

SOAR SONOMA

Just the FACTS

What is SOAR Sonoma?

- SOAR Sonoma is Student Outside Academic Resource Sonoma; it is a fund and program to assist Sonoma Valley High School (SVHS) students to take college courses while in high school.
- SOAR is a resource for students and parents to navigate toward success. It is an independently-run, all-volunteer nonprofit¹ working hand-in-hand with local organizations that serve Sonoma teens and SVHS.
- We provide funds for course and application fees and textbooks for students taking courses through California's Community College network (including Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) for example). Students may take any course for which they are eligible including courses in business, computer science, languages, sociology, psychology, law enforcement, emergency medical, and many more.

Who is eligible?

- Sonoma Valley High School (SVHS) students in grades 9 and above².

Why would I want to take college courses while I'm in high school?

- To further learning in addition to courses taken at SVHS.
- To explore areas for potential college or career focus.
- To get a jump on college credits – especially for the basic prerequisites.
- To be introduced to and prepare for college life, expectations, and requirements.
- To gain confidence in your ability to do college-level work and successfully pursue a postsecondary credential
- Because you CAN! Because you're SMART! And you want to be successful! Studies show high school students who take college courses while in high school have higher graduation rates of **both** high school **and** college!

How does it work?

1. Check out courses and talk with your SVHS academic counselor. Perhaps you hadn't thought about pursuing science, and now maybe nursing sounds like a great career; what courses would be good to get exposure?
2. Complete the SOAR Sonoma application. We will reach out to help navigate.
3. Watch the calendars for when courses start and when paperwork is due – submit your SVHS paperwork a minimum of 15 days before registration
4. Register for the course using the college's website. When complete, you will receive a confirmation and invoice. Send the invoice to SOAR Sonoma and we will pay it directly.



And there's more... SOAR Beyond. (See requirements on our website)

For students who take at least one course with SOAR's assistance, we back you to continue your effort and studies. SOAR Beyond is a scholarship program of \$2,000 per student to be put toward college tuition after high school.

How can I find out more? Where do I go from here?

Go to www.soarsonoma.com. You'll find all the details and forms you need there. Our blog posts provide even more background to help you. Or email our co-founder at selmablanusa@comcast.net

¹ IRS 501c3 reference 85-1979923

² Our hope is that many students will leverage the program, so it is intentionally open and broad; currently there are no GPA or other requirements. We will reassess this policy after 2023/2024.