

El Camino High School

Sophomore Year College/Career Planning

- Continue to earn good grades. Your 9th grade GPA is important for out-of-State and private colleges and universities, but grades earned in your sophomore and junior years are factored in the college entrance GPA for California State Universities and University of California schools.
- Sign up for a Naviance account if you have not already (the link is on the counseling website and the password is your student ID).
- Review the high school curriculum requirements and the profiles of admitted college students (see Naviance) for each of the colleges you are interested in attending.
- Update or start your college file so you can stay organized. You will be receiving a lot of mail.
- Create or update your 4 year plan.
- Continue (or start) extracurricular activities (admissions officers look at students' extracurricular activities when considering them for admission). Make sure you pursue something you are truly passionate about; do not seek activities that do not interest you simply because you think (or heard) they will "look good to colleges."
- Consider taking the PSAT in October (it is only offered one time a year). It is valuable as practice for when you take the PSAT again in your junior year (when the scores will count for National Merit Scholarship consideration), as well as for the SAT you should take during your junior year (after the PSAT).
- Take the Pre Act in December
- Take a SAT Subject Test, if you complete a course that covers the content (especially an AP course). Be sure to register early. SAT subject tests are no longer required for UC schools, but they will be considered as additional information if you take them. Some private schools want them. Check individual college/university websites.