**HOW TO GET TO COLLEGE**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**
- Talk to friends and family about careers and possible school choices.
- Take Algebra 1 or another rigorous math course and aim for good grades.
- Take a language other than your first language.
- Take CADRs courses to meet University admissions requirements—Honors English, Algebra 1 or Geometry, and a foreign language.
- Build a flexible schedule allowing for study time, extracurricular activities, and your other interests.

**9TH GRADE**
- Take Geometry or Algebra 2.
- Take Honors English.
- Take the PSAT exam. Not all universities require the SAT or ACT, but it is important to prepare just in case the university you choose requires this entrance exam.

**10TH GRADE**
- Continue to take CADRs courses to meet University admissions requirements. Take Algebra 2 or Advanced Math.
- Take Honors English.
- Take the PSAT exam if you did not take it in 10th grade. Not all universities require the SAT or ACT, but it is important to prepare just in case the university you choose requires this entrance exam.

**11TH GRADE**
- Complete all CADRs course requirements, including college prep English and advanced math. Trigonometry or Analytic Geometry/Calculus are also recommended.
- Take a senior-year math course. This course will strengthen your skills so you’ll be better prepared for college coursework.

**12TH GRADE**
- Continue to take CADRs courses to meet University admissions requirements. (History, English, Math, Lab Science, Foreign Language, and Visual and Performing Arts.
- Register for AP exams in the Spring. You can earn college credits if you score well on these test(s).
- If you know the college of your choice requires the SAT or ACT, take it sometime during your Junior year.

- October 1 - November 30: Apply to the colleges of your choice early.
- October 1 - March 2: Apply for financial aid starting October 1. The priority deadline is March 2.
- LATE SPRING: If you are taking AP classes, register for the AP exams. You can earn college credit if you score a 3 or more on the exams.

**ABBREVIATIONS**
- ACT: American College Testing
- AP: Advanced Placement
- CADRS: College Academic Distributions Requirements
- PSAT: Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test
- SAT: Scholastic Assessment Test

**CADRs:**
- English: 4 credits
- Math: 3 credits
- Science: 3 credits
- World Languages: 2 credits
- Fine, visual or performing arts: 0.5 credit
- Academic electives: 0.5 credit

**WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**

For more information contact the UW Tacoma Pre-Collegiate Programs: tacoma.uw.edu/pre-collegiate