

## College Bound Senior Check-off list- First Semester

College planning is a process; please use this guide to help you meet college application requirements. Remember each college has different requirements and deadlines, so check on each school's website to ensure you meet requirements and deadlines.

### AUGUST

- Review transcript.** Make sure you meet A-G requirements and that the coursework is rigorous. If need be, change schedules to ensure four year college eligibility.
  - Remember to take a full load of classes, and to keep up your grades. Most schools look at your first semester-senior grades, and they all receive a transcript at the end of your senior year.
- Fill out application for Free or Reduced lunch, to ensure eligibility for waivers.
- Register to take, or retake, the SATs and/ or ACT College Entrance Exams.** If you have not fulfilled your SAT/ACT Exam requirements, register so all testing is completed by the deadline. If you were not happy with your earlier test scores, register for one last shot at the tests.
  - Remember if you score high enough, you can test out of (exempt yourself) from having to take the CSU placement exams. Need scores of 550 critical reading/math on SAT or 24 English, 23 math on ACT.
  - Be sure you have taken any SAT Subject Matter Tests recommended by your schools of choice.
  - Most colleges want testing done by December 31.
- Familiarize yourself with applications, requirements, dates, and other parts of the college admission process.
  - Review college materials, guidebooks, web sites, and other resources to narrow your college list.
  - Consider visits, overnight stays, and interviews at your top choices. Visit (personally or virtually) any colleges you have not already seen.
  - Attend college fairs for one final review of college choices.
- Start drafting your college essays/personal statements.

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Take/retake October SAT/ACT. Remember high scores can exempt you from placement exams.
- Research college majors, decide what major suites you and your future career.**

- Begin to narrow your list of schools with your family and AVID teacher. Make a list of "Reach", "Sure-thing", and one or two "Safety" colleges. Try for no more than 10 schools after researching admissions requirements, including SAT/ACT scores, GPA averages, and whether the college offers your major . Be sure to review each college's application requirements carefully, and plan to apply online.
- Create a college portfolio -- and keep all materials organized. Includes personal statement, proof of test scores, application confirmations, recommendations, transcripts, test scores, and other important documents.
- Revise and edit college essays/personal statements.
- Start college applications: October 1- application window for CSU colleges opens. UC's will also allow you to start applications but you cannot submit UC applications until November 1.**
  - Plan to submit your college applications early, rather than on the due date, if possible. There has been, over the years, the occasional problem with college application servers, particularly at large colleges, as they receive the deluge of last minute applications

## **NOVEMBER**

- Retake SAT if needed.
- Apply for EOP if meet eligibility requirements.
- Finalize drafts of any college essays, but only after numerous edits, rewrites, and reviews by people you trust (family, friends, teachers).
  - UC Personal statements must be uploaded or pasted onto application. Be sure to have essay(s) saved on a flash drive.
- Complete all CSU and UC applications by November 30.**
- Make sure you've had your SAT/ACT test scores sent to all colleges applied to.**

## **DECEMBER**

- Retake SAT/ACT if needed. Last chance for seniors to meet college testing requirement deadline!**
- Start scholarship searching.
- Stay focused on grades and study for your finals. REMEMBER: First AND second semester grades go to the schools you designate.