

# Getting Ready for Senior Year:

## Tips for applying to a 4 year university, community college or trade school.

### Summer before 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

- Log in to your California Colleges account to:
  - Narrow down and favorite your major and college choices
  - Learn about different types of financial aid
- Learn about admissions and financial aid requirements and deadlines
- Decide if you want to apply under a college's Early Decision or Early Action program.
- Visit college campuses if possible
- Create your FSA ID for your FAFSA

#### August - September

- Email your school counselor** to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. Please use your TUSD student email to contact your counselor.
- SAT and/or ACT** Please check with individual colleges to see what testing is required, if any. Visit SAT/ACT website for updates regarding testing options.
- Look over college applications.** Make note of all the pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges.** Participate in virtual college information sessions. Visit each individual college website for specific dates.
- Narrow down your list of colleges.** Gather information about the application and financial aid process at each school.
- Build your list of trade school and/or apprenticeship programs.** Gather information about the application and financial aid process at each school.
- Create a checklist and calendar** to keep track of tests dates, application due dates, and financial aid deadlines. Make note of the other materials, such as recommendations or essays you will need to complete your applications.

#### October

- Log in to your [California Colleges](#) account** to launch [FAFSA](#), [Dream Act](#), [college applications](#) and more.
- Launch and file your FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon after October 1<sup>st</sup> as possible. In addition to determining your eligibility for federal funds, many colleges and states use the form when distributing grants. Once submitted, watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR).
- Complete the [CSS Profile](#)** if required. This is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for financial aid money.
- Review Early Decision/Early Action or Rolling Admission** options for colleges that you are interested in. Colleges may require test scores and applications to be submitted by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier.
- Request personal recommendations** from teachers, school counselor, etc. as most require three weeks to complete. Remember, the more time you give, the better letter they are able to provide.
- Research [scholarships](#).** Visit the Scholarship Applications tab on the Tracy High Counseling page or the TUSD Mobile App for a list of scholarships. You should never pay for scholarship information.
- ASVAB: To Be Determined**

## Take pride in how far you have come & have confidence in how far you can go!

### November - December

- Be sure to sign up for the ASVAB: To Be Determined**
- The end of the semester is approaching.** Be sure to stay on top of school work and finish the semester strong. Email your counselor if you are in danger of failing a class and talk about options to get back on track for graduation and college entrance requirements. Please use your TUSD student email to contact your counselor.
- UC/CSU application deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.** Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit your application. Attend virtual application workshops found on each individual college website. Do not risk making a mistake on your application!
- Take your final SAT and/or ACT!** Please check with colleges to see what testing is required if any. Visit SAT/ACT website for updates regarding testing options.
- Visit college campuses** by participating in virtual college information sessions. Visit each individual college website for specific dates.
- Review NCAA and/or NAIA** accounts to make sure your profile is up to date.
- Review Early Decision/Early Action** admission deadlines as many of them are due in November and December.

### February - May

- Do not slack in the classroom.** Your grades still count and you do not want to put yourself at risk of not graduating and/or having your college acceptance rescinded.
- Acceptance notifications and financial aid offers will start to arrive.** Review your acceptances and compare financial aid packages.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the DEADLINE to submit your FAFSA and Dream Act application!**
- If you plan to attend a community college or trade school** sign up for their information and application workshops online on each individual college website.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is the DEADLINE** to submit your intent to register and deposit to the college you will be attending! Notify your counselor of your decision.
- Complete a Final Transcript Request Form.** This form is located online on the top right of the Tracy High Counseling webpage.
- Stay focused** on finishing the year strong and enjoy your senior activities!

Check your student email address and college student profile **often**. That is how your counselors and colleges will reach out to you with important deadlines and updates.