



College Planning: Sophomore Year

All year:

- Challenge yourself academically; take AP, IB, and Honors courses.
 - Most colleges require:
 - 4 years of English
 - 4 years of math
 - 3 years of different lab sciences
 - 2 years of social studies (American History required)
 - 2 years of the same foreign language
 - 1 year of fine art or 1 year CTE (in-state)
- Get and stay involved in activities and community service projects that interest you and seek leadership roles in those activities.
- Maintain a strong GPA (Grade Point Average) throughout high school by developing good study habits and a group of friends that you can study with who share the same goals for success.
- If you start struggling in a class, be sure to talk to your teacher and get a tutor list from your counselor. If you fail or get low grades in any classes, make plans to retake them as soon as possible.
- Develop a plan to pay for college with your parents.

Fall semester:

- Complete **Career Cluster Survey** in [Naviance/Family Connection](#).
Login: Username Password: "Other" password
- Research the careers listed in the Career Cluster results and research the colleges or vocational schools that offer degrees in those career area.
- Update your **4 year Academic Plan**. This will help you focus on the classes you should take to compliment your career and educational choices.
- Study for the PSAT using [Method Test Prep](#)
Login: pvusd.(username)
other password
- Take the PSAT in October. This is the practice SAT test and can help identify AP potential as well as your areas of strength or weakness with regard to this test. See link: [PSAT/ Method Test Prep Information](#)

The bolded items are an ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) requirement through the AZ State Department of Education. Paradise Valley School district provides Naviance/Family Connection for all of our high school students to have a digital portfolio of the required items and provide students and parents with a tool for career and college planning and research. Method Test Prep is an online test preparation program provided to the students of Paradise Valley Unified School District.



- Update your electronic profile in Naviance/Family Connections.
 - Resume**- helps you track the classes and activities you have participated in; such as Honors, AP classes, GPA, Clubs/Organizations, Leadership positions, sports, performing arts, speech and debate, community service, volunteer work, awards, etc.
 - Game Plan** - is your goals, plans and personal information.

Spring semester:

- Complete **Career Interest Profiler** in Naviance/Family Connection.
- Research the careers listed in the Career Cluster results and research the colleges that have degrees in those careers.
- Explore the careers that are related to the one(s) you have chosen and are related to your personal goals.
- Register for courses that best prepare you for the college course requirements.
- Start attending college fairs, requesting information for colleges and researching colleges through Naviance/Family Connection.
- Take AP exams in May (if applicable). AP exams are end of course assessments and should be taken in the same school year you took the AP course(s).
- Take SAT II Subject Tests in June (If applicable- attending an out of state university that has this requirement).
 - For more information about SAT II Subject tests and to get a complete list of universities that require SAT II Subject tests refer to <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/sat-subject/about/institutions>
- Sign-up for Pre-College or Summer Enrichment Programs at the colleges you are interested in attending.
- Check the **Scholarship List** in Naviance/Family Connection and search for scholarships which you feel are a good match for you. Read the criteria to see if there is anything that you need to complete, or participate in that you would have to have done before applying. If you wait until your senior year, you may not have enough time to complete the requirements.

Summer:

- Volunteer for community service, find a job, take a class or attend a summer program.
- Read some books- both for pleasure and to improve your reading and vocabulary.
- Study for the PSAT through Method Test Prep for the October PSAT for National Merit Qualification.
- Visit colleges while on vacation if possible.

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