



COLLEGE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Freshman Foundation

GRADE

9

MYTH:

Colleges do not look at my grades from Freshman year.

TRUTH:

Although your Freshman grades are not always included in your cumulative GPA, most colleges still take your course selection and performance into consideration when making admissions decisions.

PERSONAL INVENTORY:

Do you know your academic strengths and weaknesses? Freshman year is about developing the right study skills to build a strong foundation for the next four years. If you are falling behind in any subject area, get help early.



Discover more information about the 4 systems of higher education

PARENT CORNER

- **Be proactive on behalf of your student!** Take advantage of newsletters, websites, college presentations and other educational opportunities.
- **Help your student plan their summer wisely.** Some colleges ask students to document what they accomplished each summer during high school, so make sure your child is productive.
- **Begin researching the true cost of higher education** by visiting individual college websites. Paying for college is a major concern for most families, so start planning early.

TO DO LIST

- Meet with your counselor to develop a 4-year plan so you take the right classes
- Research the 4 systems of higher education to see which ones interest you
- Get involved! Check out a variety of school clubs, sports, and volunteer opportunities
- Begin asking teachers and family members about their college experiences
- Keep your attendance level up and your behavioral record clean

KEY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Visit 3 or more local colleges. Sign up for college tours online!
- Start exploring college websites like:
 - ▶ www.csumentor.edu
 - ▶ www.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses/
- Prepare for the PSAT by taking free practice tests on www.CollegeBoard.com
- Find a local place to volunteer and commit to it all summer. Colleges love seeing that you made a long-term commitment to one organization!