



# It's never too early to start preparing for college

## Freshman year

- Schedule time with your guidance counselor
  - Discuss courses that will best prepare you for college admissions requirements
  - Strongly consider taking pre-AP classes
  - Focus on building strong math, verbal and reasoning skills
- Find something you really like doing, and get involved. Sign up for extracurricular activities by joining clubs or sports that interest you

## Sophomore year

- Meet with your counselor and, based on your interests, select challenging courses (including AP classes) and extracurricular activities
- Get ready for college-admission tests by taking the PSAT

## Junior year

- Meet with your guidance counselor to review your schedule and make sure you are taking strategic college-prep courses. Talk with your counselor about:
  - Your PSAT scores and the colleges that interest you
  - Courses to take your senior year that match your college requirements
- Register to take the SAT/ACT test
  - Start preparing for the SAT/ACT. Guidebooks with information and sample tests are available at public libraries, bookstores, your school and online
- If you aren't already doing so, consider taking AP courses (calculus, computer science, etc.)
  - If you are already taking AP courses, register for AP exams
- Research your favorite colleges and universities
  - Contact the schools to set up campus tours if you are able to visit them
  - Start searching for scholarships through your school library and online resources
- Apply for summer programs, summer jobs, camps, study programs, internships, and even volunteer work

## Senior year

- Meet with your guidance counselor to:
  - Make sure you've taken the right courses to help you succeed in your chosen field, such as those that are needed to enroll in a STEM major
  - Periodically check in with your counselor to ensure you stay on track with your goals
- Apply to college
  - Go online to access the application forms for the colleges that interest you
  - Begin asking your teachers and others (such as coaches, mentors and work supervisors) for letters of recommendation
  - Begin submitting your applications
  - Ask your counselor to send your high school transcript to the colleges where you applied
  - Remember to have your counselor mail your final high school transcript to the college you will attend
- Research financial assistance
  - Apply for a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Personal Identification Number (PIN)
- Prepare for attending college
  - Apply for summer enrichment programs to get used to the rigors of college programs and to get a jump start on your first semester
  - Aspiring STEM majors should consider pre-college prep programs to brush up on science and math concepts they learned in high school



## Preparing for college

Information every high school student needs to know!

### Useful links:

#### Register for AP exam

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/takingtheexam>

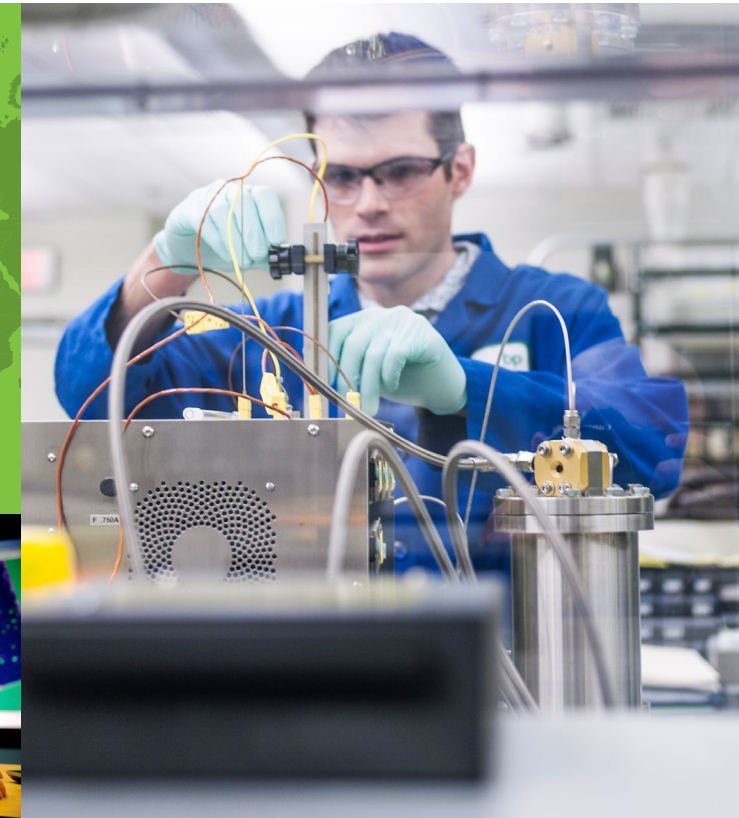
#### Apply for summer programs

<https://careercornerstone.org/~careerc2/pcprogproj.htm>

#### Free application for Federal Student Aid

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

[bp.com/STEMed](http://bp.com/STEMed)  
[bp.com/uscampus](http://bp.com/uscampus)





# Getting started

It's never too early to begin working toward getting into college, but if you are in high school, you should definitely...

## Start thinking about colleges and universities that interest you

Do some research online and gather information about entrance requirements and majors offered at your preferred colleges. You can also learn more about size, student services, campus life, tuition and other costs.

Why is this important? This will help you think about what you need to do in high school to get into the college or university of your choice.

Remember:

- Take the time to build a relationship with your counselor or a teacher who can offer ongoing advice and support
- Grades are important, so keep that in mind even during your freshman and sophomore years
- Take classes that support your college ambitions
- If you can, take a prep course for the SAT/ACT
- Develop and maintain strong study skills
- Identify three teachers to provide a letter of recommendation for you
- Build leadership and team-building skills through community or school activities

## Look into funding options

- Research scholarships, financial aid, grants, student loans, work-study programs and other opportunities
- If you have questions, don't be afraid to speak to your school counselor or the university's admissions office

## Think about finding a good mentor

- Mentors can offer advice, support and help you reach your goals



# So, what do employers look for?

Employers look for well-rounded students with both technical and soft skills

## What does "well-rounded" mean?

- A strong GPA, which shows a good understanding and commitment to your studies
- Participation in school activities, volunteering or community service
- Potential work experience, including internships/co-ops or part-time jobs

## What are technical skills?

- Analytical skills
- Digital fluency and mastery of software applications
- Project management capabilities

## What are soft skills?

- Strong written and verbal communications skills
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Leadership skills
- Time management and organization
- Teamwork, flexibility and professionalism

# Benefits of a college degree

## Studies show having a college degree can:

- Increase self-esteem
- Provide greater overall health
- Provide better job opportunities than non-graduates



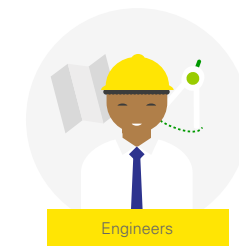
# About BP and STEM

Almost two-thirds of BP's current U.S.-based employees work in STEM related roles, while more than half of new graduate hires over the next decade will require a STEM degree.

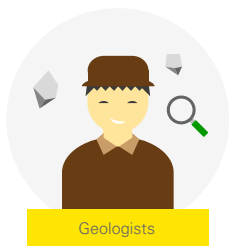
By 2018, there will be

**8M**  
STEM-related jobs  
for Americans

Many of them will be in the energy sector, including



Engineers

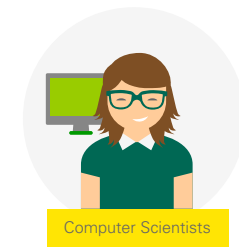


Geologists



**\$91K**

Average annual salary for careers in the oil & gas industry



Computer Scientists



Offshore Drillers

BP is a leader in the energy industry and one of the leaders in **STEM education investment**

