



Sophomore FAQ Sheet

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2019

Get more information at: www.peoriaunified.org/Liberty

Sophomore already???

You are well on your way to being half way through High School! Your senior year will be here before you know it and you will find yourself busily applying for colleges and scholarships. As a sophomore you should start thinking about life after high school now. Where will you go to college? What career do you want to pursue? Being proactive in your college preparation during your sophomore year is a smart move. Here are a few items you can start on this year to prepare you for next year:

- Review Grad/ University Requirements**
 - Students will meet with their counselor to make sure they are on track to meet the graduation requirements. This includes: 4 English credits, 4 math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 1 PE/Marching Band, 1 CTE/Fine Art, and 12 electives.
 - Students must have C's or better in their core classes to attend in-state Universities. In addition to the graduation requirements, 2 world language credits are required. Students planning on going out-of-state OR to a private college should check the admission requirements with the school directly.
- Meet with your Counselor**
 - Revise your ECAP with your counselor and share your college/career plans.
 - Choose electives that will prepare you for your career path OR gain insight about different careers.
- Continue working hard in school**
 - Work hard to maintain OR improve your GPA. Make sure you're doing your homework & studying.
 - Establish OR maintain strong time management skills.
 - Seek tutoring options if you are struggling in any of your classes.
- Document your hard work**
 - Keep a folder of your awards, extracurricular activities, community service, and leadership positions. This will be helpful when filling out job, college, and scholarship applications later.
 - Start working on a resume that you can use as you continue your academic endeavors and accomplishments.
- Actively research and explore careers**
 - Utilize AZCIS online to:

AZCIS website: www.azcis.intocareers.org	Username: libertyhs
Password: 4azcis02 (or use the one created last year)	
 - take career interest tests
 - find out what degrees or licensing is needed for different careers as well as job growth and salaries
 - take the "Reality Check" to discover how much it really costs to support the lifestyle you envision
- Learn about different post-secondary options**
 - Read about the different post-secondary options on the back of this sheet.
 - Talk to your family, teachers, coaches, and recent graduates - find out about their experiences.
 - Visit college web sites, attend college fairs, collect college literature and talk with college reps when they come on campus. See the Career Center for a list of dates that college reps will be here.

A look at your post-graduation options...

Community College - Community Colleges are smaller, local schools that are accredited. You can take classes there to earn a certificate to enter a specific job field or you can transfer your credits to a 4 year college where you can continue to work towards your Bachelor's Degree. The advantages are that the tuition is a fraction of the cost of a University, you can live at home if you choose, and the smaller class sizes create a great transitional learning environment between high school and college. It is a great option for students that are undecided on what they want to do but still want to be working towards a 4-year degree. It is also an effective way to reduce the total cost of college by doing your pre-requisites there.

University - Our 3 in-state universities are ASU, U of A, and NAU although there are hundreds across the country. Right now our in-state tuition is about \$10,000 per year and there are many types of financial aid and scholarships available. Many high-school students will choose to go straight to a 4 year college to pursue a degree needed to enter the work force in a specific field. In addition to meeting the graduation requirements with grades of C's or better, you also need 2 years of the same foreign language. The admission criteria for incoming freshmen straight out of high school are:

- Top 25% of your graduating class or
- **3.0** core GPA or
- a score of 1040 on the SAT or a 22 on the ACT

Vocational School - Vocational Schools are often referred to as trade schools or tech schools. There are many vocational schools here in the Valley that will train you for a specific career that you do not need a degree to start working. To enter these career fields you will need specialized training though and many professions often require certification or State licensing of some sort (as opposed to a "degree"). A few examples of careers that you could pursue through vocational training are cosmetology, auto mechanic, chef, x-ray technician, or real-estate agent. It is recommended that you do research on these schools to see if it is the right fit for you. You can request catalogs, visit the campuses, and talk to the faculty and staff there. More information can be found online about these schools at www.azhighered.org

Straight to Work - You get a job right out of high school or you continue doing a job you had while in school, maybe moving to a full time position instead of a part time one. ***Is it right for you?*** This is for you if you want to work to save for school, are not sure what you want to do with your life yet and need to keep busy while you sort it out, or if you already have a job with growth opportunities that could become a life-long career. A career has three key components that a job does not; it offers room to grow and advance, it has increasing earning potential as time goes on and you gain experience, and it is something you take personal pride and satisfaction in doing. A job just pays the bills. If you are lucky enough to get on a real career path right out of high school that is great! But if you are just taking a job to have something to do and as a way to earn some cash, you may come to regret it. You can find out about some amazing apprenticeship opportunities where you can get on-the-job training through the Arizona Department of Economic Security. <https://www.azdes.gov/apprenticeship/>

Military Life - What is this? Some students will choose to pursue a career in the army, navy, or air force. You can join the military at any time after you turn 18 (diploma preferred). You can join the military right out of high school or you can choose to join after college or university. ROTC (Registered Officer Training Program) is a tuition program in which the military will pay your way through college or university and in return you engage in limited military service while in school and full time service after graduation for a predetermined period of time.