



FAQs & Resources for Incoming Freshmen and Sophomores

Access the digital version with links to important resources.

Where can I find graduation requirements and course descriptions online?

[SMHS Course Catalog](#)
[SMHS Graduation Requirements](#)

- 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 online?

[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 1st
- 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?

- SMUSD summer school may be possible, if space is available.
- Charter schools that offer summer classes (check with each school for their enrollment process).
- Credit recovery classes - grades 10-12 w/ seniors having enrollment priority.

See your counselor if you have further questions. For courses taken outside of SMUSD, students must complete a Request for Outside Credit Form.

What are some characteristics of a student who thrives in AP courses?

- 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

What is CTE and how do I complete a Pathway?

[Visit the SMUSD CTE info page](#)

- Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in 16 Career Clusters and 79+ career pathways throughout the US .
- SMHS offers 11 CTE pathways
- Students completing a minimum of two levels within a CTE pathway will be recognized at graduation with a special CTE cord.

What should I think about when choosing next year's courses?

BALANCE

- School-life balance is critical for optimal academic performance.
- Consider amount of time available to devote to classes, athletics, extracurriculars, family, volunteering, etc
- Choose classes that support interests and future goals and
- Pick courses that are a fit for YOU- not your friends.

Recommended Daily Study Time
College Prep Class - 30 minutes
Honors Class - 45 minutes
AP Class - 1 hour

What is the UC system looking for in admissions?

How do I get more information on CSU admissions?

Planning to play a sport in college?

How do I become an Honor Grad?

[Visit the UC Admissions Site.](#)

- 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)

[Visit the CSU Admissions Site.](#)

- 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.).

[Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center page.](#)

- 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.

- 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 2nd progress report for 2nd semester will also be used to determine final GPA eligibility.

How do I take a course at Palomar College or Mira Costa College?

Career? Jobs? Major? What are my options?

Financial aid info? College searches? Work permits?

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

[Get the Palomar Steps and K-12 Form.](#)

- 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.

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

[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

[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