



Spring Quarterly Update

For 2018-2019 Freshmen

Making School Count

- **Start an activities journal.** Keep track of your extracurricular activities, including sports, hobbies, volunteer work, and clubs. Keeping a record of your activities (including honors and awards) will be valuable if you apply to join [Hanford Link Crew](#) or the [National Honor Society](#), and will help you fill out your college applications later. Importantly, it may also help you find a few activities that you especially enjoy and can develop over the next few years.
- **AP tests and college credit.** You don't need to take the AP test in order for AP courses to help you stand out in college admissions. However, students who take and pass the AP test can earn college credits that create greater flexibility in their college curriculum. This blog explains [how AP tests are scored](#) and how those scores translate to college credit.

Looking Ahead to College

- **Get familiar with college admissions tests.** Almost all colleges require that students take a college admissions test. Today's ACT and SAT are different from the tests parents remember. Here's a brief [overview of current college admissions tests](#) and their role in college admissions.

Careers & Majors

- **How to find a great summer job.** Summer provides a much-needed break from high school schedules and pressures. It's also a great time to earn money for college, expand your skills, and build your college resume. Check out these links to [find a summer job](#) that suits you and [boost your credentials in fun ways](#).
- **Job shadowing.** Summer also offers a great chance to explore possible careers and obtain valuable experience by spending time observing ("shadowing") professionals doing their jobs. Job shadowing opportunities may take time to set up, so start exploring options now and don't limit your search to formal programs - you can expand your search by asking parents, relatives, teachers, coaches and other adults for potential job shadowing opportunities. Find out more about the [benefits of and tips for successful job shadowing](#).

Finding Colleges for You

- **Make college visits part of your summer plan.** Do you like big universities or small colleges? Urban, suburban or rural settings? A more closed or open college campus? Summer can be a great time to explore what you want in a college. Consider making college visits part of a planned family vacation or other summer travel. At this point in your college search, finding the right college is less important than discovering what qualities you like in a college. Here are some quick tips for [starting your college tours early](#).
- **How to choose a college that fits you best.** Last quarter, we suggested you start exploring specific colleges with this [quick guide to starting your college search](#). Now, use this [college search tool](#) to explore additional options using different "filters" (e.g., type of school, location, selectivity, academic programs, sports and activities).

Paying for College

- **See how you can afford college.** College can be expensive, but it may be more affordable than you think. Listen to interviews with Myra Smith, Executive Director of Financial Aid Services at the College Board, to hear [frequently asked questions about college costs](#) and [tips for getting a conversation started](#) with your family about paying for college.

Mark Your Calendar!

- **April 8, 2019 – Start of 4th Quarter.** Spring break marked the end of 3rd quarter and the beginning of the final quarter for the 2018-19 academic year. Now is a good time to make any mid-course corrections needed to reach your GPA target.
- **May 6 -17, 2019 – AP Testing.** Learn more about AP tests and testing schedule [here](#).