

# Planning to go to College?

## *Smarter Balanced and Your Senior Coursework Choices Can Help*

Results from the Smarter Balanced tests will tell you whether you are acquiring the skills and knowledge needed for success in college. Once you get to college, new agreements adopted by Oregon's public community colleges and universities may allow you to use the test results to enroll directly in credit-bearing courses.

If you score a 3 or 4 on the high school Smarter Balanced tests and meet additional requirements for academic rigor in classes during your senior year, you can be exempt from some placement exams for entry-level college classes. Oregon college leaders are showing confidence that students who score well on Smarter Balanced and take challenging courses throughout high school are entering college ready to succeed. As long as technical issues are resolved as expected, students starting with the graduating high school class of 2016 can take advantage of the agreements.

### **Here's what you need to do if you want to be eligible to use your Smarter Balanced scores in college:**

- ✓ Score a 3 or higher on the Smarter Balanced tests in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ✓ Keep going in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Take academically rigorous coursework in English and math and do well in them. Students who want to enroll in a community college need to earn college-level credits in mathematics and/or English courses during high school by participating in programs like dual credit, early college, local accelerated credit models, and/or taking AP or IB courses and exams. (If you don't have access to these courses, take other rigorous classes which help keep up your skills so you can enter college on the right track.)

- ✓ Apply and meet admissions requirements to one of Oregon's public colleges or universities, and enroll the year after graduation.
- ✓ Indicate your interest in using your Smarter Balanced scores to place into credit-bearing, entry-level courses (your scores won't be shared automatically). Note that some college courses have pre-requisites, so check with your campus advisor about specific courses as you register.

### **What if I didn't get a 3 or 4 on Smarter Balanced?**

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 focus on more before leaving high school. Work with your teachers and counsellors to identify gaps and make a plan for boosting your skills before arriving at college.

### **Want to know more?**

- Learn more about Smarter Balanced at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>
- Get details about the university and community college agreements at <http://oregoncoretocollege.org>
- Learn about Oregon's shift to Smarter Balanced at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3298>
- Contact individual community colleges or universities to learn their specific guidelines.