



# The Junior Journal

## Junior Year Counts

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

*Here are 5 things to do this year to prepare for college.*

more significant for college admissions than how you perform your junior year, and the classes you choose are a reflection of your level of motivation and intellectual curiosity. If you don't already have good study habits, now is the time to work on them – you can be sure you'll need them in college! Participate in class and take the time to connect with staff members – your teachers, counselor, coaches, etc. You are likely to need a few letters of recommendation, and no one will be able to say awesome things about you if they don't even know you!

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

**Volunteer. Be involved.** Do something with your extra time that shows you have interests and enthusiasm for life.

**Get the best grades possible.** Nothing is

**Take all your standardized tests.**

(Continued on Pg. 2)

Inside this issue:	
Junior Year Counts	1-2
Is Community College For You?	2
SAT vs. ACT	3
SAT Subject Tests	3
Folsom Lake Classes	3
SAT & ACT Test Dates	4
High School Graduation Requirements	4
A-G College Entrance Requirements	4
Exploring Your Options	4

**Counseling Department**  
**(530) 622-3634 x1028**

A-D, ILC:	Mrs. Clickner	lclickner@eduhsd.net
E-K, Vista:	Mrs. Carrillo	kcarrillo@eduhsd.net
L-R, EL:	Mrs. Fregoso	kfregoso@eduhsd.net
S-Z, AVID:	Mrs. Woods	lwoods@eduhsd.net

## Junior Year (Cont. from Pg. 1)

---

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

**Research careers.** Most students are still looking for career direction to take, so don't feel like you're behind if you haven't figured it out

yet. Use [bridges.com](http://bridges.com), our subscription career research tool (siteID: 1027093, pw: cougar) for a good start. Another way to figure out what you might like is to look at a couple college catalogs and see what classes sound like they would be fun to take. Visit [labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov) for very detailed information on careers in California. Talk to family friends and neighbors who have jobs that you might be interested in. Come into the Career Center for information about job shadow opportunities this spring.

**Research/visit colleges.** Use [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)'s college finder to give you an idea of the kinds of

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



## Is Community College for You?

---

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

### **Are you unsure of your major?**

Because of its affordable tuition, community college allows you the chance to explore a variety of subjects without the pressure of going into excessive debt.

### **Are you concerned about financial aid?**

Did you receive your award letter from your dream college, but can't justify the expense? Pay for just two years there instead of four. Attend a community college for the first two years, then transfer.

### **Are you anxious about leaving home?**

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

### **Do you want to start a career quickly?**

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

### **But aren't community colleges just an extension of high school?**

Community college is college - it has courses and facilities just like a university, and is filled

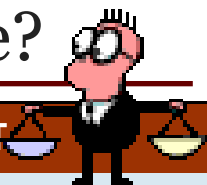
with students who want to learn just like you. In addition you can find pre-college, skill-building classes if there are areas where your skills are lacking, and classes to learn or upgrade job skills.

Community college has a program to meet most every educational need.

### **Still unsure?**

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

# SAT vs. ACT: How do the tests compare?



	SAT	ACT
When is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
What is the test structure?	<b>Ten-section exam:</b> Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental. The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.	<b>Four-section exam:</b> English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.
What is the test content?	<b>Math:</b> up to 9th grade basic Geometry & Algebra II. <b>Science:</b> none. <b>Reading:</b> sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension. <b>Writing:</b> an essay, and questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice.	<b>Math:</b> up to Trigonometry. <b>Science:</b> charts, experiments. <b>Reading:</b> four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science. <b>English:</b> stresses grammar.
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes	No
How is the test scored?	200-800 per section, added together for a combined score. A 2400 is the highest possible combined score.	1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score.
Are all scores sent to schools?	<b>Yes</b> , unless "Score Choice" is chosen. (This is a new feature in 2009-10.) Reasoning Test scores cannot be broken down into subsection scores.	<b>No.</b> There is a "Score Choice" option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see.
Are there other uses for the exams?	Scholarship purposes.	Scholarship purposes. Certain statewide testing programs.
Best time to register?	At least <b>six weeks</b> before the test date	At least <b>four weeks</b> before the test date
Need more information?	<b>The College Board</b> <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	<b>ACT, Inc.:</b> <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>

## SAT Subject Tests

Students take the SAT Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects such as English, history, mathematics, science, and foreign languages. The content of each test is not based on any one approach or curriculum but rather evolves to reflect current trends in high school course work.

Some colleges use the Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection.

For private or out-of-state colleges, check their admissions website for requirements. The University of California system no longer requires subject tests, but certain colleges recommend them for certain majors. Check their website ([universityofcalifornia.edu](http://universityofcalifornia.edu)) for specifics. The CSU's do not require or recommend taking the subject tests.

If you have any questions about this, please come to the Career Center or talk to your Counselor.

## Want to try a class at Folsom Lake?

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

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

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

# Test Dates Remaining this School Year

## ACT

October 22, 2011  
 December 10, 2011  
 February 11, 2012  
 April 14, 2012  
 June 9, 2012

Register now  
 for a spring test date!



[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



## SAT

October 1, 2011  
 November 5, 2011  
 December 3, 2011  
 January 28, 2012  
 March 10, 2012 (Subject Test not offered)  
 May 5, 2012  
 June 2, 2012

## El Dorado High School Graduation Requirements

<b>English</b>	40 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	30 credits
(World Hist., U.S. Hist., Gov't., Econ.)	
<b>Math</b>	30 credits
(must include Algebra 1)	
<b>Physical Science</b>	10 credits
<b>Life Science</b>	10 credits
<b>Health</b>	5 credits
<b>Computer Technology</b>	5 credits
<b>Physical Education</b>	20 credits
<b>Fine Arts/ Foreign Language</b>	10 credits
<b>Elective</b>	80 credits
<b>Total:</b>	<b>240 credits</b>

## A-G College Entrance Requirements

- A. **Social Science**—2 years
  - B. **English**—4 years
  - C. **Math**—3 years \*\*  
(Including Algebra 2)
  - D. **Lab Science**—2 years \*\*  
(Biology, Chemistry, Chem A, Medical Arts II,  
Physics, Physiology, AP Biology,  
AP Environmental Science)
  - E. **Foreign Language**—2 years \*\*
  - F. **Visual Performing Art**—1 year
  - G. **College Prep Elective**—1 year
- \*\*Competitive schools recommend taking at least one additional year.



## Explore Your Options

If you haven't been to the career center lately, your Junior year is definitely the time to stop by for a visit. Have you given much thought to your possibilities for a career path? Please make use of the Bridges online career research tool. Our high school's site ID is 1027093 and the password is cougar.

Don't forget about the ROP program for job skill training. Taking an ROP class is an excellent way to enter the workforce with a highly marketable job skill.

We have information on colleges, community

colleges, technical schools, and apprenticeship programs. Many college representatives visit the Career Center to talk to interested students during lunchtime. Don't think that your Junior year is to early—take advantage of the knowledge these people have to offer.

Military recruiters also visit twice each month during lunchtime. Juniors interested in the military academies or ROTC scholarships need to make contact this year to make sure all requirements are being met.

Listen to the bulletin for weekly events, college

information, and guest speakers in the Career Center. The Career Center is for everyone & we're here to answer your questions – stop by to see us!

Ms. Bastian  
 mbastian@eduhd.net  
 Career Guidance Specialist  
 10:30am – 4pm

Ms Sharp  
 jsharp@eduhd.net  
 Career Guidance Specialist  
 7:30am – 10:30am