

## Planning Courses for High School (8.4)

**Goal: Students will learn how to use the CaliforniaColleges.edu Academic Planner in order to plan courses for high school.**

### Lesson Time Options

This lesson requires one 45-60 minute class period, though more time is optimal. This lesson is usually facilitated by a counselor. Educators are strongly encouraged to complete Growth Mindset (8.3) prior to this lesson to facilitate the most holistic planning process. Taking this approach provides opportunities for counselors and teachers to collaborate to support holistic and student-centered approaches to high school planning.

### Student Materials

- Chromebook/Laptop
- Internet Access
- Worksheet

### In This Packet

This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.

- Educator Guide
- Student Worksheet

As this lesson plan is designed for counseling intervention, it is not intended for standards alignment. However, teachers may find natural connections and use this lesson during instructional time.

## Planning Courses for High School: Educator Guide

**Goal:** Students will learn how to use the [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu) Academic Planner in order to plan courses for high school.

### Recommended Preparation

- Review the **Student Worksheet**. The worksheet provides clear instructions for students to complete the lesson. Determine how you will use the worksheet.

### Getting Started

- You may print the **Student Worksheet** for students or embed the link in the materials you share with students.

### Guiding Question

- How can we support students in selecting the best high school courses for their needs?

### Bell Work (5 minutes)

- Students will respond to the following questions: What are your aspirations? Are you clear what coursework you need to take to reach your aspirations?
- Students will consider the statement, “I believe that I can take and succeed in rigorous coursework” and discuss their thoughts with an elbow partner.

### Activity (30-40 minutes)

1. During the first part of the lesson, students conduct research to learn about “a-g,” career pathways, and high school graduation requirements. They are asked to record what they learn, including questions they have. It is optimal that a counselor or other educator is available at the end of this exploration to answer questions, clarify “a-g” and career pathways, and offer more district-specific information about high school graduation requirements. If a middle school counselor is unavailable, consider inviting a high school counselor from within the district. At minimum, collect all questions and ensure there is a process for follow-up with students.
2. Students plan courses in the **Academic Planner** on [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu).

### Reflection (5 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #04: “What do you think you need to succeed in the courses you have selected? Who are the people in your life that can help you succeed?”*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

## Planning Courses for High School: Student Worksheet

**Goal:** You will learn how to use the [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://www.californiacolleges.edu) Academic Planner in order to plan courses for high school.



### Part I: Bell Work

What are your aspirations? Are you clear on what coursework you need to take to reach your aspirations? Record your initial thoughts below.

Next, think about the statement, “I believe that I can take and succeed in rigorous coursework.” Explain your response. Record your thoughts below and then discuss with an elbow partner.

### Part II: Activity I

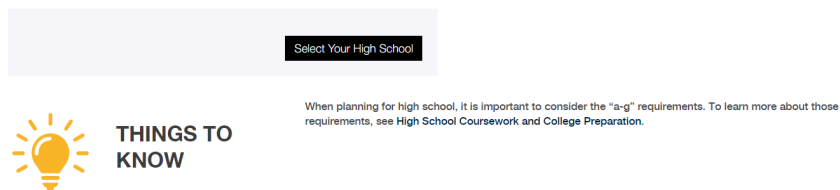
Today you will plan your high school classes (also known as courses). As you plan, consider how your coursework selections can support your career interests, offer you the ability to grow your intelligence, and best prepare you for life after high school. There are often different types of courses available at your high school that you should consider learning about.

1. Begin by signing in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Click on the magnifying glass icon (  ) in the upper right-hand corner and type “a-g.” Click on **California Colleges Learn about “a-g”** to read about these important requirements. Record any notes and questions below. If your future plans include attending a four-year college like a UC, CSU, or an independent school (like USC) directly after high school, you will need to complete the “a-g” course sequence and earn grades of C- or better.
2. Another type of course is CTE (career pathway courses). Click the magnifying glass icon (  ) again and type “career pathway.” Click on **California Colleges Career Pathways** to learn more. What is a career pathway? Record what you learn below.

3. Your high school will also have graduation requirements. Go back to the search tool and type “high school graduation.” Click on **California Colleges Get to Know the Different High School Course Requirements**. What are high school graduation requirements? Who can you talk with to learn more about your high school’s requirements? Record what you learn below.

## Part II: Activity II

1. You will now begin your high school course planning process. As you plan, write down your questions below and use them as a guide to talk with your counselor.
2. To begin, make sure you are signed in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**, hover or click on **My Plan**, and click on **Academic Planner**.
3. From within the **Academic Planner**, click on **Select Your High School** in the **Things To Know** section.



4. Select your school district and then the high school you plan to attend. Click on **Save**.
5. Now you can start planning! Scroll down to the grid. To add courses, click on a plus (+) sign in any of the boxes. This will add a course for a specific subject area and grade level.
6. Select a course name from the dropdown menu. These are courses offered at your high school. Indicate the term type and term. Click **Submit** so the course will be added to the Academic Planner. If you believe courses are missing, talk with your counselor.
7. Repeat the same process until you plan all your high school courses.

**Add Planned Course**  
9th Grade History / Social Science

Select a course name, term type, and term from the dropdowns.

Select Course Name ▾

Select Term Type ▾

Select Term ▾

Cancel Submit

## Part III: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **Academic Journal** section find **prompt #04**:  
*“What do you think you need to succeed in the courses you have selected? Who are the people in your life that can help you succeed?”*
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.