

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- Review your high school *Student Handbook* and *Program Planning Guide*.
- Register for fall ACT, SAT and SAT Subject tests at: www.actstudent.org and www.collegeboard.com.
- Stop by the College & Career Center for the schedule of college representatives who will be visiting your high school in the fall. College representatives visit during September, October, and November.
- Attend the **Senior Parent Information Night** held on most district high school campuses. Unofficial transcripts will be provided to assist students who will be completing University of California and California State University applications.

OCTOBER

- Plan for college expenses at www.finaid.org and search for scholarships at www.fastweb.com. Consult a tax accountant about tax credits for higher education, and obtain a *Profile* registration form if you are applying to private or independent colleges. Some private/independent colleges may require their own institutional financial aid form rather than the College Scholarship Service's *Profile* form.
- Access electronic applications for the University of California and California State University campuses at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply and www.csumentor.edu on or after October 1st.
- Request college applications from private and out-of-state colleges and universities by phone, on-line, or e-mail. Most college applications are posted at college web sites to download or complete on-line. The *Common Application* is available at www.commonapp.org. It is accepted by more than 350 colleges across the country. Many of the colleges that accept the *Common Application* require supplemental application materials, however.
- Start checking your high school's **Scholarship List** for information about scholarships offered by local businesses and organizations. Continue to check your school's list at least once a month as new opportunities are advertised.
- Complete a *Personal Data Form*, available in the College & Career Center. Ask teachers for letters of recommendation at least *three* weeks before college application and scholarship deadlines. Consult your Career/College Advisor to identify an appropriate staff member to write the "school" or "counselor" recommendation, if one is required.

NOVEMBER

- Retake any section of the **California High School Exit Exam** that you have not passed.
- Send official test score reports to **all** colleges applied to. Make use of the 4 free score reports each time you take an SAT or ACT, and register at www.collegeboard.com and/or www.actstudent.org in case you need to send score reports to additional colleges and universities.
- Submit applications to the University of California and/or California State University campuses by November 30th. Purchase a *Certificate of Mailing* from the Post Office (*not* Certified Mail) if you send a check to pay the application fee. Paper applications are available from UC and CSU on request, but on-line application is strongly encouraged.

DECEMBER

- Complete college testing for University of California and/or California State University admission. Arrange for official score reports to be sent to **all** college campuses applied to when you **register** for December tests.
- Obtain the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid Worksheet** from the College & Career Center, and apply for aid on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov no sooner than January 1st. You will also need to file a **GPA Verification Form** between January 2nd and March 2nd to qualify for the **Cal Grant** program. See your Career/College Advisor.
- Continue to check the College & Career Center for scholarship opportunities. Obtain applications prior to the holiday break to get a head start on the scholarship “season” (January through April). Inquire about scholarships programs sponsored by parents’ employers, labor unions, fraternal, ethnic, and professional organizations.
- Review the deadlines for mailing or electronically submitting applications to private and out-of-state colleges. Most have December, January, or February application deadlines.

JANUARY

- Attend the **MDUSD Financial Aid Information Night** sponsored by district College & Career Centers.
- Prepare for semester exams; many colleges review fall semester grades before making an offer of admission.

FEBRUARY

- Send **Mid-Year Reports** (7 semester transcripts) to private and out-of-state colleges, and California State University campuses, *if requested*. Provide your high school Registrar with stamped, addressed envelopes for this purpose.
- Register for **Advanced Placement** examinations, which are administered in May. Late registration in late February or early March will cost an additional \$40 per test. You do not need to be enrolled in an AP class to take an AP test.
- Submit your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA) and your **GPA Verification Form** by March 2nd **at the latest** (Sooner is better!) Save copies of all forms, and purchase a *Certificate of Mailing* at the Post Office if you are mailing a paper application or signature page.

MARCH / APRIL

- Obtain a DVC application in the College & Career Center or complete the application at www.dvc.edu. Take the DVC placement tests at your high school, and sign-up for **Counseling 105**, a required orientation class at DVC.
- Be looking for notification (by mail or e-mail) of acceptance from the colleges you applied to. If possible, visit campuses before you make a final decision about which college you will attend. Spring break is a great time to visit.
- Retake any section of the **California High School Exit Exam** that you have not passed.

MAY

- Mail your **SIR** (Statement of Intent to Register) by May 1st to the college you will attend in the fall.
- Notify the College & Career Center of any honors, awards, and/or scholarships that you have received for inclusion in the graduation program and recognition at awards events. Complete the MDUSD and high school exit surveys.
- Ask the Registrar to send your final, eight semester transcript to the college you will attend in the fall.
- Take time to thank the teachers and school staff who helped you through the years!

