

# MAKING A PLAN TO GET ON A CAREER AND COLLEGE PATH BEFORE GRADUATION

To help you on the pathway for success after high school, Washington adopted new career- and college-ready learning standards, which define what you should know and be able to do at each grade level.

In Washington, we measure how you and your school are doing in meeting these standards with the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The assessment measures knowledge and skills that are important to your future, including problem-solving, writing and critical thinking. The assessment helps you, your family and teachers know how you are doing in school and what supports you may need to help achieve your dreams. If you scored below career- and college-ready on your math or English assessments, you're not alone. Some of your classmates are in the same situation, and with hard work and extra help you can get back on the career- and college-ready path.

## What does career- and college-ready mean?

Being career- and college-ready means you have the skills to succeed in college credit-bearing courses or in the job training necessary for your chosen career.

Scoring a 3 or higher on the math or English assessment is one way of demonstrating that you are on track for college or career training. If you scored below a 3 on your math or English assessment, you can still plan for college or career training.

## You can still become career- and college-ready if you scored a 1 or 2 on the math or English assessments.

You can graduate high school ready to succeed in college, an apprenticeship or a professional and technical program, but it will take some motivation and planning.

Your school and community are ready to help you on the pathway to success. Consider the following opportunities to help achieve your goals:

- **Enroll in Bridge to College transition course** (if available at your school) that can help get you back on the career- and college-ready path.
- **Attend tutoring** (if offered) by your school or community organizations.
- **Choose a math or English Collection of Evidence (COE) course.**
- **Explore options** for after school and summer programs.
- **Keep up good attendance** and homework habits.
- **Access free online resources**, such as the Khan Academy.
- **Identify and connect with mentors** who can guide and support you.
- **Lead your school conferences** with your teachers and family. Discuss your progress, challenges, and goals for the future.
- **Use your High School and Beyond Plan** to outline how to reach your educational and career goals. Review the plan with your family and school counselor throughout high school to make sure you're on track to reaching your goals.
- **Take a tour of a college** to see how your hard work and dedication can pay off and celebrate your successes, like raising your score on the SBA, along your journey to becoming career- and college-ready.

## WHAT DO THE SBA SCORES MEAN?

Tests are scored on a 1 to 4 scale. If you score a 3 or 4, you are on target to be career- and college-ready by the end of 12th grade. If you scored a 1 or 2 you can still get on a pathway to college, but it's going to take some extra work—and maybe a bit more time—to be ready for college or career training. You may also need to take extra high school courses to catch up, or you may need to take pre-college courses at the college or university.

## TRANSITION COURSES



Bridge to College transition courses are full-credit, one-year courses taught during the school day at high schools during senior year. Students who scored a 2 on the high school assessment and subsequently earn a B or higher in these courses can enroll in college level math or English at participating Washington higher education institutions, including the state's 34 community and technical colleges. Ask your counselor or learn more at [www.bridgetocollegecourses.org](http://www.bridgetocollegecourses.org)

## RESOURCES:

**Ready Washington**  
[www.readywa.org](http://www.readywa.org)

**Ready Set Grad**  
[www.readysetgrad.org](http://www.readysetgrad.org)

**Bridge to College transition courses**  
[www.bridgetocollegecourses.org](http://www.bridgetocollegecourses.org)

**Collection of Evidence (COE)**  
[www.k12.wa.us/assessment/GraduationAlternatives/CollectionofEvidence.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/GraduationAlternatives/CollectionofEvidence.aspx)

**High School and Beyond Plan (HS+BP)**  
[www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/Requirement-HighSchoolBeyond.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/Requirement-HighSchoolBeyond.aspx)

## YOU CAN DO THIS!

1

2

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3

### SCORED A 3 OR A 4?

You are on track to be ready for career or college. You can qualify for credit-bearing courses in college and avoid the cost and time of remedial or high school level courses in college.

4

### Lead your school conferences with your teachers and family.

Discuss your progress, challenges, and goals for the future.

**Take a tour of a college** to see how your hard work and dedication can pay off and celebrate your successes, like raising your score on the SBA.

**Identify and connect with mentors** who can guide and support you.

Choose a math or English **Collection of Evidence (COE)** course.

**Enroll in Bridge to College transition courses** that can help get you back on the career- and college-ready path. Visit [www.bridgetocollegecourses.org](http://www.bridgetocollegecourses.org)

Explore options for **after school or summer programs** offered through schools, colleges, and community based organizations.

**Use your High School and Beyond Plan (HS+BP)** to outline how to reach your educational and career goals.

**HS+BP**

**GRADUATE**  
from high school with the skills to succeed in whatever path you choose!

**Keep up good attendance** and homework habits.

**Attend tutoring** offered by your school or community organizations.



Apprenticeship



College or University



Professional Technical Program



Military