



FAQs & Resources for Incoming Senior Class of 2021

Access the digital version with links to important resources.

Where can I find graduation requirements and course descriptions?

[Visit the SMHS Course Catalog.](#)

- Online course catalog has course descriptions, graduation requirements, etc.)
- Consult your current teachers
- SMUSD requires all students to be on campus for a minimum of four periods.

Where can I get AP & Honors information?

[Visit the SMHS AP/Honors Guide.](#)

- **Year-long courses**- you are making a commitment to completing both semesters
- Deadline to request course changes for 2020-21 is June 1
- AP/honors testimonials by SMHS students.

How do I get information about the SAT and/or ACT?

[Visit the Career Center SAT/ACT Site.](#)

- SAT info at collegeboard.org
- ACT info at actstudent.org
- Take during your junior year
- **Free** test prep class on Mondays from 3-4pm
- Fee waivers are available for eligible students
- Not needed for community college admissions

How can I get HS and college credit for having a job?

[Visit the SMHS Work Experience Page.](#)

- Work 12-15 hours/week
- No class to attend- just do your job and complete HW independently
- Turn in work to Mrs. Stout
- Earn 3 Palomar units = 5 SMHS credits

Contact Mrs. Stout
lisa@thesanmarcospromise.org

How can I remediate a D or F?

- Pass your classes- there are few options for remediation
- SMUSD summer school will only have one session in 2020
- A law was recently passed affecting enrollment in public charter schools, even for the summer. To take a summer course at a public charter, students must disenroll from their current HS before summer and then re-enroll in August before school starts. This means potential loss of the elective(s) you picked during course selection.

See your counselor if you have further questions.

How do I get the CA State Seal of Biliteracy on my HS diploma?

[Visit the CA Seal of Biliteracy Site.](#)

- (1) Completion of all ELA reqs for graduation with a GPA of 2.0 or above
- (2) Passing the CAASPP for ELA, grade 11, at or above "standard met"
- (3) Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated by:
 - (A) Passing a world lang AP exam with a 3 or higher
 - (B) Completing 4-yrs in a world lang, with a GPA of 3.0 or above
 - (C) Passing the SAT II world lang exam with a score of 600

Career? Jobs? Major? What are my options?

Mr. Roy from The San Marcos Promise can help
rogelio.huerta@smusd.org

Mr. Roy is in the College and Career Center every day from 12:30 - 3:00 pm

- Career interest inventories
- Match majors and careers to your interests
- Job searches
- Resume writing
- Interview skills

Financial aid info? College searches? Work permits?

[Visit the Career Center Website.](#)

The Career Center is open every day from 7am to 3:30pm and offers events, programs and assistance related to:

- Post-high school options
- College Admissions Rep visits
- College Applications
- Financial Aid
- SAT & ACT
- Scholarships
- Job search & work permits
- Military information
- Community service

Contact Mrs. Liu
alison.liu@smusd.org

What is the UC system looking for in admissions?	Planning to play a sport in college?	How do I get more information on CSU admissions?	What should I think about when choosing next year's courses?
<p><u>Visit the UC Admissions Site.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of California is selective and uses a 14-factor comprehensive review process. • The UC system recommends that students exceed the minimum A-G requirements. • Use summer to think about and/or write the PIQs (Personal Insight Questions- they are on the UC websites) 	<p><u>Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center page.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students interested in playing at the Division 1 or 2 level should register with the NCAA. • Please be sure to inform your coach and athletic director, Mr. Meyer. • See your counselor for an academic review of your transcript to ensure eligibility. Be sure to inform him/her of your academic and athletic goals. • Be sure to watch for and attend the annual NCAA parent/student night in November at SMHS. 	<p><u>Visit the CSU Admissions Site.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 23 campuses of the CSU system use the A-G requirements. • Cal Poly San Luis Obispo evaluates applications differently than the other 22 CSU campuses (uses grade 9 GPA, recommends additional A-G coursework, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BALANCE- students have enough stress on their plate with family, friends, jobs, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, etc. How many hours do you have after school to devote to studying? • What types of colleges appeal to me and what are their course recommendations for admissions and major? (see each school's website) • What majors and careers interest me? Can I find courses that support my interests? • Be sure to pick courses that are a fit for YOU- not just what your friends are doing.
How do I take a course at Palomar College or Mira Costa College?	Do all four-year universities require the SAT and/or ACT?	How do I become an Honor Grad?	What are some characteristics of a student who thrives in AP courses?
<p><u>Get the Palomar Steps and K-12 Form.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses count for elective credits at SMHS (not English, history, math, etc.) • HS students may take courses for free (you pay for books and health fee) • Get a K-12 form from your counselor with instructions for enrolling • Pay close attention to their deadlines (for dropping a course, paperwork, homework, etc.) • Community college transcript follows you and can affect fin aid, 4-year admissions, etc. 	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many universities no longer require the SAT or ACT. • These schools are referred to as "test optional" or "test flexible" • http://fairtest.org/university/optional provides a list of schools and the details of their requirements • Some majors (often STEM) and/or universities recommend or even require the SAT Subject tests. Be sure to check university admissions websites for details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are designated as honor grads will wear a silver robe at graduation • Per board policy, "Honor graduates must have an overall GPA of 3.75 or higher by the end of the second progress report of the second semester of their senior year." • The GPA used is your cumulative (grades 9-12) overall GPA. • The second progress report for second semester will also be used to determine final GPA eligibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrives on rigor • Demonstrates reading stamina • Displays intellectual curiosity • An analytical and deliberate writer • Independent learner and self-motivated • Attentive to deadlines and an effective time manager • Enjoys a challenge • Able to handle a heavy workload effectively