

Steps to take as a College-Bound Student at CV

This document is meant to be an overview of the steps students should take if they are planning to go to college. Please visit our [Beyond CV page](#), the Beyond CV office or schedule an appointment with your counselor for more information.

Steps to Take by Grade Level

FRESHMAN YEAR

College Now

Sign up for this free program where you can earn transferable college credits while attending classes at CVHS. Students register one time online for all high school College Now credits. For more information visit our [College Now](#) page online.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

PSAT

You will be automatically registered to take the PSAT in October at no cost to you. This will help you prepare you for the SAT and will give you feedback on your strengths and enables practice for SAT with automatic connection to Khan Academy's free online SAT practice system.

Advanced Placement (AP) classes

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program provides high school students an opportunity to take college-level coursework and earn college credit or advanced placement in college classes. Meet with your counselor to see what AP classes you should take while you are a junior/senior at CV to get a head start on your college coursework!

JUNIOR YEAR

Beyond CV/Career Center

- Schedule a one-on-one meeting in the Beyond CV/Career Center to go through college-prep action items you'll want to complete during junior year.

Standardized Tests (PSAT, SAT & ACT)

- Many colleges require you to take the SAT or ACT (for a list of colleges that DO NOT require these tests, go to fairtest.org). Students who are taking one or both of these tests usually take it for the first time at the end of their junior year, or at the beginning of senior year.
- If you have free/reduced lunch, you are eligible for fee waivers! These are available in Beyond CV.

- Decide which of the tests (ACT or SAT) you plan to take (if any). One of the main differences between the two is the inclusion of a science section on the ACT. Refer to their websites for further information (and talk about it during your one-to-one in Beyond CV.

ACT (act.org)

SAT (collegeboard.org)

- Take the PSAT again if you want to be entered into the National Merit Scholarship program. As a junior there will be a fee if you want to take the PSAT unless you are on free and reduced lunch.

Exploring Different Fields of Study

- If you already have a career in mind, try to job shadow someone in that field. This can often help you find out if you really do see yourself in that career. If the job shadow reaffirms your interest, great! If it makes you reconsider, also great! Now you know something you don't want to do and you've found out before taking the time to study/prep for it!
- Explore careers and college majors at bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Check out college and university websites to find out what majors/programs they offer.
- Take the ASVAB test to help you identify your interests, abilities, preferences, and then have them matched to occupations. Even though this test is sponsored by the military, results are not shared with them. CV offers the ASVAB once a year, usually in January.
- Find and explore occupations on CIS.
Login: username = firstnamelastname
password: firstinitialcapitalizedlastinitiallowercasestudentID (only one zero)

SENIOR YEAR

Colleges/Universities

- Schedule a college appointment with your counselor to discuss the college process. During this time they will go over how to request letters of recommendation, transcripts, Common Application etc.. You will also get information about this when you are in Senior Seminar.
- If you need any additional guidance schedule a meeting in Beyond CV.
- Begin to narrow down your potential fields of study
 - DO NOT feel like you have to pick a major right now! Most colleges do not require you to declare your major until the end of sophomore year.
 - Questions to consider:
 - What classes did I find most interesting?
 - What are my strongest skills?
 - Where do I want to live? (big city, small town)
 - Do I feel more comfortable in a smaller school, or one with thousands of students?

➤ Do I want to be close to home or across the country?

- Make a timeline of application due dates for all the colleges you are considering. There are different kinds of deadlines that you will need to be aware of including Early Decision, Early Action, Rolling admission etc. You can go to the website of the college that you are interested to find the deadline or you can go to <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Look at college/university websites for campus tour dates and programs where you can even get the chance to stay in a dorm with a current student. Some colleges have fly in programs for those students that have been admitted to their college so you can attend events for prospective students at no cost to you.

Financial Aid/Scholarships

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Opens up October 1 every year (and needs to be completed EVERY year you are in college). Fill the FAFSA as soon as you can to also be eligible for state aid.
- The information you provide on this online form determines your financial need
- The FAFSA is required for financial aid (loans, grants, etc.) as well as many scholarships
- Check out our FAFSA Tips document for more information on FAFSA

For a list of scholarships and more financial aid information go to the [Beyond CV Financial Aid](#) page.

Recommended Resources

Writing Center at CV

Stop by the Writing Center in the library to get help on your College essays and scholarship application essays.

As you are filling out college and scholarship applications you might find some terms that are unfamiliar. Check on the websites below that give you definitions of commonly used terms in the college and financial aid process.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-admission-glossary>

<https://www.fastweb.com/college-search/articles/the-college-admission-and-application-glossary>

National Organizations

You can find college, career and financial aid information on *BigFuture*

bigfuture.collegeboard.org

I'm First provides a list of websites that have scholarship lists. They also have a blog with advice from first generation students where they also share their experience being in the first generation in their family to go to college.

<http://www.imfirst.org/scholarship/>

Oregon Organizations

Office of Student Access and Completion <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/>

First generation hard book copies in English and Spanish in Beyond CV

Resources at Oregon Public universities

University of Oregon (U of O)

- **Pathway** through this program tuition and fees are covered by a variety of grants and scholarships for those students that are Pell grant eligible. Provides academic and personal support.

<http://pathwayoregon.uoregon.edu/>

Oregon State University (OSU)

- **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** is a program that provides support to students from migrant and seasonal farm worker backgrounds during their first year in college

<https://camp.oregonstate.edu/>

- **Priority Access to Textbook Lending Program**

Eligible students have priority access to our Textbook Lending Program during the first week of each term.

<http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/hsrc/textbooks/priority-access>