

Websites to checkout:

- College Prowler
- College Confidential
- Student's Review
- Princeton Review
- CSU Mentor
- Univ. of CA. edu
- ED.gov (contains FAFSA)
- CollegeBoard.org
- SAT.collegeboard.org
- CA.gov (CA Student Aid Commission)

Time is Money

Community College

7.2 years for a 4-year degree

18% graduation rate

82% dropout

State College

6.4 years for a 4-year degree

38% graduation rate

62% drop-out

UC

5.8 years for a 4-year degree

72% graduation rate

18% drop-out

Private College

4.5 years for a 4-year degree

94% graduation rate

6% drop-out

Determining Your TARGET SAT, ACT, & GPA Scores

- Highlight the average SAT scores
- Record the highest and lowest score of the five colleges picked. Add and divide by two to get the average score for the colleges you've picked.

• Example:	Harvard	2390	Highest
	UCLA	<u>+ 1730</u>	Lowest
		4120	<i>Divided by 2</i>
		= 2060	TARGET SAT

- Do the same for the ACT scores

To determine Target GPA, find the hardest school of the five colleges chosen- that will be your target GPA

For Un-weighted GPA:

Very Hard	=	4.0
Hard	=	3.8
Average	=	3.2
Easy	=	

2.5

Enter target scores under college counseling & scores page

College Counseling

Based on College and Career Choices

TARGET SAT _____ ACTUAL SAT _____

TARGET ACT _____ ACTUAL ACT _____

TARGET GPA _____ ACTUAL GPA _____

PSAT _____

Math/ Science/ Literature/ Writing

In which direction do I want to go?

- Map out path A-G with which focus- sciences or liberal arts?
- Strategies to improve
- Counseling with individual teachers/ parents
- Accountability- weekly reports

GPA

1st Semester Progress Report _____

1st Semester Grades Report _____

2nd Semester Progress Report..... _____

2nd Semester Grades Report _____

TOTAL GPA: _____

FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal
Student Aid)



EFC

(Expected Family Contribution)

*(What the Government expects you to
pay and determines the amount of
money you're allowed to borrow on
subsidized and unsubsidized loans)*

My EFC is:

9th

10th

11th

12th

Remember: EFC is affected not only by how much money you're making, but also by how many children you have attending college.

PSAT

- Take your PSAT (preliminary SAT)/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test) it goes by either name, every year from 9th to 11th grade. If you are given a hard time because you're in 9th grade, talk to your counselor and Administrator (in our school, we have students as early as 7th grade taking the PSAT).
- They can order extra- the cost is currently \$14.00. Make sure you do this at the very beginning of the year; otherwise you will miss this opportunity which comes but once a year in October.

Note: Taking the PSAT can qualify you for the National Merit Honors Scholarships.

If you are a Latino student, make sure to participate in the NHRP.

SAT

(Scholastic Aptitude Test)

- Take a FREE Practice SAT Test & sign up for the SAT question of the day at www.sat.collegeboard.org
- Take an SAT prep course, or, buy an SAT prep book for specific subjects.
- Take the Mock SAT in 9th and 10th grade to see where your weak areas are. To find mock tests, look at the websites listed in the front page of your notebook.
- In the summer between 10th and 11th grade, take a SAT prep course if at all possible
- For 11th graders, I recommend having them take the SAT in Oct if a summer prep course was taken; otherwise, the May SAT is fine
- For 12th graders, if not satisfied with SAT scores, take SAT prep course over the summer, then take October SAT
- Remember: UC and many larger private colleges also need two SAT subject tests. For UC- this is not mandatory, but highly recommended to be competitive.

- Didn't do well on the SAT? Try the ACT. Sometimes kids who don't do well on the SAT find that they can do better on the ACT.
- Take ACT at least once around the same time as your first SAT
- Have learning disabilities? Contact the College Board to see if you qualify for extra time when taking the SAT.
- Remember, if you are on free or reduced lunch, you can get a fee waiver for the SAT. Your cost = nothing

(QAS Service)

- I recommend in your junior year getting the QAS Service for an extra \$18, when taking the SAT in October, January, or May because they will provide you with:
 1. a copy of the test booklet
 2. a table of the correct answers
 3. a copy of your answers
- Now you can see exactly where you are doing great and where you need to improve. Highly recommended. This service (QAS) is free if you qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Shadowing and Internships

- Start shadowing professionals in areas of interest
(one per semester)
- Write 500 to 750 about your experiences.
- Talk to your parents and other adults you respect about your experiences. Share your written thoughts as well.
- Do an internship- find an interest, start making phone calls and knocking on doors!
- Don't have time during the school year? Plan an internship for the summer.

Community Service and Extracurricular Activities

(Make sure that it pertains to your career goals if at all possible)

- Record hours spent in a log
- Make your own web page about experiences
- At the very *least*, keep a journal
- Seek a passion and pursue it!

Visit Colleges

Make a list of Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons

Write a paragraph about each and reflect on your experience.

- Make sure to eat a meal on campus
- Talk to students
- Talk to professors
- Visit areas of interest
- Have a great time!

Important Things to Remember:

- Colleges care more about a student's unweighted GPA than their weighted GPA.
- Only take weighted courses if you're sure you'll get *at least* a B.
- Always apply to more colleges rather than a few- although it costs more, it will give you more options in the long run!
- Always apply early action whenever possible
- In order to send your FAFSA information to a college, you must list the school's federal school code on your application
- State and UCs' do not need teacher recommendations