

Senior Year Calendar
Summer:
Visit more prospective colleges.
Volunteer and participate in community service projects.
Attend Military Academy summer sessions.

August & September:
Register for SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject and/or ACT tests.

October:
Attend El Dorado Union High School Regional College Fair at Union Mine.
Take SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject tests.

November:
Apply for admissions to California State Universities and Universities of California.
Take the ASVAB Career Exploration Assessment.

December & January:
Obtain FSA ID numbers for financial aid documents.
Apply for Community College.

February & March:
Submit FAFSA & apply for community based scholarships.
Apply for Community College.

April & May:
Watch for college deadlines and deposits.
Send Letter of Intent.
Graduate!!!!

Graduate!!!!