

## High School “To-Do” List

### Freshmen Year

- Attend ninth grade orientation-pick up class schedule and review your campus planner. Develop an understanding of: a) graduation requirements, b) athletic eligibility requirements, c) college/career program requirements, d) testing,
- Learn study/time management skills
- Become involved with extracurricular interests (i.e., clubs, athletics, student government).
- Be serious about your grades and courses; some count for college entrance.
- Take Golden State or AP exams, if appropriate.
- Re-think, or re-check your four-year high school plan with parent/guardian. Take college-prep classes. Take courses that will enable you to meet prerequisites for additional courses.
- Talk with your counselor, as needed.
- Attend summer school if you need to raise a grade. Get a head start--earn degree credits at the community college.

### Sophomore Year

- Review your campus planner.
- Join the California Scholarship Federation (CSF), if you are eligible.
- Participate in extracurricular activities and/or get involved in community activities to provide background experience for college acceptance. (Join boy/girl scout clubs; volunteer in politics or hospital, etc.)
- Think about career area(s); investigate colleges.
- Be serious about your grades and courses. They count for GPA, college entrance, class ranking and many scholarships.
- Attend the Career/College Fairs at local community colleges.
- Take the PSAT and/or PLAN tests in the fall.
- Re-think, re-check your four-year high school plan with parent/guardian. Take college-prep classes. Take courses that will enable you to meet prerequisites for additional courses.
- Talk with your counselor, as needed.
- Attend summer school if you need to raise a grade. Get a head start--earn degree credits at the community college.

### Junior Year

- Review your campus planner.
- Join the CSF, if you are eligible.
- Take the PSAT in October.
- Plan to participate in leadership and extracurricular activities.

- Attend the Career/College Fairs at local community colleges.
- Take Golden State or AP exams, if appropriate.
- Re-think, re-check you four-year high school plan with parent/guardian and counselor.
- Take the SAT I, SAT II and/or ACT (college admissions tests) in the spring. Take preparation class, if needed.
  - Link to SAT test dates:  
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html>
  - Link to ACT test dates: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/currentdates.html>
- Read college catalogues; write to colleges for information. Attend scheduled college admissions conferences or college fairs. Visit college campuses, while in session.
- Be practical! Look at your top five college choices and ask: Do I qualify? Can I afford the school? Do I need to schedule an interview? Have I talked with students who now attend the college? Does the school offer my major? Does the school's housing meet my needs? Does the social life fit my style? Have I seen the campus? What are the summer opportunities regarding honors programs, work, study, etc.?
- Begin reviewing scholarships.
- Attend summer school if you need to raise a grade. Get a head start--earn degree credits at the community college.

### **Senior Year**

- Take college required courses, preferably two AP/honors classes.
- Confer with your counselor.
- Take or retake the SAT I and/or ACT.
  - Link to SAT test dates:  
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html>
  - Link to ACT test dates: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/currentdates.html>
- Attend college information night and college financial planning workshop.
- Narrow down your college choices.
- Write personal statements and college entrance essays (if applicable)
- Send out college applications in the fall.
- Obtain teacher/counselor references in advance.
- Take achievement tests, if considering a UC college or any other college that requires them.
- Complete the FAFSA (financial aid application) by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Check monthly scholarship lists. Apply.
- Check transcript with your counselor. Request counselor to send transcript to your college/university.
- Take English and Math tests for college placement, if needed