

BEAR CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE GUIDE



2018 - 19

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ACADEMIC RECORD

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Colleges use a variety of criteria to evaluate applicants. Individual colleges differ in how they evaluate information. For example, one college may place more emphasis on test scores, while another college may not.

- Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Class Rank
- Strength of subjects
- ACT and/or SAT scores
- Recommendations
- Activities/awards
- Personal essays
- Interviews

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Most colleges consider a student's GPA for admissions. On a 4.0 scale, A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1. Since college applications are generally completed during the fall of senior year, the GPA at the end of junior year is very important.

On transcripts, there will be 3 different GPA's: Total Cumulative Weighted; Total Cumulative Un-weighted; and Academic. "Weighted grades" are used for honors and/or AP (Advanced Placement) courses. A grade in a weighted course (honors or AP) will use a 5.0 scale. For example, an A is worth 5 points instead of the usual 4 points, a B is 4 points, etc. If Pre-AP or AP courses are taken, total cumulative weighted and total cumulative un-weighted will be different. If Pre-AP or AP courses are not taken, the two GPA's will be the same. The Academic GPA is what the colleges use in the application process. It consists of courses taken from the A-G list through the 11th grade.

STUDENT TRANSCRIPT

A transcript is a document that details a student's academic record in high school (9-12th grades). Your transcript should include the following information

- Courses, grades, and credits for each course completed, beginning with grade 9th grade.
- Current cumulative GPA and class rank.
- Anticipated graduation date.
- Proficiency Tests, PSAT, SAT and/or ACT scores.

All college, and most scholarship, applications request that a transcript be submitted along with the application. The transcript provides the college admissions and scholarship committees with important objective data. Usually applications request that an *official* transcript be forwarded. An official transcript must be sealed and includes a signature, stamp, or seal verifying its authenticity. An unofficial transcript does not require an official signature, stamp, or seal. Transcripts may be requested from the high school registrar.

CLASS RANK

The class rank where a student stands academically in relation to the other members of his/her graduating class. It is based on the total cumulative weighted GPA. The student who has the highest GPA is number one in the class; the student with the second highest GPA is number two, etc. Class rank is often presented with the student's place in the class followed by the total number of students in the class (e.g., 35/495). Rank can be important when applying for scholarships because many scholarships stipulate that a student must be in the top 10% (or 20%, 25%, etc.) of his/her class.

**What is important is to keep
learning and to enjoy challenge**



FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN

The four-year high school plan is an individualized tentative schedule for each of the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years. This plan should be developed during a student's eighth grade year, keeping in mind graduation requirements, college recommended courses, career plans, and for athletes, NCAA requirements. You should review and, if necessary, revise your high school plan each year, taking into consideration academic performances, revised career plans, personal interests, and changes in curriculum offerings.

COLLEGE RECOMMENDED COURSES

Four-year colleges recommend high school students complete specific college preparatory courses. These courses generally include:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (including Int Math I, II, III)
- 2-3 years of a lab science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.)
- 2-3 years of the same foreign language
- 2 years of social studies
- 1 year of visual or performing arts
- 1 year of college-prep electives

Students who have not taken these courses may need to consider starting at a community college, and then transferring to a four-year college after a year or two.

Students applying to a university after high school graduation need to complete all of the above recommended courses. The more competitive university and/or programs consider the above as "minimum requirements." As a general rule, students should take as many college recommended courses as can be handled academically during their four years of high school.

N.C.A.A. REQUIREMENTS

Before an athlete can play a sport or receive an athletic scholarship at a Division I or II college, he/she must meet specific academic criteria as set forth by the NCAA. A student must have at least a 2.3 GPA (based on a 4.0 scale) in 16 core courses. To be eligible at a Division I school, a student must also have the required SAT or ACT scores. ACT/SAT requirements are based on a sliding scale. The higher the GPA, the lower the test score required. For example, students with a GPA of 2.5 need an ACT score of 68 (sum of the 4 scores) or a combined 820 on the SAT; while students with a 2.0 GPA need a 1010 on the SAT or an 86 on the ACT.

Students must take specific courses in order to meet NCAA eligibility requirements. These include a certain number of college preparatory English, science, social science, and math courses (at least 3 years algebra 1 or higher). Because the NCAA has such specific requirements and because these requirements can be confusing, it is very important that athletes meet with their counselor in the ninth grade to obtain information on all of the NCAA requirements. At this time athletes also need to make sure their four-year high school plans include courses that will satisfy NCAA requirements.

Athletes should take the ACT and the SAT no later than the spring of their junior year in order to have time to retake them (if necessary). In order to initiate the eligibility process, athletes also need to complete a NCAA Clearinghouse Student Release Form. This form should be submitted after completion of junior year. Forms and information are available in high school athletic offices and with the high school registrar.

COLLEGE TESTING

PSAT/NMSQT

(Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) - A practice test for the SAT which is also used to determine National Merit semi-finalists. It is given each October. 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students are encouraged to take it.

SAT I

(Scholastic Assessment Test)

Reasoning Test - A college entrance examination, generally taken during junior and/or senior year. Students receive a Reading, Math and Writing score.

SAT II: *(Subject Test)* -

This is a one-hour test that measures a student's knowledge of specific subject areas. This test is required by some private colleges and universities.

ACT *(American College Test)* -

This is a college entrance examination, generally taken during junior and/or senior year. Students receive scores in English, Reading, Math, and Science Reasoning, as well as a Composite score. An optional Writing component is available. It is highly recommended that students take the Writing component.



BEAR CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

School District: Lodi Unified

Principal: Hillary M. Harrell

Street/Mailing Address: 10555 Thornton Road; Stockton, CA 95209

Phone: (209) 953-8235

School Governance: Public

Primary & Secondary School Type: Comprehensive HS

WASC Accreditation Status: Accredited through 2021

ATP/CEEB code: 053436



Course List for 2018-2019

The following courses meet requirements for admission to the University of California.

* denotes courses that have been approved for extra honors credit: A=5, B=4, C=3

◆ denotes courses that cannot be used to fulfill the "g" elective requirement.

The 'category' column represents the specific subject requirement fulfilled by the course.

a-History / Social Science - 2 years required

Two years of history/social science, including one year of World History, Cultures or Geography; and one year of US History or one-half year of US History and one-half year of American Government/Civics.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP European History *	European History AP	World History/Geog/Cultures	AP	
AP Government & Politics	AP US Govt Pol	Civics/American Govt	AP	Semester
AP Human Geography*	AP Human Geography	World History/Geog/Cultures	AP	
AP World History	Wrld Hist AP	World History/Geog/Cultures	AP	
Government CP	Government CP	American Government Civics		Semester
US History CP	US Hist CP	US History		
World Geography CP	World Geography CP	World History/Geog/Cultures		Semester
World History CP	Wrld History CP	World History/Geog/Cultures		

b-English - 4 years required

Four years of college preparatory English. Students may only use 1 year of ESL/ELD, SDAIE or Sheltered English

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
AP English Language & Composition *	AP Eng Lang & Comp	English	AP	
AP English Literature & Composition *	AP Eng Lit & Comp	English	AP	
Creative Writing CP	Crtv Wtrg CP	English		
CSU Expository Reading and Writing	CSU Expos R & W	English		
English 10 CP	English 10 CP	English		
English 10 Pre-AP/ Honors	English 10 Hon	English		
English 11 CP	English 11 CP	English		
English 12 CP	Eng 12 CP	English		
English 9 Pre-AP/Honors	English 9 H	English		
English 9 CP	English 9 CP	English		

c-Mathematics - 3 years required, 4 years recommended

Three years of college preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in Elementary Algebra/Algebra 1, Geometry and Advanced Algebra/Algebra 2. Approved Integrated Math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Personal Finance	Math	Math 1		
AP Calculus (AB)*	AP Calculus AB	Advanced Mathematics	AP	
AP Calculus (BC)*	AP Calculus BC	Advanced Mathematics	AP	
AP Statistics*	AP Prob & Stat	Statistics	AP	
Statistics CP	Statistics	Statistics		
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus	Advanced Mathematics		
Pre AP Integrated Math III+ and/or II+	Pre-AP Int Math 3+ and/or Math 2+	Math III+/Math II+		
Integrated Math 3 CP	Int Math 3 CP	Mathematics 3		
Integrated Math 2 CP	Int Math 2 CP	Mathematics 2		
Integrated Math 1 CP	Int Math 1 CP	Mathematics 1		

d-Laboratory Science - 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of laboratory science, including two of the three fundamental disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This requirement can also be met by completing the latter two years of a 3-year Integrated Science program.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Intro to applied Agriculture	Intro Apl Ag	Biological Science		
Anatomy / Physiology CP	Anatomy & Physiology CP	Biological Science		
AP Biology *	Biology AP	Biological Science	AP	
AP Chemistry *	Chemistry AP	Chemistry	AP	
Conceptual Physics	Physics	Physics		
CP Biology	Bio CP	Biological Science		
Chemistry CP	Chemistry CP	Chemistry		
Sustainable Agriculture Biology CP	Sus Ag Bio CP	Biological Science		
Honors Environmental Sci	Environ Sci H	Environ Science		
Physics CP	Physics CP	Physics		
Biology Pre-AP	Pre-AP Biology H	Biological Science		
Agricultural & Soil Chemistry CP	Ag/Soil Chem CP	Chemistry		
Agri Biology CP	Ag Bio CP	Biology/Life Sciences		
AP Physics 1	AP Physics 1	Physics	AP	
Principles of the Biomedical Sciences	PLTW: PrinBioSci	Biology/Life Science		

e-Language Other than English - 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of the same language other than English.

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Italian 1 ♦	Italian 1	LOTE Year 1		
Italian 2	Italian 2	LOTE Year 2		
Italian 3	Italian 3	LOTE YEAR 3		
AP Italian	AP Italian	LOTE Year 4+	AP	
AP Spanish Language & Culture *	AP Span Lang	LOTE Year 4+	AP	
Spanish for Native Speakers 1 ♦	Span for Nat 1	LOTE Year 1		
Spanish for Native Speakers 2	Span for Nat 2	LOTE Year 2		
Spanish I ♦	Spanish 1	LOTE Year 1		
Spanish 2	Spanish 2	LOTE Year 2		
Spanish 3	Spanish 3	LOTE Year 3		
Spanish 4	Spanish 4	LOTE Year 4		

F-Visual & Performing Arts - 1 year required

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	Music (Intro)		
Advanced Piano	Advanced Piano	Music (Advanced)		
Advanced Theater Arts	Thrt Arts CP 3	Visual Arts (Advanced)		
Beginning Band ♦	Beginning Band	Music (Intro)		
Ceramics Introduction ♦	Ceramics Intro	Visual Arts (Intro)		
Graphic Design ♦	Graphic Design	Visual Arts (Intro)		
Introduction to Art ♦	Intro to Art	Visual Arts (Intro)		
Intro to Photography ♦	Intro/Photography	Visual Arts (Intro)		
Introduction to Piano ♦	Intro to Piano	Music (Intro)		
Intro to Theater Arts ♦	Thtr Arts CP 1	Theater Arts (Intro)		
Jazz Ensemble ♦	Jazz Ensemble	Music (Intro)		
Oral Interpretation / Performing Arts ♦	Oral Inter / Per Art	Theater Arts (Intro)		
Orchestra ♦	Orchestra	Music (Intro)		
Sculpture ♦	Sculpture	Visual Arts (Intro)		
The Art and History of Floral Design (CTE)	Art His Flor Dg	Visual Arts (Intro)		
Advanced Art	Art 3	Visual Arts		
AP Studio Art: Drawing	AP Art Draw Prt	Visual Arts	AP	
Ceramics Advanced	Ceramics 3	Visual Arts		

Communication Arts	Comm Arts: BM	Visual Arts		
Environmental Design	Env Design	Visual Arts		
Stag/Play	Stage/Play Prod	Theater		

g-Elective - 1 year required

Course Title	Transcript Abbreviation	Category	Honors Type	Course Notes
Advanced Journalism	Jrnlsn Newspaper Jrnlsn-Year Book	English		
AP Microeconomics	AP Macro Econ	History/ Social Science	AP	Semester
AP Psychology	AP Psychology	History /Social Science	AP	
Competitive Speech	Competitive Speech	English		
Earth/Physical Science CP	Earth/Phys Sci - CP	Science - Physical		
Economics CP	Econ CP	History / Social Science		Semester
Journalism	Journalism	English		
Psychology 1 CP	Psychology 1 CP	History / Social Science		
Sociology 1	Sociology 1 CP	History/ Social Science		Semester
Intro to American Law and Order	Intro Amer LawOrd	History/Social Science		
Careers in Education	Careers in Educ	Interdisciplinary		

CSU / UC PATHWAY

9th Grade

Required course Work	Credits Available	Credits Earned
Physical Education	10.0	
English CP/Pre AP	10.0	
Intg Math 1, 2/Pre AP 2 +	10.0	
Earth or Biology CP	10.0	
Wld Geo/Human Geog AP	10.0	
Elective/AVID	10.0	
9 th grade credits earned= 60 Minimum credits by end of 9 th = 50		
Alternative Options		
Language other than English		
Visual & Performing Arts		

10th Grade

Required Course Work	Credits Available	Credits Earned
Physical Education	10.0	
English CP/Pre AP	10.0	
Intg Math 1, 2, 3/Pre AP 2+, 3+	10.0	
Biology/Lab Science	10.0	
World History CP/Euro History AP	10.0	
Elective/AVID	10.0	
10 th grade credits earned= 60 Minimum credits by end of 10 th = 110		
Alternative Options		
Language other than English		
Visual & Performing Arts		

11th Grade

Required course Work	Credits Available	Credits Earned
English CP/AP	10.0	
Intg Math 3/AP Calculus/AP Stats	10.0	
Chemistry/Lab Science	10.0	
US History CP/AP	10.0	
Language other than English	10.0	
Elective/AVID	10.0	
11 th grade credits earned=60 Minimum credits by end of 11 th = 170		
Alternative Options		
Visual & Performing Arts		

12th Grade

Required Course Work	Credits Available	Credits Earned
English CP/AP	10.0	
AP Calculus/AP Stats	10.0	
Physics/Lab Science	10.0	
Government/Economics CP/AP	10.0	
Language other than English	10.0	
Elective/AVID	10.0	
12 th grade credits earned=60 Must have 230credits for high school diploma		
Alternative Options		
Visual & Performing Arts		

2018-2019 Program Test Calendar

Bear Creek H.S. Code #053436

To sign up: www.sat.org/register

SAT

	Test Dates	Aug 25	Oct 6	Nov 3	Dec 1	Mar 9	May 4	Jun 1
Registration Deadlines	Regular (All) Late (U.S.)	Jul 27 Aug 7	Sep 7 Sep 18	Oct 5 Oct 16	Nov 2 Nov 13	Fe 8 Feb 19	Apr 5 Apr 16	May 3 May 14
SAT I: Reasoning Test		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
SAT II: Subject Tests								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics Mathematics Levels 1 & 2 U.S. History 		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆
World History		◆			◆			◆
Languages: Reading Only								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French, Spanish Italian 		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆
Reading and Listening								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean & Spanish 				◆				

Scores Available - Scores are available online and by phone several weeks after the test date. Official Score Reports are mailed about 5 weeks after the test. Some scores may take longer to report. Visit www.collegeboard.com for a list of approximate score availability dates.
org/start

REGISTRATION TEST FEES

SAT I:	Reasoning Test . . .	\$47.50
SAT II:	Subject Tests . . .	\$26.00
	Language Test w/listening . . .	add \$26.00
	All Other Subject Tests . . .	add \$22.00 each

Applicants may NOT take SAT I and II at same sitting.

SAT II's may be taken in one sitting or in separate sittings. Each sitting requires the \$26.00 fee + charge for test(s) taken.

ACT - Assessment 2018-2019

To sign up: www.actstudent.org/start

Dates with an asterisk will be held at Bear Creek High School. Test center code is 223940

Test Dates	Regular Deadline (Postmark Deadline) ACT Assessment: \$46.00 ACT Plus Writing: \$62.50	Late Deadline (Postmark Deadline) \$29.50 plus late fee (\$25): \$54.50 \$56.50 plus late fee (\$25): \$81.50
September 8, 2018 * October 27, 2018 * December 8, 2018 February 9, 2019 * April 13, 2019 June 8, 2019 July 13, 2019	August 10, 2018 September 28, 2018 November 2, 2018 January 11, 2019 March 8, 2018 May 3, 2019 June 14, 2019	August 11-26, 2018 September 29-October 14, 2018 November 3-19, 2018 January 12-18, 2019 March 9-25, 2019 May 4-20, 2019 June 15-24, 2019

Part II

HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR by YEAR

Part II will give you information on what you need to know and instructions on what you need to DO at each grade level. If you ever have any questions, talk to your counselor. A high school counselor can be an invaluable resource. You, however, must assume the responsibility for meeting college requirements.

9th Grade

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO DURING YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR . . .

When you become a freshman, everything starts to "count." Freshman grades are used in determining GPA, and freshman activities, honors, and awards can be listed on college and scholarship applications.

1. **Be aware of your academic progress.** -- Make sure that you receive all interim/progress reports and report cards and share these with your parents. Remember, freshman grades will be on your transcript and will be figured into your GPA.
2. **Complete Naviance Student Tasks** -Complete your Learning Style Inventory, Strengths Explorer, Career Cluster finder (add careers to your "I'm interested list"), and create a resume. **Start searching Bear Creek's scholarship list at least once a month for updated scholarships.** (College tab, click scholarships & list, and click on scholarship list).
3. **Become involved in a wide variety of activities.** -- In addition to asking students to list their high school activities, many college and scholarship applications ask for evidence of leadership. If you have leadership potential, develop your leadership skills by being an officer of a club, captain of a team, squad leader in the band, etc. Depth of activity (e.g., four years in band, soccer, etc.) is considered important because it shows focus and commitment. It is important to also participate in activities outside of school (e.g., church, scouting, recreational sports).

Tip: Sometime during your freshman year, start keeping a file with lists and information on school activities, honors, awards, leadership positions, employment, volunteer work, community activities, etc. Include everything! This will be very helpful later when you are required to list activities, honors, etc. on college and scholarship applications.

4. **In the spring, review your four-year high school plan with your counselor and your parents to make certain you have selected the most appropriate courses for your sophomore year.**
5. **Plan meaningful activities for the summer.** -- A number of colleges offer excellent summer programs. Of course, many of the "traditional" summer activities can also be very worthwhile. You could, for example, join an athletic team, take a course, mow yards, baby-sit, perfect a skill, take lessons, develop a hobby, read, and/or volunteer at a local hospital, etc.
6. **If you have not yet done so, start a college savings account.**

10th Grade

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO DURING YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR . . .

Sophomore year should be a year of personal growth. In addition to working hard in school and being involved in a variety of activities, try to identify your aptitudes, abilities, and interests and look for opportunities to further develop your skills and talents.

1. **Continue to be aware of your academic progress.**
2. **Complete Naviance Student Tasks** -- Complete your Career Interest Profiler, MI Advantage (add careers to your favorites list), Game Plan Survey, College Search (add colleges to your list of colleges "I'm thinking about"), and update your resume. **Search Bear Creek's scholarship list at least once a month for updated scholarships.** (College tab, click scholarships & list, and click on scholarship list).
3. **Be involved in activities and develop leadership skills.**
4. **Consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT.** -- The PSAT/NMSQT is a national test that is administered by high schools in October. This year's test date is **Wednesday, October 24** sign up in the Counselor's Office. Juniors scoring high enough on the PSAT/NMSQT qualify for the National Merit scholarships. To improve your chances of a high score in your junior year, it's recommended that you take this test for practice.
5. **Start to explore and discuss college options.** -- Gather information, make informal visits to colleges, and go to college fairs. Begin to view your aptitudes, interests, and abilities in terms of possible college majors and career options.
6. **In the spring, review your four-year high school plan with your counselor and your parents and make certain that you have selected the most appropriate courses for your junior year.**
7. **Choose meaningful activities for the summer months.**
8. **At the end of the year, update your "Activities and Awards" file.**
9. **Continue to put money into your college savings account.**

11th Grade

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO DURING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR . . .

Junior year is when you should seriously begin examining your post-secondary options, take college tests, make college visits, and start searching for scholarships.

1. **Continue to be aware of your academic progress.** -- Since college applications are completed in the fall of your senior year, the last, and most recent grades on your transcript are your junior year grades. Junior year grades are therefore the most important grades in high school.
2. **Complete Naviance Student Tasks** -- Complete your "Do what you are" (add careers to your favorites list), continue to add colleges to your favorites list, complete Road Trip Nation, update your resume, and goals for senior year and beyond. Continue searching Bear Creek's scholarship list at least once a month for updated scholarships. (College tab, click scholarships & list, and click on scholarship list).
3. **Continue to be involved in activities and to develop leadership skills.**
4. **Make certain that you register for the PSAT/NMSQT in September.** -- The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/ National Merit Scholarships Qualifying Test) is a national test that is administered by high schools in October. It is being offered at Bear Creek High on Wednesday, October 24 and sign-ups are in the Counseling Office. The PSAT/NMSQT is divided into five sections (two Verbal, two math, and one writing). College bound juniors should take the PSAT/NMSQT for several reasons: 1) It is good practice for the SAT, and it gives students an idea of how they will score on the SAT; 2) students can see how their academic skills compare to those of college bound students across the country; and 3) students whose score are exceptionally high are recognized by the National Merit Foundation. This recognition can lead to scholarships.

When a student registers for the PSAT, he/she is given a "Student Bulletin" containing valuable test-taking tips and a practice test. It can definitely make a difference.

The results of the PSAT are available in mid-to-late December. Students receive a Verbal, a Math, and a Writing score, ranging between 20 and 80. (The average score for each section is approximately 49.) For National Merit purposes, the three scores are then added together to determine the Selection Index. Students whose Selection Index score is in the top five percent will be recognized by National Merit. Students who have Selection Index scores in the upper one half of one percent will become National Merit Semi-Finalists.

Tip: The PSAT/NMSQT penalizes students for guessing by subtracting a fraction of a point from their scores for every incorrect response. If you have no idea of what the correct response is, you should leave the answer blank. If you can eliminate one or more possibilities, you should make an "educated guess."

5. **Talk about college options.** -- There are about 2,000 colleges and universities in the United States. As you start looking at colleges, consider the following:

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| - LOCATION | - SIZE | - COST | - COMPETITIVENESS |
| - FACILITIES | - AVAILABLE MAJORS | - REPUTATION | - COMMUNITY |

Early in the selection process, determine what is important to you and your parents. Are you looking for a college close to home? Do you want a large college or a small college?

After you have determined what you are looking for in a college, you can then begin to search for colleges that meet your criteria. A wealth of information is available in the College & Career Center. In addition to excellent reference books and college catalogs, there are computer programs to assist you in your search. The College & Career Center is also the place to go for information on careers, college testing, financial aid, and scholarship information. There's also a wealth of information available on the Internet.

Tip: Early in the college selection process, talk to your parents about the amount of money they are able and/or willing to contribute to your college education.

Tip: Once you have identified colleges that you would like to investigate further, call the admissions offices and ask to be placed on their mailing list. You will then receive information about visitation days and upcoming events.

6. **Register for the ACT and/or the SAT early in the spring.**

Why take the ACT and/or the SAT I (Reasoning)? -- Almost all four-year colleges require scores for either the ACT or the SAT I. Many colleges will accept scores from either test. Some colleges require, or prefer, scores from one or the other. Check the college catalog for information regarding which test is required. You may retake these tests as many times as you want; colleges will generally use your highest score. (ACT reports that 80% of those who retake the ACT earn the same or a higher score.) If you are hoping to be accepted into a competitive college or program or if you are applying for scholarships, you should take both the ACT and the SAT I. It is important to take these tests by the spring of your junior year so that you will have time to retake them.

How to sign up for the ACT and the SAT I (Reasoning)? -- You can pick up registration packets and study guides in the College & Career Center and/or the Counseling Office. You need to read the study guides, take the practice tests, and then go over what you missed on the practice tests. If you need additional preparation for either the ACT or the SAT I, there are numerous books, videotapes and computer programs available. See Part IV. A strong college preparatory curriculum in high school is the best preparation for both the ACT and the SAT.

The ACT is offered at Bear Creek High School on October 27, December 8 and April 13. Other times it can be taken at Venture Academy (Stockton), Sierra High School (Manteca), or Florin High School (Sacramento). The SAT I is offered at Delta College and Franklin High School (Stockton) in October, November, December, January, March, May and June. Registration deadlines are four to five weeks prior to each test date. You should therefore pick up and complete registration forms a couple of months before you plan to take the test. A limited number of fee waivers are available each year for those qualifying for free or reduced lunch and are available from your counselor. Fee waivers cannot be used for late or standby registrations. An eligible student can receive a total of two fee waivers for the ACT and four fee waivers for the SAT – two for the SAT I (Reasoning) test and two for the SAT II (Subject) tests. You can choose to use your waivers in either your junior or senior year.

If you register online, print out the confirmation page. If you register by mail, you will receive a "ticket" approximately two weeks before the test date. You will need your confirmation page or "ticket" along with a photo ID, to enter the test location. Both the ACT and the SAT I are given on Saturday mornings and take approximately three to four hours. (Students with documented disabilities may be eligible for special accommodations.) You will receive your scores four to eight weeks after the test date. See the registration packet for "Scores Available" dates.

How is the ACT Scored? -- The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Reading, Math, and Science Reasoning. You are given a score for each test, with scores ranging from 1 to 36. These four scores are then averaged to arrive at a Composite score. The national average Composite score is 21. Since there is no penalty for guessing, you should answer every question. There is also an optional Writing component. Students in the Class of 2017 and beyond should take the Writing component also.

How is the SAT I (Reasoning) Scored? -- The SAT I is comprised of three sections, Math, Verbal, and Writing, (scores range from 200 to 800 for each section). The highest possible combined score is 1600. There is a penalty for guessing. If you have no idea what the answer is, you should leave it blank. If one or more choices can be eliminated, you should make an "educated" guess.

Why take the SAT II (Subject Tests)? -- The SAT II Subject Tests are one-hour tests which measure a student's knowledge in specific subject areas (e.g. biology, world history, foreign language, etc.). Some of the competitive colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more of these tests for admission and/or placement. These can be taken in one or more sittings.

7. Make college visits. -- *Many high schools allow students a certain number of days for college visits. Generally these are excused absences. Check with your attendance office to determine your school's policy.*

The spring/summer of your junior year is an excellent time to make college visits. If you make your college visit during the summer months, however, be sure to revisit the colleges you are seriously considering in order to get a feel for what the college is like when it is in "full swing." Our spring and fall breaks are excellent times to visit to see the campus in "full swing."

In order to plan a college visit, call the admissions office several weeks ahead of time. Explain that you are a junior and that you are interested in setting up a college visit. You might first ask if they have any "visitation days," "review days," or "open houses" scheduled. These programs can be very informative as they are designed specifically for prospective students and their parents. They generally include tours, information sessions on specific majors, and sessions on financial aid. If you want to visit a college on a day when no specific program is planned, you can schedule individual appointments and tours through the admissions office.

How to make the most of your college visit:

- Prepare for your visit by learning as much as you can about the college. Have questions ready.
- Take a tour, noting how the students look, the cleanliness of the campus, the atmosphere, the size, etc.
- Many colleges now offer group information sessions for parents and students. Attend one of these sessions.
- Talk to someone in the department you are considering as a major (e.g., business, education, etc.). Be sure to check out the labs, computers, and other facilities for that major.
- Check to see if the university has an Honors Program. Honors programs offer a variety of unique opportunities for students. These may include priority scheduling, access to low enrollment honors courses, and/or honors -housing.

- Visit a dorm and eat in one of the student cafeterias. You may want to also check out the freshman dorm options so you will know which dorm to request.
- Inquire about any special programs, activities, or sports in which you may be interest (e.g., band, intramural sports, Greek life, etc.).
- Visit the student union and talk to students. Ask them what they think of the school, what they like about it, what they dislike, what they do on weekends, etc. Students are generally friendly, honest and happy to give you their opinions. (Consider personal opinions with care, however)
- If you are concerned that you may have difficulty in being accepted, or if there are aspects of your academic record that you would like to explain (e.g., low grades due to an illness), make an appointment with an admissions counselor. Take an unofficial transcript with you.
- If you are interested in financial assistance, ask if you can make an appointment with a counselor in the financial aid and/or scholarship office. If you would like information on scholarship possibilities, take an unofficial transcript with you.
- Three concerns that many students seem of have are: 1) the safety of the campus; 2) the practice of having T.A.s (teaching assistants) teach classes and/or labs in place of professors; and 3) the ability of students to schedule the classes they need in order to graduate in four years. An admissions representative or tour guide should be able to address these issues.
- In order to find out how you compare academically with the students that attend that college, ask what the average GPA and test scores are for incoming freshmen.
- Pick up a campus newspaper.

Tip: Write a thank you note if you had a personal interview or conference.

Tip: Once you start contacting colleges and making visits, start a filing system. In this system, keep notes on contacts made and subject discussed. Include names, dates, etc. Also keep copies of all correspondence, completed applications forms, etc.

8. Carefully select courses for your senior year. -- Be certain that your senior courses meet all requirements for graduation, for the college(s) you may attend, and for NCAA. Continue taking college prep courses, even though you would rather "take it easy your senior year." Colleges want to see that you are continuing to follow a strong college preparatory program. They will therefore generally request that a list of the senior courses be included with the application and/or transcript.

Tip: Many colleges require students to take math placement tests before registering for freshman courses. A student who does not take math as a senior is more likely to have difficulty with these tests. You should therefore sign up for a math course your senior year. If you do not know how to type, you should also take a keyboarding course.

9. Update your "Activities and Awards" file.

10. Choose meaningful activities for the summer months. -- You may want to consider one of the summer programs many colleges offer to outstanding juniors. You can also work, volunteer, and/or do community service.

11. Narrow your list of college choices. -- Visit colleges over the summer so that you will know which schools you will want to apply to in the fall.

12. Continue to put money into your college savings account.



12th Grade

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO DURING YOUR SENIOR YEAR . . .

Senior year is when everything comes together. It is also the year in which you see the rewards of your hard work and your planning.

1. Continue to be aware of your academic progress. -- Senior grades are important. Colleges request a seven-semester, or midyear, transcript, and at the end of the year the registrar will forward a final transcript (which includes all of the senior grades) to the college you plan to attend.

2. Set up a calendar for the year. -- Use this calendar to record test dates, application deadlines, college visitation days, etc.

3. Sign up for the first ACT or SAT if necessary. -- Take a look at previous scores and determine if the tests need to be retaken. Colleges will accept the highest score.

Talk to your counselor or the college admissions office to determine whether or not you should retake the ACT or SAT. Admissions officers look at a variety of criteria when evaluating applicants. SAT or ACT scores are only one criteria.

4. Obtain and complete college applications in the fall. -- More and more colleges are going to on-line admissions. If the college is still accepting paper applications, it can usually be downloaded from the college's web site. Some colleges will want a copy of the high school transcript sent with the application, others will ask the student to "self-report", with official transcripts showing mid-year grades to be sent later. Some applications will require a "personal statement", some will require letter of recommendation. Make sure that the application is completed neatly, thoroughly, and accurately.

Tip: Before you start to work on an application, make a copy to use as a rough draft. Double-check the rough draft to make sure the information is complete, accurate, and that essays are well written (English teachers are often willing to proofread essays). Also make sure that you have presented your self in the best possible light and that you have included all achievements, activities, awards, etc. Information should then be typed onto the official application. Make a copy for your files, noting the date it was submitted.

Tip: It is important that you apply to at least one "safe" college. This is a college to which you will definitely be accepted, and one that you can definitely afford.

5. Apply for financial aid and scholarships.

6. Naviance Student -- Complete (if you have not completed the tasks) Strength Explorer, Do What You Are, Learning Style Inventory, and MI Advantage, continue exploring Career Cluster finder to narrow your colleges/career, update your resume, and goals for college/career and beyond. Request transcripts and letter of recommendation through Naviance to have for scholarships, college applications, and/or employers. Continue searching Bear Creek's scholarship list at least once a month for updated scholarships. (College tab, click scholarships & list, and click on scholarship list).

7. Complete your graduation survey at the end your senior year through Naviance Student.

8. Make the decision. -- In the spring of senior year, parents and students must decide on a college or university. Once the choice is made, complete the necessary forms. As a courtesy, notify the other colleges. Also, make sure any required housing deposit and forms are sent in before the deadline.



Senior Year • Check List

August – October -- Check credits for graduation

- Review graduation requirements, honor roll and CSF requirements, attendance policy, discipline code, athletic eligibility, clubs and organizations.
- Encourage parents to attend the Bear Creek High School Open House and to meet teachers.
- Join fall school activities, including student government, athletic teams, clubs, plays, and service organizations. Take leadership positions when possible.
- **Sign up and take SAT I or ACT and SAT II.**
- Attend the **Lodi Unified "College & Career Planning Night"** -California colleges and universities will be represented with information on admission, tuition, housing, and application procedures (**August 27, 2018** - 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Ronald E. McNair High School GYM 9550 Ronald E. McNair Way Stockton, CA 95210)
- **Financial Aid Information Night** will be held on **September 13, 2018** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the BCHS Theater. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) worksheets will be available.
- Narrow the list of colleges.
- Make a list of the college characteristics that are important. This procedure will help in selecting a college. Begin planning for college expenses including tuition, room and board, books, "extra money" and travel.
- Check the college catalogs and computers in the College & Career Center for information about colleges. Select colleges to visit.
- Attend presentations made by visiting college representatives in the College & Career Center. Check bulletin announcements or College & Career Center to see when college representatives are coming to the campus.
- Visit colleges
- Attended; CSU System Application Workshop which will be held **Oct 17th** and UC System Application Workshop will be held on **Oct 31st**. Both workshops will be in the BCHS Library.
- Write to college applications for out-of-state and private colleges. They are NOT available at Bear Creek.
- Submit applications in advance of deadlines
- Contact individuals for letters of recommendations.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Dream Act, and/or California Chafee Grant between **October 1 and March 2.**

BE ALERT OF ALL DEADLINES!

November – December --

- Check Naviance Student at least once a month for BCHS Scholarship List and the College & Career Center for paper form applications.
- If the college requires recommendations, contact references (teachers, counselors, administrators, etc.) now. Give them the required form from the college, Senior Information Sheet, and a stamped neatly addressed envelope.
- Check on college housing opportunities and mail in for necessary information.
- Request the Education Testing Service to send your SAT and ACT test scores to the colleges that were not included on the initial test form.
- **Financial Aid Cash for College** for all seniors and parents will be held on **November 15, 2018**, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the BCHS Library. Assistance will be available to file the FAFSA, Dream Act, and/or California Chafee Grant online, bring your financial information to this one! Call 953-8246 for more information.
- Re-check all deadlines for mailing college and financial aid applications.

Note: Some private and out-of-state colleges may require a different financial aid form other than the FAFSA. Check with the college.

January – March

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Dream Act, and /or California Chafee Grant between **October 1 and March 2**.
- Check Naviance Student at least once a month for BCHS Scholarship List and the College & Career Center for paper form applications.
- Complete applications over the two week break.
- Go on college visits over the two-week break.
- Apply for San Joaquin Delta College or other community colleges.
- Sign up for Advanced Placement exams given in May.
- Notes: _____

April – May

- Make sure all housing reservation forms have been mailed.
- Meet with San Joaquin Delta College counselor or other community college counselor.
- Letters of acceptance of admission must be submitted by May 1.
- Notify the College & Career Advisor in the College & Career Center concerning any honors or scholarships that you have received or will be receiving so you may be included in the Senior Awards Night.
- Ask the registrar to send the final eighth semester transcript to the college you will attend.
- Take some time to thank parents, teachers, and friends for all the support and encouragement that has been given during your high school years.
- Write thank you notes to individuals who have written letters of recommendation and to organizations who have awarded you scholarships.

**Happy Graduation! ... Relax and have a great summer!
Good Luck with all your plans for this year and the future!**



*All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should
have an equal opportunity to develop our talent.*
– John F. Kennedy

SENIOR CHECK LIST

☐ I have taken the SAT and/or the ACT:

	Score	Date Taken
SAT I		
SAT II		
ACT		

Personal strengths are: _____

GPA is: _____

Class rank is: _____

I HAVE VISITED THE FOLLOWING COLLEGE CAMPUSES:

COLLEGE: _____

Impressions of the college (pros/cons) _____

COLLEGE: _____

Impressions of the college (pros/cons) _____

COLLEGE: _____

Impressions of the college (pros/cons) _____

I HAVE TALKED WITH A COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE:

COLLEGE: _____

Impressions of the college (pros/cons) _____

COLLEGE: _____

Impressions of the college (pros/cons) _____

COLLEGE: _____

Impressions of the college (pros/cons) _____

REFERENCE LETTERS FROM:

Name: _____

☐ Date Requested _____

☐ Date Received _____

Name: _____

☐ Date Requested _____

☐ Date Received _____

Name: _____

☐ Date Requested _____

☐ Date Received _____

☐ Senior Information Sheet Completed and a copy given to counselor. Date: _____

☐ Financial Aid (FAFSA). Date: _____

☐ GPA Verification (Cal Grant). Date: _____

SCHOLARSHIPS APPLIED FOR:

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Due Date: _____

FINAL TRANSCRIPT REQUESTED!

DATE: _____

.....

CAREER

Two careers under consideration: _____

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

I have researched my chosen career(s)

I have updated my resume/personal essay

I have experienced a personal interview

I have applied for a job



Jobs I have held: _____

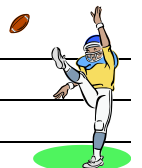
from _____ to _____

from _____ to _____

from _____ to _____

ACTIVITIES

List participation in the following: school clubs / activities, sports/intramural activities, academic awards/competitions, outside/volunteer activities, leisure/hobbies, employment history, personal talents/abilities, etc.



Part III - COLLEGE PLANNING

HOW TO SELECT YOUR COLLEGE

The mission is to find a good college, one that will fit **ones specific** needs and interests. Talk to parents, teachers, and counselors to gather information about the different campuses. Discuss the pros and cons of schools with recent graduates or students currently attending the school(s). When possible, visit the campus(es). Many schools will arrange an overnight/weekend stay in the dorm.

Curriculum .. Does the college offer a program in your field of interest? Even though many college students begin as an "undeclared" and change their "major," having a general idea of a possible career is recommended

Location .. Do you want to attend college near home, or do you want to go to a different section of the country, such as New England? Do you want to go to college in an urban or in a rural environment?

Cost .. What are your plans for financing your college education? How much financial assistance will your family contribute? Have you identified scholarships and started working with your high school's scholarship advisor and your parents? Most financial aid is based on need, not academic performance. Are you willing to work through college?

Size .. Do you want to go to a small, medium-size, or large college?

Religious Affiliation .. Do you want to attend a college administered by a particular religious denomination?

Housing .. Do you want to live in a dorm or would you rather live with a few people?

Once you have listed your needs, it's time to find out how you can meet these demands. Reference tools are available through your career center, public library, local bookstores, and on the World Wide Web.

Interactive Technology: Your high school is an excellent place to start looking for this "high tech" approach to research. If you are going out to surf the Web, remember some resources are free, some cost money, and some aren't what they seem to be. Here are some examples of Web sites:

<http://www.google.com/> (Search Engine)
<http://www.collegeboard.org/> (College Board)
<http://www.collegeview.com/collegesearch/> (College View)
<http://www.review.com/college/> (Princeton Review)

Books: College reference sources are available in the Career Center, library and counseling office. Go take a look!

Video Tapes: For students unable to make a personal visit, a video tape provides an opportunity to look at the campus. (A picture is worth a thousand words!) However, it is important to remember while viewing video presentations that they are prepared and paid for by colleges/universities as a publicity tool. Therefore, they may present a biased viewpoint. Be sure to seek more information from other sources before making any final choices. A variety of video tapes are available in the Career Center, and others can be requested from the individual colleges.

Visits: Catalogues, videos and even online chats can introduce a college. But if it is possible, try to visit a campus when classes are in session. Start out at the campuses close to home even if you do not intend to enroll. Why? By evaluating them, one gains information about likes and dislikes and develops skills in asking questions and organizing information. Before the visitation, develop a list of questions to ask students and faculty. If a visitation is not possible, try a virtual visit. Go to the college's web page and e-mail your questions.

HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

- **Applications:** Applications for California public colleges and universities and out-of-state schools online are available. To obtain an application from a college, write directly to the undergraduate admissions office. If you are interested in housing or financial aid information, include your specific request at the same time. A postcard usually is sufficient for the initial contact.
- **Transcripts:** Grades (GPA) are an indicator of past high school achievements and performance. **YOU**, not your counselor, **are RESPONSIBLE for requesting that transcripts to be sent to colleges.** Separate requests must be made for preliminary and final transcripts. See the registrar regarding transcripts. The final transcript is verification that you have completed high school.
- **Tests:** Test scores are an indicator of your ability to succeed in college. Check catalogs on the colleges to determine what tests are required and what deadlines to expect. Once a test is taken, write down the name of the test center, the date and test number. If inquiries about scores are made at a later date, this information is necessary.
- **Recommendations:** Many colleges and universities require assistance in assessing your qualifications for admission. Forms are usually provided by the college. A counselor or school official will be required to fill out the form. Provide a Senior Recommendation Information Sheet to each person submitting a recommendation. Give each person a stamped, addressed envelope to mail the recommendation. Keep copies of **EVERYTHING** that is sent to colleges.
- **Essays:** Some colleges require one or more essays from applicants. Essays provide an opportunity for you to be more than a set of numbers (GPA, SAT scores). This is an opportunity to speak for yourself about yourself. For more information, check with your counselor for pamphlets or books like College Board's *The College Application Essay*. In *College Times 1997/98*, Michael J. Sloan states that admission staffs tend to evaluate essays on three levels:

Level 1:	Ability to use standard written English.
Level 2:	The essay's content, substance, and depth of insight.
Level 3:	Creativity and originality.
- **Essay Tips:**
 - Don't leave your essay for the last minute - allow enough time to think through the topic and make it the best essay you can write.
 - Before you start writing, do some free-style brainstorming. Jot down several ideas on plain paper. Remember this is the time to let your imagination go wild - later on you can discard ideas that don't fit.
 - Do a personal inventory. Remind yourself of special skills, school and civic activities, travels, awards, and honors. Find a way to work these into the essay so the admission committee will get a better picture of who you are.
 - Be very clear on the essay topic; in other words make sure the essay answers the question that is being asked.
 - Be creative and innovative. Remember, admission committees read many essays every year.
 - Always do a rough draft. Set the draft aside for a while and come back to it. Look for clichés and "dull" spots.
 - Be sure to follow all directions carefully - too long is just as bad as too short, and deadlines are VERY IMPORTANT (especially if you are applying for scholarships and financial aid).
 - Ask others for their opinions. Have someone you trust and respect review your essay and offer advice. You can ask your English teacher, your counselor, your supervisor at work, a friend, etc.
 - Read your essay out loud. How does it sound to you?
 - Always type the essays and make sure they are proofread thoroughly by you and someone else.

It must be remembered that the purpose of education is
not to fill the minds of students with facts ...
it is to teach them to think!



Internet Guide for the College Bound

Best for a Great Beginning

<http://www.finaid.org/> .. A terrific web site for the college bound student; includes top scholarship programs, etc. - very student oriented.

<http://www.fastweb.com> .. Scholarship search by personal profile

<http://www.clubscholarship.com> .. Scholarship search without spending a lot of time inputting personal information and preferences - only requires your age, gender and entering freshman year - do filter searches.

<http://www.brokescholar.com>

<http://www.scholarships4students.com>

<https://www.sjcoe.org/scholarships/>

<https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/776>

College Information

<http://www.collegeboard.org> .. College Board homepage -Includes online registration for SAT I/II and Profile financial aid form

<http://www.act.org> .. ACT homepage - online registration

<https://pathwaysguide.universityofcalifornia.edu/college-pathways/0/0>

<http://www.collegenet.com>

<http://www.californiacolleges.edu>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/> .. Princeton Review Home Page

Financial Aid Resources

<http://www.finaid.org/>

<http://www.fastaid.com>

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/express.html> .. FAFSA Express (online submission of FAFSA to the Department of Education)

<http://www.csac.ca.gov/> .. Cal Grant information

<http://www.ncaa.org/eligibility/cbsa/> .. NCAA Eligibility Information

<http://www.osn.com/main.html> .. Fee based student athlete recruiting online service

Career Planning

<http://www.cacareerzone.org>

<http://www.review.com/career/find/index.cfm>

<http://www.2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/l/lkj/>

<http://www.bls.gov/emphome.htm> .. Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/occupations.html>

<http://www.ext.msstate.edu/pubs/pub1600.htm>

<http://www.careercruising.com>



University of California Entrance Requirements

- Social Science: U.S. and World History (two years required)
- English: Composition, Literature, etc. (four years required)
- Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (three years required, four recommended)
- Laboratory Science: Chemistry, Physics, Physiology, Biology (two years required, three recommended)
- Foreign Language: Spanish, French, German, etc. (two years of the same language required, three recommended)
- Visual/Performing Arts (one year required)
- College Preparatory Electives: History, English, Advanced Mathematics, Laboratory Science, Foreign Language, Social Studies, and Fine Arts (one year required)
- *Tests REQUIRED for college entrance • SAT with Essay (Scholastic Aptitude Test) or A.C.T. (American College Test) plus Writing..*

Fulfilling all of the minimum requirements does not guarantee school acceptance at the campus of your choice. If your grade-point average is 3.3 or higher in the a - g subjects taken after the ninth grade, you will be eligible for admission to UC, regardless of the scores you earn on the standardized tests used for the Examination Requirement. If your grade-point average is below 3.3 but above 2.82, you will be eligible for admission if you achieve the composite or total test score specified on the Eligibility Index. You must also have completed all a-g subjects with "C" or better grades.

California State University & College System Entrance Requirements

- English: (four years required)
- Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (three years required)
- Social Science (two years required, including one year of U.S. History or one semester of Government/U.S. History)
- Laboratory Science (two years required: one year biological and one year physical)
- Foreign Language (two years required)
- Visual or Performing Arts (one year required)
- Electives (one year of approved electives)
- *Tests REQUIRED for college entrance • SAT I: Reasoning Test or A.C.T. - (American College Test)*

What is important is to keep learning and to enjoy challenge.



ADMISSION OFFICES AND INFORMATION NUMBERS

University of California

School	Web Site	Admissions office Phone	Tour Information Phone	Financial Aid Office #
UC Berkeley	www.berkeley.edu	510-642-3175	510-642-5215	510-664-9181
UC Davis	www.ucdavis.edu	530-752-2971	530-752-0539	530-752-2390
UC Irvine	www.uci.edu	949-824-6703	949-824-6703	949-824-8262
UC Los Angeles	www.ucla.edu	310-825-3101	310-825-8764	310-206-0400
UC Merced	www.ucmerced.edu	209-228-4400	209-228-6316	209-228-7178
UC Riverside	www.ucr.edu	951-827-3411	951-827-8687	951-827-3878
UC San Diego	www.ucsd.edu	858-534-4831	858-822-4750	858-534-4480
UC San Francisco	www.ucsf.edu	415-422-6563	415-514-3452	415-476-4181
UC Santa Barbara	www.ucsb.edu	805-893-2881	805-893-2487	805-893-2432
UC Santa Cruz	www.ucsc.edu	831-459-4008	831-459-4008	831-459-2963

California State University

School	Web Site	Admissions office Phone	Tour Information Phone	Financial Aid Office #
Bakersfield	www.csusb.edu	661-654-3036	661-654-3138	661-654-3016
Channel Islands	www.csuci.edu	805-437-8520	805-437-8520	805-437-8530
Chico	www.csuchico.edu	530-898-6322	530-898-5955	530-898-6451
Dominguez Hills	www.csudm.edu	310-243-3696	310-243-3696	310-243-3691
East Bay (Hayward)	www.csueastbay.edu	510-885-2784	510-885-2556	510-885-2784
Fresno	www.csufresno.edu	559-278-2261	559-278-2261	559-278-2182
Fullerton	www.fullerton.edu	657-278-7601	657-278-3120	657-278-3125
Humboldt	www.humboldt.edu	866-850-9556	707-826-4402	707-826-4321
Long Beach	www.csulb.edu	562-985-5471	562-985-5471	562-985-8403
Los Angeles	www.calstate.edu	323-343-3901	323-343-3175	323-343-6260
Maritime Academy	www.csum.edu	707-654-1330	707-654-1000	707-654-1287
Monterey Bay	www.csumb.edu	831-582-3000	831-582-3738	831-582-5100
Northridge	www.csun.edu	818-677-3700	818-667-2879	818-677-2085
Cal Poly Pomona	www.cpp.edu	909-869-5299	909-869-5299	909-869-3700
Sacramento	www.csus.edu	916-278-7766	916-324-0333	916-278-1000
San Bernardino	www.csusb.edu	909-537-5188	909-537-5188	909-594-6323
San Diego	www.sdsu.edu	619-594-6336	619-594-6336	619-594-6323
San Francisco	www.sfsu.edu	415-338-6486	415-338-2355	415-338-7000
San Jose	www.sjsu.edu	408-283-7500	408-924-2564	408-283-7500
San Luis Obispo	www.calpoly.edu	805-756-2311	805-756-2311	805-756-2927
San Marcos	www.csusm.edu	760-750-4848	760-750-4830	760-750-4850
Sonoma	www.sonoma.edu	707-664-2880	707-664-3029	707-664-2389
Stanislaus	www.csustan.edu	209-667-30710	209-667-33122	209-667-3336

**The objective of education is to prepare the young
to educate themselves throughout their lives.**

– Robert Maynard Hutchins

California Community College

Community colleges can also be referred to as junior colleges. They are two-year colleges that award Associate of Art/Science degrees, vocational, and occupational certificates. They offer a comprehensive curriculum which includes transfer, technical, and continuing education programs.

The cost to attend a community college is much less than a four year college. (San Joaquin Delta College is \$46.00 per unit). Students who are 18 years of age or have a high school diploma or its equivalent, are eligible to enter a California Community College without special consideration. Students under the age of 18 must have administrative approval from the high school before they can attend a junior college. Assessment testing for proper placement is required.

Community College District	Community College in District	Counties	Region
Allan Hancock College Joint Community College	Allan Hancock College	San Luis Obispo Santa Barbara Ventura	Southern
Antelope Valley Community College	Antelope Valley College	Kern Los Angeles	Southern
Barstow Community College	Barstow College	San Bernardino	Southern
Butte-Glenn Community College	Butte College	Butte Glenn	Northern
Cabrillo Community College	Cabrillo College	Monterey San Benito Santa Cruz	Bay Area
Cerritos Community College	Cerritos College	Los Angeles	Southern
Chabot-Las Positas Community College	Chabot College Las Positas	Alameda	Bay Area
Chaffey Community College	Chaffey College	San Bernardino	Southern
Citrus Community College	Citrus College	Los Angeles	Southern
Coast Community College	Coastline Community College Golden West College Orange Coast College	Orange	Southern
Compton Community College	Compton College	Los Angeles	Southern
Contra Costa Community College	Contra Costa College Diablo Valley College Los Medanos College	Contra Costa	Bay Area
Copper Mountain Community College	Copper Mountain College	San Bernardino	Southern
Desert Community College	College of the Desert	Los Angeles	Southern
El Camino Community College	El Camino College	Los Angeles	Southern
Feather Community College	Feather River College	Plumas	Northern
Foothill-DeAnza Community College	De Anza College Foothill College	Santa Clara	Bay Area
Gavilan Community College	Gavilan College	San Benito Santa Clara	Central
Glendale Community College	Glendale Community College	Los Angeles	Southern
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College	Cuyamaca College Grossmont College	San Diego	Southern
Hartnell Community College	Hartnell College	Monterey San Benito	Bay Area
Imperial Community College	Imperial Valley College	Imperial	Southern
Kern Community College	Bakersfield College Cerro Coso Community College Porterville College	Inyo Kern Mono San Bernardino Tulare	Central
Lake Tahoe Community College	Lake Tahoe Community College	El Dorado	Central
Lassen Community College	Lassen College	Lassen Modoc Mono Sierra	Northern

Long Beach Community College	Long Beach City College	Los Angeles	Southern
Los Angeles Community College	East LA College LA City College LA Harbor College LA Mission College LA Pierce College LA Southwest College LA Trade-Tech College LA Valley College West LA College	Los Angeles	Southern
Los Rios Community College	American River College Cosumnes River College Folsom Lake College Sacramento City College	El Dorado Placer Sacramento Yolo	Northern
Marin Community College	College of Marin	Marin	Bay Area
Mendocino-Lake Community College	Mendocino College	Lake Mendocino	Northern
Merced Community College	Merced College	Fresno Madera Merced	Central
MiraCosta Community College	MiraCosta College	San Diego	Southern
Monterey Peninsula Community College	Monterey Peninsula College	Monterey	Bay Area
Mt. San Antonio Community College	Mt. San Antonio College	Los Angeles	Southern
Mt. San Jacinto Community College	Mt. San Jacinto College	Riverside	Southern
Napa Valley Community College	Napa Valley College	Napa Sonoma	Northern
North Orange County Community College	Cypress College Fullerton College	Los Angeles Orange	Southern
Ohlone Community College	Ohlone College	Alameda	Bay Area
Palo Verde Community College	Palo Verde College	Riverside San Bernardino	Southern
Palomar Community College	Palomar College	San Diego	Southern
Pasadena Area Community College	Pasadena City College	Los Angeles	Southern
Peralta Community College	College of Alameda Berkeley City College Laney College Meritt College	Alameda	Bay Area
Rancho Santiago Community College	Santa Ana College Santiago Canyon College	Orange	Southern
Redwoods Community College	College of the Redwoods	Del Norte Humboldt Mendocino Trinity	Northern
Rio Hondo Community College	Rio Hondo College	Los Angeles	Southern
Riverside Community College	Riverside Community College Moreno Valley College Norco College	Riverside	Southern
San Bernardino Community College	Crafton Hills College San Bernardino Valley College	Riverside San Bernardino	Southern
San Diego Community College	San Diego City College San Diego Mesa College San Diego Miramar College	San Diego	Southern
San Francisco Community College	City College of San Francisco	San Francisco	Bay Area
San Joaquin Delta College	San Joaquin Delta College	San Joaquin Calaveras Sacramento Alameda Solano	Central
San Jose-Evergreen Community College	Evergreen Valley College San Jose City College	Santa Clara	Bay Area

San Luis Obispo County Community College	Cuesta College	San Luis Obispo Monterey	Southern
San Mateo County Community College	Canada College College of San Mateo Skyline College	San Mateo	Bay Area
Santa Barbara Community College	Santa Barbara City College	Santa Barbara	Southern
Santa Clarita Community College	College of the Canyons	Los Angeles	Southern
Santa Monica Community College	Santa Monica College	Los Angeles	Southern
Sequoias Community College	College of the Sequoias	Kings Tulare	Central
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College	Shasta College	Shasta Tehama Trinity Lassen Modoc Humboldt	Northern
Sierra Joint Community College	Sierra College	El Dorado Nevada Placer Sacramento	Northern
Siskiyou Joint Community College	College of the Siskiyous	Siskiyou	Northern
Solano County Community College	Solano Community College	Solano Yolo	Northern
Sonoma County Junior College	Santa Rosa Junior College	Sonoma Marin Mendocino	Northern
South Orange County Community College	Irvine Valley College Saddleback College	Orange	Southern
Southwestern Community College	Southwestern College	San Diego	Southern
State Center Community College	Clovis Community College Fresno City College Reedley College	Fresno Madera Kings Tulare	Central
Ventura County Community College	Moorpark College Oxnard College Ventura College	Ventura	Southern
Victor Valley Community College	Victor Valley College	Los Angeles San Bernardino	Southern
West Hills Community College	West Hills College Coalinga West Hills College Lemoore	Madera Kings Fresno San Benito Monterey	Central
West Kern Community College	Taft College	Kern	Southern
West Valley-Mission Community College	Mission College West Valley College	Santa Clara Santa Cruz	Bay Area
Yosemite Community College	Columbia College Modesto Junior College	Calaveras Merced Stanislaus Tuolumne San Joaquin Santa Clara	Central
Yuba Community College	Woodland Community College Yuba College	Yuba Yolo Sutter Butte Colusa Glenn Lake Placer	Northern

VOCATIONAL SKILLS
in High Demand Today

Health Care (Nurse Practitioner), Construction (Electrician), Manufacturing (Welder), Skilled Trades (Plumber), Information Technology (Software Development), Culinary Arts (Chef), Veterinary (Veterinarian)

Vocational and Technical Trade Schools

These schools are institutions of higher education that offer post-secondary awards, certificates or diplomas designed to prepare individuals with entry-level skills and training required for employment in a **specific trade, occupation, or profession**.

Military Armed Forces

The military is another option for students. There are some excellent programs. The **Montgomery GI Bill** is designed to make going to college easier and more affordable. The GI Bill is money you earn while you serve on Active Duty or in the Reserves in any branch of the U. S. Armed Forces. You can use this money at any approved 2 year / 4 year college or vocational school. The military also gives job training that increases the value of your education and your chances of future success. They also pride themselves in training leadership and discipline.

Recruiters check usually once a week in at the College & Career Center, where an interest list is kept. If you have a question for a recruiter or just want some general information, put your name on the list and the recruiter will contact you.

ASVAB Testing

ASVAB stands for Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This is the most widely used aptitude vocational test in the United States. It measures abilities and interests and connects them to careers.

This exam is given here at Bear Creek twice a year, in November and again in February. This year's exams are scheduled for: **November 7, 2018**, with an interpretive session on **November 28**; and **February 13, 2019**, with an interpretive session on **March 6, 2019**. Sign-up with Mrs. Ochoa in the College & Career Center. When students take the test, there are NO military obligations and it is **FREE**.

Part IV

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

The average cost of tuition and fees for one year at a public four-year college is approximately \$4,000. The average cost of tuition and fees for one year at a private four-year college is approximately \$16,000 - \$30,000. Books and supplies average \$1,500, while room-and-board averages are between \$8,000 - \$10,000.

As a general rule, private colleges are smaller and public colleges are less expensive. A student attending a public college/university in a different state, will have to pay the more expensive out-of-state tuition. For example, the tuition for one year at Ohio State University is approximately \$4,000 for an Ohio resident, but about \$12,000 for an out-of-state resident. (But often living expenses are less expensive.)

Information on Financial Aid

Financial aid is money that is given or lent to help students pay for their education. Financial aid often makes it possible for students to attend colleges they would have otherwise thought to be too expensive. Students and parents therefore should never assume that they cannot afford a particular college or university.

There are basically four categories of financial aid:

1. **Grants** • money that is given to a student, as a result of financial need
2. **Scholarships** • money that is awarded because of exceptional academic achievement, an outstanding talent or skill, and/or financial need.
3. **College Work-Study** • money a student earns by working a campus job 10 - 15 hours a week
4. **Loans** • borrowed money that must be repaid

Grants and scholarships are basically "free money," while loans and college work-study are considered "self-help" programs. Generally, all financial aid is awarded in the form of a "package." Packages, consisting of grants, scholarships, loans, and/or work-study, are put together by the college's financial aid office. Since packages will vary from college to college, you should carefully compare the packages you are offered.

To Obtain Financial Aid, Follow These Steps

◆ - Some colleges have their own financial aid application form that you must complete. This form is generally included in the application view-book or packet.

Obtain a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CADAA (California Dream Act Application) checklist from your high school guidance office or College & Career Center of your senior year, and inform your parents that it is important for them to organize their tax information as soon as possible.

Completing a FAFSA/CADAA is very important. You must submit a FAFSA in order to be considered for all federal financial aid and for most of the aid offered by individual schools. Regardless of the number of schools you apply to, you only need to fill out one FAFSA/CADAA application.

The FAFSA is a federal form that asks for information on income and assets. Approximately 3 - 10 weeks after you have mailed in your FAFSA, you will receive a SAR (Student Aid Report). A copy of your SAR is also sent to the colleges you designated on your FAFSA. Your SAR will tell you if you are eligible for aid, and it will also inform you of your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution). Your EFC is the amount the federal government has determined that you and your parents can afford to pay for your education the following year. If the cost of the college is more than your EFC, you have a financial need and should be eligible for financial aid. This aid may come in the form of loans.

◆ - Complete the FAFSA/CADAA as soon after October 1. Double check your responses before it is sent online. Aid is generally awarded on a "First come first serve" basis. You do not want there to be any delay in the processing of your application. Even if you feel you will not qualify for aid because of your family income, you and your parents should complete the FAFSA/CADAA. Colleges and organizations often want it verified that students are not eligible for federal or state aid before they award institutional and/or private funds. Some loan programs also require the FAFSA. Remember to make a copy of your completed FAFSA before you send it in. Ask your parents to be sure to keep a copy of their tax return forms. When the FAFSA is mailed, obtain a receipt from the post office.

◆ - In addition to the FAFSA, some private colleges and scholarship programs also require submission of the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The PROFILE is not an application, but a supplemental need analysis document that is used to determine eligibility for private funds and institutional aid (aid made available by the individual colleges). Contact your high school counselor for information and forms.

◆ - Attend any financial aid workshops (with your parents) that may be offered in your area. These are generally held between September and February. Meetings are held on a monthly basis at SJDC.

This year Bear Creek's **Financial Aid Information Night** is: **September 13, 2018 BCHS Theater**

This year Bear Creek's **Cash for College** is: **November 15, 2018 BCHS Library**

Tip...To be eligible for federal financial aid, eighteen-year old males must be registered with the selective service.

Tip...The Hope Scholarship Credit (Tax Relief Act of 1997) allows taxpayers to claim a credit of up to \$1500 per student for tuition expenses for each of his/her first two years of college.

◆ - After the college's financial aid office has reviewed the information from your FAFSA/CADAA, it will determine your eligibility for financial aid and send you a financial aid award letter.

◆ - Students and parents often find that they do not get as much money through grants and scholarships as they need. If you find yourself in this situation, you may want to consider taking out a loan. Lending institutions provide Stafford Loans to students and PLUS loans to parents. Repayment of a Stafford Loan begins after the student is out of school. The Subsidized Stafford Loan is for students who have shown a financial need based on five federal formulas. The Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is for students without financial need. (The government pays the interest on Subsidized Stafford Loans.) PLUS loans are not based on financial need and repayment begins within 60 days. Interest accrues immediately.

If you do not want to take out a loan, there are other options to consider. The military branches offer a variety of programs to help students with college costs, and co-op programs provide students with the opportunity to earn money while gaining valuable work experience. Students who are concerned about college costs can also save money by attending a community college and then transferring to a four-year college after a year or two.



HOW DO I FIND SCHOLARSHIP MONEY?

Scholarships come from individuals, organizations, companies or colleges themselves. They can give their money to whomever they wish. There is no one standard or procedure for how private money is awarded. Deadlines, application procedures, eligibility, size and terms of awards vary greatly. Some may consider need as well as merit.

Listed below are some ways to locate scholarships. You will not find all the scholarship information in any one place... ..

- Login to **NAViance Student** using your google docs username and password (do not include @lodiussd.org to see BCHS Scholarship List.
- Pay special attention to your school's bulletin, announcements and school newspaper. Bear Creek's College & Career Center has information on scholarships.
- Look through scholarship guides. They can be found in the reference section of the local library, school's career center, local community college library, or the local bookstore.
- Ask your employer and your parent's employers if they offer scholarships.
- Call local service organizations (i.e. the Lion's Club, NAACP, Chamber of Commerce) to see if they offer any scholarships.
- Contact organizations at your school and the colleges/universities to which you are planning to apply.
- Check with your church or synagogue. Many denominations offer college scholarships.
- Read periodicals like the local newspaper or academic magazines.
- Ask the college admissions office for information and the procedure for applying for institutional scholarships. Contact its scholarship and financial aid offices.

Apply to all scholarships for which you are eligible.

You never know what the competition is like. You may be the only one applying.

What Can I Do to Prepare for a College Scholarship?

Merit based scholarships look at your accomplishments (i.e. G.P.A. and community involvement). Need based scholarships are awarded according to financial need. Listed below are some ways that you can earn merit:

1. A high G.P.A.
2. Take as many challenging college preparatory class as possible.
3. Take the PSAT in your sophomore and junior years. Take the SAT and/or ACT in your junior year and again in the fall semester of your senior year if necessary.
4. Become involved in school activities or organizations, for example:
 - School's yearbook or newspaper
 - Student Council
 - Member/Officer for a club
 - Participate in school sports
 - Join the Pep Squad, etc.
5. Do some volunteer work in the community:
 - Serve food at a homeless shelter
 - Volunteer at a children's day care center
 - Raise money to give to your favorite charity
 - Become an American Cancer Society volunteer
 - Walk precincts for your favorite politician
 - Visit elderly people in nursing homes
 - Tutor other students
 - Be active in your church or synagogue, etc.

Part-time and summer jobs will sometimes be considered extra-curricular activities. Your ability to overcome personal, educational, social, economic, and physical barriers or challenges is often considered indicative of your ability and desire to succeed.

Tips for Completing Scholarship Application Forms

Many scholarships have specific requirements. Student applicants should read over the requirements of the scholarship being offered and read all directions before completing the application.

Include any and all information asked for. Instead of "summer work," describe the job's responsibilities; where you worked, the months and year worked, etc. Clearly and concisely give all information which will better present your case.

Be **neat** and be sure answers are **legible! Type application!** Failing to follow instructions or turning in a sloppy or carelessly written paper may become the deciding factor. In letters requesting information, give a few details about yourself, your ambitions and your reason for interest in the particular scholarship. Don't say, "I need the money to further my education," but rather "I have two sisters already in college" or "My father is near retirement . . . ill . . . low income . . . etc."

Be sure to answer ALL questions or indicate in some manner if it doesn't apply!

- **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE** to ask your counselors, teachers, mentors, friends and teachers for **letters of recommendation**. Give them sufficient time to write an "excellent" letter. The person writing the recommendation will need the following information:
- Name & address of person or institution to whom the recommendation is to be written or sent. (If the person's name is not available, use "Scholarship Committee or Chairperson.")
- Specific information that needs to be included.
- A list of qualifications, extra curricular activities, hobbies, interests, special achievements, etc., as an aid in composing a letter. (See attached form.)
- A stamped, addressed envelope, or directions as to whom should receive the recommendation and **when** it is due.
- Remember to keep a copy of **ALL** letters in a file to be reproduced as needed in the future.

NOTE: DON'T MISS APPLICATION DEADLINES!!

Your Scholarship Advisor requires that applications and papers be turned in one week before the mailing deadline.

GUIDELINES

SENIOR INFORMATION FOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This information is requested to assist school staff members who will be writing letters of recommendation for you. Please complete all sections of this form in as comprehensive a manner as possible.

When you have completed this form (type or print legibly), make copies so you can give one (1) to every person you ask for a letter. Be sure to provide the person with a stamped, pre-addressed envelope and the official recommendation form if the college or scholarship foundation requires one. Make sure it is given to the person **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE RECOMMENDATION IS DUE TO ARRIVE** at its destination.

Full Legal Name: _____ Age at time
of Graduation _____

1. Are there any personal hardships we should be aware of?

Give specific examples _____

2. Are there any financial hardships we should be aware of?

Give specific examples _____

3. What challenges have you had to face or overcome in school?

Give specific examples _____

4. What challenges have you had to face or overcome in your family life?

Give specific examples _____

5. What challenges have you had to face or overcome in your personal life?

Give specific examples _____

6. What are your strengths and/or uniqueness? Cite experiences or personal anecdotes that demonstrate your Strengths or personal abilities. _____

7. Test Scores:

PSAT - Verbal

Math

SAT - Verbal

Math

ACT Comp

8. Name of person/organization to whom this recommendation should be sent? _____

9. Purpose of recommendation: _____

10. What colleges have you chosen or are considering? _____

11. What vocation or career are you considering? _____
12. What experience have you had in this area? _____

13. What are your hobbies or special interests? _____

14. List five words you would use to describe yourself: _____

15. What awards have you earned in the last four years
- | Date | Purpose or Distinction |
|-------|------------------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

ACTIVITIES SECTION

In this section be sure you list the year, team, weight class or position, hours worked specific office held and other detailed type of information such as: *10th grade - Sophomore Class Treasurer; 11th grade - Quarterback Varsity Football Team.*

16. List and detail meaningful student activities in which you have participated. _____

17. List and detail sports in which you have participated. _____

18. List and detail out-of-school activities: (community service, scouts, church volunteer work, tutoring, etc.)

19. List and detail significant travel experiences you have had. (you may attach more information on another sheet of paper)

20. List and detail work experience (paid work, give days and hours): _____

21. What special talents do you possess? (music, sports, skills, etc.) _____

