

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ROADMAP

Freshman to Senior Year | Transfer, career, certificates, and dual enrollment

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPTIONS: Transfer to UC/CSU | Associate degree | Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) | Career Technical Education (CTE) | Certificates | Dual enrollment

9TH EXPLORE

- Build strong habits in English, math, science, history/social science, and electives connected to your interests.
- Learn about local community colleges and the programs they offer.
- Explore careers and majors without feeling pressured to have everything figured out.
- Keep your grades strong so you preserve as many future options as possible.

10TH BUILD

- Continue a solid college-preparatory schedule and stay on track for high-school graduation.
- If academically ready, consider one dual-enrollment course through a local community college.
- Explore CTE programs, certificates, associate degrees, and transfer pathways.
- Start comparing programs, costs, commute, online options, and student-support services.

11TH PLAN

- Use dual enrollment strategically to explore majors, earn college credit, or begin transferable coursework.
- Research whether your goal is transfer, an ADT, an associate degree, a certificate, or direct career preparation.
- If transfer is the goal, begin learning about UC/CSU major preparation and transferable courses.
- Meet with a high-school counselor and, when possible, a community-college counselor before choosing courses.

12TH LAUNCH

- Apply to the community college that best fits your program and goals; community colleges have their own enrollment steps and deadlines.
- Complete orientation, placement/guided placement steps, counseling, registration, and financial-aid forms as required.
- Meet with a college counselor to build an education plan tied to your transfer, degree, certificate, or career goal.
- If planning to transfer later, choose courses carefully so they apply toward your intended major and destination university.

DUAL ENROLLMENT: High-school students can take real community-college courses and earn college credit while still in high school. It can save time and money and help students explore majors, but grades become part of the student's permanent college transcript, so choose courses carefully.

WORTH MORE TIP: Community college can be a strategic first choice - not a backup plan. California community colleges offer transfer pathways to UC/CSU, Associate Degrees for Transfer, certificates, career training, and lower-cost general education options.

There's Just Not One Pathway to Success. | Plan early. Know your options. Choose your pathway.

Current as of August 2026. Community college programs, transfer rules, and dual-enrollment procedures vary by college; verify requirements with the student's high school and local community college. Official reference: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.