

Senior College Planning Guide

August

- August 1st-Begin Common Application (www.commonapp.org) and UC Applications online (www.ucop.edu/pathways)
- August 24th -SAT (registration July 26)
- August 27th -Senior College Planning Night 5:30 PM
- Finalize your list of colleges you plan on applying to. Make sure you have a balanced list of **reach** (1-2), **good matches** (3-4), and **safety schools** (2-3).
- Finalize your resume and brag sheet
- Organize yourself! Set up a college application master calendar that includes test dates/registration deadlines, financial aid forms/transcripts/letters of recommendation
- Attend a Graduation Check to ensure you have completed all requirements for graduation and college admission
- Register for future SAT/ACT. Submit documentation for fee waivers (within the testing window)
- Search for scholarships-handout posted on school website, College Information Board, & Counselor's office
- Attend university rep visits during lunch and Flex Period

September

- September 9th -College Fair. Introduce yourself to at least 5 college representatives
- September 14th - ACT (registration August 16)
- September 16th -Mandatory How to Compose a Compelling College Essay Workshop during lunch
- Letters of recommendation request window! Meet with teachers in person with your brag sheet/resume. Allow a minimum of 3 weeks for teachers to write letters.
- September 25th -Financial Aid Night 6PM
- Work on college essays/personal statements. Have someone review them!!
- Continue searching/applying for scholarships
- Attend university rep visits during lunch and Flex Period
- Attend Graduation Check
- Prepare Early Decision applications

October

- October 1st -Cal State applications open (www.calstate.edu/apply)
- October 1st -FAFSA application opens. Begin completing the application (www.fafsa.gov)
- Cal Grant-submit your social security number to counselor
- October 5th -SAT (registration September 6)
- October 10th -How to Build a Resume-Chaffey College workshop during lunch
- October 26th ACT (registration September 20)

- Prepare Early Decision/Action applications. Deadlines Nov-15. Colleges may require test scores for Early Decision/Action admissions.
- Have someone review your essays/personal statements
- Attend Application Workshops in computer lab
- Continue searching/applying for scholarships
- Attend campus rep visits during lunch and Flex Period

November

- November 1st- UC Application submission window opens(www.ucop.edu/pathways)
- November 2nd- SAT (registration October 3)
- Check-in with teachers who are writing your letters of recommendation
- **UC and Cal State application deadline November 30th**
- Private school deadlines-as early as November. Some have rolling admissions.
- Early Decision /Action applications are due
- Research campus housing
- Apply for scholarships
- Stay organized! Keep copies of documents/applications

December

- Last chance to test for most UC and Cal States. Check with each college for specific deadline.
- December 7th-SAT (registration November 8)
- December 14th-ACT (registration November 8)
- Send official SAT/ACT test scores to colleges
- If you are admitted for Early Decision, notify other colleges
- Study for final exams! Senior year grades COUNT!
- Write 'Thank You' letters for teachers who wrote a letter of recommendation for you

January

- Notify colleges of any changes in your schedule
- Keep photocopies of your applications/essays you submit on Common App or private portals
- Monitor your FAFSA account. Keep up with deadlines.
- Submit official SAT/ACT test scores to college. Typically January-February will be the deadline

February

- You should begin to hear from colleges about the status of your application
- Monitor your student portals/email
- Submit official SAT/ACT test scores. Check deadlines (varies per school)
- Manage your Cal Grant status
- Continue to apply for scholarships

March

- March 2nd-FAFSA deadline
- March 10th- How to Interpret Your Financial Aid Package 6PM
- March 14th-SAT (registration February 14)
- Watch for acceptance letters
- Continue researching housing applications
- Visit college campuses
- Apply to schools with rolling admissions

April

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers in mid-April
- Monitor student portals, To Do Lists, emails
- Waitlist status check-in
- Visit college campuses during Easter Break
- Apply to schools with rolling admissions

May

- May 1st-National College Decision Day! Deadline to notify the 4-year college you will attend. Submit your deposit and intent to register.
- May 2nd-SAT (registration April 3)
- Study for final exams! College acceptances can be **rescinded!**
- Take all AP exams
- **Complete Clearance Form to indicate where you want your final transcripts to be sent. Have the Office of Admissions address ready!**
- Apply for housing
- Register for Freshman Orientation or Campus Preview Day
- **Graduation!!! Congratulations!**

June

- Monitor student emails or university portal to ensure campus has received your transcripts. Most schools require official transcripts by mid-July
- Set up appointment with your university counselor to help you register for first semester classes.
- Attend Orientation

Important Terminology & Information

- Early Decision- Binding; a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college.
- Early Action- non binding; students receive an early response.

- EOP- Educational Opportunity Program-financial assistance to 1st generation college students
- Fee waivers- For Cal States & UC's available on the application. You must submit your income and family size for approval. For Common App-you will request a fee waiver on the application.
- Federal Student Aid FAFSA-Application opens October 1st
- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)- Students can attend out of state colleges within this group of schools for in-state tuition prices. May have a separate application. Check deadlines per school.
- Letters of recommendations- 1. Ask the teacher in person at least 3 weeks prior to deadline 2. Give them a resume or brag sheet 3. Follow up with them.
- Impacted Majors/Campuses- When the number of applications received from qualified applicants is greater than the number of available spaces. An impacted campus/major can use additional criteria to screen applications. **It is important to look at your own student profile and examine the major you are declaring. Do you fall within range of the profile of admitted students? Consider a different major for admission and change it later.**
- Senior year coursework-You must submit your senior year courses on all applications. Any changes to your schedule throughout the year must be submitted to your college. You must complete all classes required for graduation with a C or higher. Absences exceeding the 15 allowed in the handbook will result in a No Credit (NC) given for courses.
- College List
 1. **Reach School**- (1-2) Colleges you think may be more difficult to be admitted.
 2. **Good matches**- (3-4) Colleges you feel you have a very good chance of getting admitted.
 3. **Safeties**- (2-3) Colleges you are almost certain you will be admitted.
- Collegedata.com-Helpful guide when compiling a college list. Generates a Freshman Profile that includes the average GPA & SAT/ACT score of an admitted freshman. Ask yourself, "Do I look like the typical freshman this school accepts?"