

CUESTA STEPS WORKSHEET FOR SENIORS

FIRST SEMESTER

COMPLETE OVER WINTER BREAK

STEP 1: COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA or CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT application (CADAA) starting October 1st!

You can't get the PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP unless this application has been submitted.

- Visit fafsa.ed.gov, complete with your parents, **make sure to list Cuesta College in the colleges section**. Due date in order to receive additional scholarships and grants is March 2, 2026 (due date for Promise only is August 1, 2026).
- For undocumented students, only complete the Dream Act application [HERE](#) for AB540 students, due March 3, 2026. California Non-Resident Tuition Exemption required to be turned in to admissions with a copy of final THS transcript by August 1, 2026
- Financial Aid Specialists are available to answer your questions during business hours via their Virtual Lobby Monday-Friday. [Click here](#) for contact information and hours.

FSA USER NAME/LOG IN: _____

FSA Password: _____

SECOND SEMESTER

COMPLETE JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH

STEP 2: APPLY to CUESTA for FALL 2026

- Must be completed in order to attend Cougar Welcome Days - (Priority registration event for new students). [Visit https://www.opencccapply.net](https://www.opencccapply.net) to start or to make sure you've submitted your Fall 2026 Cuesta application. Continue, DON'T STOP after creating your account, to APPLY for your desired semester at Cuesta.
- If you have taken a dual enrollment class at THS, you already have an OpenCCC account. If you don't remember your password, click "forgot?"
- **Save your OpenCCC username and password in your phone for future reference**
- Enter your SSN (**do not skip**) & make sure to indicate that your **entry level is 'first time college student' (after high school)** even if you've done dual enrollment or have taken a Cuesta class.
- Your math and English placement recommendation will be determined by your online registration.
 - Instructions for reporting your math: report your most recent final semester grade in your highest traditional math class (Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 2 Honors, Calculus, Statistics). This could be your 2nd semester Junior year math class or your 1st semester senior year math class (do not use Consumer Math)
 - Instructions for reporting your English: report your 2nd semester Junior year English grade
 - Your overall unweighted GPA can be found here -> [Class of 2026 GPA's](#)

CCC Apply Login: Username: _____

Password: _____

STEP 3: Set up your MyCuesta Account & locate your Cuesta ID number

- Check your personal email (the one you provided in your OpenCCC account) for your MyCuesta username and temporary password.
- You will receive a "Welcome to Cuesta" email within 24 hours with your MyCuesta username and temporary password. (Do not just try to log in unless you have taken a Cuesta course previously AND have already accessed your MyCuesta account).
- Create your permanent password. **VERY IMPORTANT: Write down your username and password.** [Here is a quicklink to myCuesta if you need it.](#)
- Locate your Cuesta student ID number which starts with 900_____ (MyCuesta -> top right corner)

MyCuesta Login: Username: _____

Password: _____

Cuesta Student ID: 900_____

- Ms. McFarland is available in the counseling corner to help students with any step on this packet. She is in the office Tuesday-Friday from 9:00-2:00

STEP 4: Complete the Scholarship Application

- This is no longer required to receive the Promise Scholarship BUT the due date to be considered for *additional* scholarships and grants is March 2, 2026.
- [Click here to complete the Promise/ General scholarship application.](#) You will need your MyCuesta username and password to complete the application.
- [Your overall unweighted GPA can be found here](#)

STEP 5: Complete Cuesta Online Orientation

- Access the Online Orientation through your myCuesta portal, click on the New Student Online Orientation box under the Registration tile. This is required in order to attend Cougar Welcome Days but not required to receive the Promise Scholarship. [More information can be found here.](#) Once you successfully pass the orientation test, you are complete with this task.
- Cuesta counselors will help you finalize and register for these courses during Cougar Welcome Days. In case you missed it, here is the [Cuesta College Program Mapper](#) which helps you figure out what to take your first semester.
- Haven't taken Algebra 2 yet? It is strongly recommended you complete an ALEKS math prep self-paced course this summer. [More information can be found here.](#)
- Consider registering for CSS 225 (College Success) for 3 transferable units. Focuses on life management, learning styles, personal and educational values, time management, instructor-student relations, maintaining health, memory and concentration, lecture note-taking, textbook studying, subject-specific studying, test taking, using the library, critical analysis, problem solving, and creative thinking.

STEP 6: Sign up for and Attend Cougar Welcome Days on Wednesday, May 6th

- Sign up to attend by registering [HERE](#) (register for the Friday, May 6th session) and don't forget to turn your permission slip (or get one if you lost yours) to Ms. McFarland's basket in the counseling corner
- This is a priority registration event for first-time college students and we will be taking a field trip to the North County Campus as a school to attend this event. You will leave with your Fall schedule of classes. More Information on signing up is coming and will be communicated to Senior students in April.

STEP 7: Attend an alternate Cougar Welcome Days May 6, 2026 if you miss the field trip

- If you miss this event, sign up to attend the open session on Saturday May 10th at the North county campus, virtual sessions, OR make an appointment with a Cuesta Counselor for a private 45 minute appointment. [Click here for information on how to make an appointment](#). The longer you wait to do this, the faster classes fill up
- Can't make it? Virtual sessions with access to individual counseling support are being offered on May 6th and 12th at 5:00 and 6:00 pm. Sign up [HERE](#)

STEP 8: Check Financial Aid Status

- Log in to my.cuesta.edu, click on financial aid, financial aid status, & select 2026/2027 year. You may have some items you need to verify in order to complete the financial aid/ Promise process.
- If you have finished your FAFSA and Scholarship Application, you will see a \$0 balance for tuition but will still need to pay a health fee and pay for a parking permit.
- **If you have not finished your FAFSA, Scholarship Application, and checked your financial aid status by August 1st, you will not receive the Promise!**

AFTER COUGAR WELCOME DAYS

Parking Permit

- Order online when you register, later in your MyCuesta, or buy at campus police office or the cashier's office in the main administration building

Textbooks

- Go to the campus bookstore or their website: <https://bookstore.cuesta.org/>

Attend Classes

- Classes start August 17th
- Check your Cuesta email frequently if you are on waitlists. If you do not add a course within 24 hours after being notified via email, you will be put at the bottom of the list
- Drop any classes you aren't planning to take by the end of the 2nd week of the semester through your MyCuesta

ONCE FIRST SEMESTER BEGINS

See a Cuesta Counselor to plan Spring classes

- You must make an SEP no later than Spring 2025 but Fall is ideal so you know what to register for Spring

- Make an appointment to make a Student Education Plan (SEP)- a planning tool that you and your counselor create together based on your future academic and career goals. To make an appointment, [click here](#).

Become familiar with the Student Success Center and other services

- **Student Success Center** includes: Writing Center, Math Lab, Stats Lab, walk-In & scheduled tutoring sessions
- **Student Success Workshops & Classes:** Math Study Skills, Time Management With Technology, Time Management With Procrastination, Textbook Reading Strategies, Organizing Study Materials, Test Taking Strategies and Anxiety, & Career Lab,
- **Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS):** If you have an IEP, talk to your Case Manager. Make an appointment if you have a 504 plan and want accommodations or if you suspect you have an undiagnosed learning disability.
- **EOPS/CARE/Foster Youth** - offers many different services including a textbook voucher for any students that qualify through one of many possible ways.
- **Transfer Center**- assists students in making a smooth transition from Cuesta to a four-year institution, and in exploring career possibilities.