



Planning to Go to College?

Smarter Balanced and your 12th-grade coursework choices can help

College leaders in eight states believe students who score well on Smarter Balanced tests and take challenging courses throughout high school will enter college ready to succeed. More than 220 colleges, universities, and community and technical colleges in these states have agreed to allow students who score a 3 or 4 on Smarter Balanced tests to enroll directly in entry-level credit-bearing courses once they are admitted.

NOTE: All of Washington's public higher education institutions accept Smarter Balanced scores as an indicator of college readiness.

How can I use my Smarter Balanced scores?

- Use scores to help you choose which English and math courses to take in 12th grade to prepare you for life after high school.
- Apply to and meet admissions requirements of the college or university of your choice. If you are accepted, and that school has agreed to accept Smarter Balanced scores, a score of 3 or 4 will allow you to avoid further placement testing and costly remedial classes. You may enter directly into entry-level credit-bearing courses if you enroll the year you graduate from high school.

Contact individual colleges or universities to find out their process for receiving the scores.

What if I don't get a 3 or 4?

You do not need to receive a score of 3 or 4 to graduate from high school or get into college. But lower scores may indicate that there are certain skills and knowledge you need to work on before leaving high school.

Work with your teachers and counselors to identify gaps and make a plan for boosting your skills before arriving at college.

"Bridge-to-College" courses are 12th-grade English and math courses designed for students who score a 2 on the Smarter Balanced high school tests.

Students who earn a "B" or better in Bridge courses are eligible for entry-level credit-bearing coursework in community and technical colleges.

Learn
more!

Smarter Balanced

www.k12.wa.us/smarter

Learn
more!

Ready. Set. Grad.

www.readysetgrad.org

Learn
more!

College Course Placement

bit.ly/SB-HigherEd
www.wsac.wa.gov/college-readiness

Learn
more!

Bridge-to-College Courses

bit.ly/BridgeToCollege

To see a **video** that explains this graphic and how students can use Smarter Balanced scores and High School & Beyond Plan to chart their path to success after high school, visit <http://bit.ly/SB-scores>.

READY WA

USING SMARTER BALANCED SCORES TO CHART YOUR PATH

Currently, only 89 percent of adults in Washington have a high school diploma or equivalent, and just less than 50 percent of these adults have a postsecondary credential. By 2023, Washington State is aiming for all adults in the state to have a high school diploma and at least 70 percent of adults to have a post-secondary credential.

Getting students on the pathway to success after high school is where the Common Core State Standards come in. They provide clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12th grade.

SBA SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

The Smarter Balanced assessment system, which is aligned to the new Common Core State Standards, provides a way to measure student progress on those standards throughout the year and make adjustments and interventions as necessary to help ensure students are on the pathway to success. The assessments are administered in grades 3 - 8 and 11.

HS+BP HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

The High School & Beyond Plan brings parent/guardians, educators and students together to develop each student's personalized pathway toward college- and career-readiness. The plan outlines educational and career goals, and the courses, exams, and community or work-related experiences necessary to get them there. Review the plan with your family, teachers and guidance counselors throughout high school to make sure you're on track to reach your goals.

Your **Smarter Balanced Assessment** scores will fall into one of four levels. You will receive a SBA score for math and a separate SBA score for English. Whether you score 1-2, or 3-4, there is a pathway to success.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

YOU'VE GOT THIS!

You have many options after high school, but it's going to take hard work and extra help to get there.

Stay focused!
Meet with your counselors and make sure to focus on areas of improvement.

Ask for help!
Check in with your teachers, counselor and/or parents about extra help.

Challenge yourself!
Take more rigorous courses.

YOU CAN DO THIS!

You CAN go to college, but it's going to take focus, determination and extra help to get there.

Transition courses
For high school seniors who need additional help to prepare for entering and being successful in college, teams of teachers and college faculty are developing and offering transition courses.



After receiving your SBA scores in both English and math, work with your parents/guardians, counselor and teachers to develop a **High School & Beyond Plan** to help set goals for your high school years.

9TH GRADE
Check in regularly with your teachers, parents, and counselor to make sure you stick to your plan.

10TH GRADE
HS+BP Check-in



12TH GRADE
HS+BP Check-in



GREAT WORK!
You're on the college- and career-ready path!

Maintain a challenging yet manageable schedule.

Keep your parent(s)/guardians in the loop.

Plan ahead!
Find out what rigorous classes you can take as well as those that offer college credit.

KEEP IT UP!
You're on target to be college- and career-ready by 12th grade.

Save money!
Earn college credit and reduce costs through Running Start, Advanced Placement, or other dual-credit options.



RESOURCES

Ready Washington:
www.readywa.org

Graduation Requirements:
www.sbe.wa.gov/graduation.php

Ready. Set. Grad. interactive college planning website:
www.readyssetgrad.org

Funding for this work is provided as part of the Improving Student Learning at Scale grant opportunity: www.wsac.wa.gov/isls-group