

# Petaluma High School to College Road Map for 9th-12th

## **All Grade Levels:**

- Set personal goals and review them monthly to see your progress
- Use a planner (electronic or paper)!
- Keep your grades up!
- Attend after school activities – dances, sports, plays, visit the museum on campus
- Volunteer for community service, join clubs/sports, get involved throughout the year!
- Explore different electives/pathways on campus
- Register for AP exams by spring break (if applicable); tests are in May
- Consider summer activities such as a job, volunteer work, internships, job shadows, SRJC classes, and/or college visits
- Remember to enjoy high school, it goes by quickly & Always show your Trojan Pride!

## **Freshman Year:**

- Meet your counselor, they are vital resources, and write your letters of recommendation!
- Practice good habits early on; they will help you down the road.
- Don't procrastinate; your homework IS important, do it the day it is assigned
- Use tutorial time productively
- Develop strong study skills/organizational habits
- Learn about the College & Career Center
- Create a four year plan with your counselor
- Start an academic resume/portfolio to track your various activities
- Attend college night in the spring semester
- Consider taking challenging (AP/Honors) courses in your strongest subjects for your sophomore year

## **Sophomore Year:**

- Take the PSAT in October, review your PSAT scores online in December/January
- Attend College & Career center events/presentations
- Attend college night in the spring semester
- Continue to add to your academic resume/portfolio
- Take a career interest inventory to see what careers might be a good fit for you – counselors will work with you during spring semester
- Begin making a college list, use these websites for help:  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> & <https://secure.californiacolleges.edu/>
- Select challenging courses for your junior year

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## **Junior Year:**

- Attend college visits in the College & Career Center
- Attend college fairs - both on campus and in the community
- Continue to keep a list of colleges you are interested in - try to have up to 10 colleges and research costs
- Take the PSAT in October & review your scores online in Dec/Jan
- Sign up for the SAT and/or ACT in the Spring
- Do your best on the CAASPP/SBAC: Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam in the spring. This measures your readiness for college level English and Math classes.
- Start looking at scholarships/financial aid info - register with FastWeb  
<http://www.fastweb.com/>
- Interested in becoming a college athlete? Register with the NCAA  
<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- Plan your senior year - make sure you are meeting the college requirements for your schools of choice
- Start rough drafts of college essays in the summer
- Think about writers for your letters of recommendation for private colleges
- Update your resume

## **Senior Year:**

- Meet with your counselor in the Fall - finalize your college list
- Consider making an appointment with Ms. Stoll in the College & Career Center for help with college applications and scholarship information
- Turn in letter of rec packet to counselors/teachers early - 3 weeks notice!
- Participate in Jumpstart Program if attending SRJC
- Come to College Night
- Come to Financial Aid Night
- Come to Cash for College Night
- Finalize SAT/ACT tests - take again by December (if needed)
- College applications - work on your applications, CSUs open 10/1-11/30, UCs open 11/1-11/30 and out of state/private - vary.
- Know the difference between Early Action & Early Decision
- Apply to financial aid starting October 1st - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> & <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>
- Apply to scholarships - see Ms. Stoll for help
- Interview for colleges (if applicable)
- Submit SIR (Statement of Intent to Register) for 4 year colleges by May 1
- Maintain good grades; colleges can rescind acceptance with D's/F's
- Graduate in June - finish strong!