Senior College Information Night

Kristen Jurkovich

September 20th, 2018

Welcome to Senior Year!

Congratulations! You made it!

This is the moment you have been working for!

This can be a stressful time, *but it doesn't have to be.*

What we will cover tonight:

1. Conducting research & finalizing college list
2. College applications
3. Sticker price vs. true cost
4. Planning reduces pain

College Research & Building Your List

Gathering Information:

○ **Individual School Websites**

○ **Other Helpful Websites:**

College Board Big Future:

- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/

National Center for Educational Statistics: College Navigator

- http://nces.ed.gov/COLLEGENAVIGATOR

○ **Small Books:** Colleges That Change Lives (Pope)

http://ctcl.org/

Students Rising Above Hub:

○ **Create an account if you do not already have one:**

https://studentsrisingabove.force.com/students/s/

Do Your Research

- **Use the web:**

  - www.collegeweeklive.com

  Contact the schools:

  - Follow college admissions on Twitter, Instagram, & Facebook

- **See the college first hand::**

  - **Visit the school!**

    - Preview Days: (CSUEB 10/13 & 11/4; UCSC Fall Saturday Tours 10/20 or 11/10—register online)
    - Schedule a campus tour

Do Your Research

College Fairs

- **Tuesday, October 2nd** from 6-8pm at COA's gymnasium
- **UC Admissions, CSU Admissions, Financial Aid, & CC presentations** in ASTI portables

- *Ask the right questions:*
  - *Support Services*
  - *Enrichment Opportunities (internships, study abroad, etc)*
  - *Average class sizes*
  - *Majors/programs of interest*
  - *Graduation Rates*
  - *Post-Graduate Experiences*

Do Your Research

Meet with College Representatives at ASTI:

➢ Drexel University: 9/27—8:00am, Room 2

➢ UC Berkeley: 10/9—11:09, Computer Lab

➢ Wesleyan: 10/18—11:09, Computer Lab

➢ Yale: TBD

Read weekly announcements & check email for upcoming scheduled visits!

Applying to College

- **Eligibility vs. Acceptance**
  - Reach, Target, & Safety Colleges
- **Freshman vs. Transfer Application**
  - **CSU**: CSU Mentor (Open 10/1; File 11/1-11/30)
  - **EOP** at CSU: Deadlines vary (2 rec's)
  - **UC**: admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu (Open now; File 11/1-11/30)
  - **Private Schools**: Common App + Supplements (Open now; Deadlines vary)

Applying to College

- **Fee Waivers**: At end of App OR :
  - COST: CSU ($55) UC ($70) Private ($0-$90)

- **Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG)**
  - Meet with a COA counselor this fall

- **Early Action vs. Early Decision**

What are colleges looking for?

- **Transcript: GPA and strength of program**
  - Most important
- **SAT or ACT scores:**
  - **SAT w/ Writing *and/or* ACT w/ Writing**
  - Super score vs single sitting
  - SAT optional movement: http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional
- **UC Insight Questions**
- **Extracurricular activities**
- **Awards and Recognition**
- **Letters of Recommendation (Private schools)**
- **Above all, be yourself!**

How do I report my classes/GPA?

- **CSU: You must calculate your GPA (2.0 minimum)**
  - Only A-G courses are calculated (no PE or Seminar)
  - Calculate this with Ms. Jurkovich during appt
- **UC: Classes are self-reported/App calculates (3.0 minimum)**
  - A-G High School classes: Drop box or hand-entered
  - College classes: Drop box or hand-entered
  - Classes other than A-G: 5 boxes (Advisory, Seminars)
  - **Private Schools: Transcripts are sent (Minimum GPA Varies)**
  - **12th grade coursework (Common App):**
    - English 5 (College)
    - Writing Seminar (HS)

How do I report my SAT/ACT Scores?

- All scores are self-reported, then verified
- Send your scores to each institution
  - ACT: $12 (or $16.50) per score report
  - SAT: $12 per score report
    - 1st Four reports are free
    - SAT: Score Choice (don't use for CSU/UC)!
    - UC: Send one to the *system*
    - CSU: Enter code 3594 for SAT; Send one ACT to the system
    - ***Last date to take SAT or ACT: December***
    - ****For most campuses***

UC Personal Insight Questions!

- **UC**: 8 questions; respond to 4 of 8.
  - 350 words maximum per response
  - Select topics most relevant to you and which best reflect your individual circumstances
  - This is a _response_, _not an essay_.

- **Common App:** 650 words for one prompt
  - Common App Supplements: Varies per school
  - Prompts designed to encourage reflection & introspection

How much power is in UC Insight Questions/Common App Essay?

- **What makes a good PIQ response?**
  - Voice
  - Honesty
  - Maturity
  - Reflection
  - Details & examples
  - Being yourself!

Personal Insight Question Dos and Don'ts

- **Do:** Discuss something that has made a significant impact on your life.

- **Do:** Provide context information for the rest of your application.

- **Don't:** Repeat information that can be found in other parts of your application.

- **Don't:** Make excuses.

- **Don't:** Use Quotations

- **Don't:** Use humor or write poetry

Evaluation in a Local Context

- Private Schools: School Profile
  - Can add info below in Add Comments

- **UC: Additional Comment Section**
  - ECHS structure
  - NO AP/IB courses; PCCD unit restrictions
  - Extracurricular/Foreign Lang limitations
  - Extra Honors/Awards/Extra-curriculars
  - Any other important information (poor grade)

What about letters of recommendation?

- **NONE for UC and CSU**
  - (UC's may contact you for a letter)
- **For Secondary School Report (Private colleges)** Account in Common App
  - List of schools and due dates
- **For Teacher/Counselor Recommendations**
  - See handout for guidelines
  - Use proper decorum and send a thank you card
  - ➤**Ms. Jurkovich's deadline to ask for letter and submit materials: NOW.**
  - ➤**Teachers: Ask ASAP. (No later than end of Sept)**

Workshops at ASTI for help!

- **Personal Insight Questions Workshop:** Monday, September 24th, 1-3pm, Room 4

- **CSU/UC Application Workshop:** Monday, October 8th, 2-3pm, ASTI Computer Lab

- **Common Application Workshop:** Friday, October 19th, 2-3pm, ASTI Computer Lab

- **College Application Workshop:** Friday, November 2nd, 2:21-3pm (late start day), ASTI Computer Lab

- **College Application Workshop:** Friday, November 9th, 2:00-3:00pm in ASTI Computer Lab,

Financial Aid Overview

What determines the true cost?

- Sticker Price vs Financial Aid Package

- Gov't Money vs Institutional Money

- 3 types of financial aid:
  1. Free money (grants, scholarships)
  2. Money you borrow (loans)
  3. Money you work for (work study)

Financial Aid

Government Money:

- **FAFSA/Dream Act Opens October 1st!! (Submit by March 2)**
  - Grants (Cal Grant, Pell Grant)
  - Subsidized Loans (Perkins, Stafford)
  - Unsubsidized Loans (Parent PLUS Loan)
  - Work Study
  - FAFSA4caster
  - Use 2017 tax returns
  - Dream Act: AB-540 qualify for in-state/institutional aid, not federal aid

Institutional Money:

- **CSS Profile (available Oct 1—watch for each school's deadline)!**
  - Need-Blind
  - Merit vs Need awards
  - Financial Aid Policies
    - http://www.finaid.org/questions/noloansforlowincome.phtml

Do I have any control over the cost?

- Dream Act (For AB-540 undocumented students)
  - **www.caldreamact.org**

- EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)

  - Financial Aid estimators

  - www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Find your own money

  - Private Scholarships
    - www.finaid.org
    - www.fastweb.com
    - www.scholarship.com
    - Scholarships posted online & emailed from Ms. Jurkovich

Cash for College Night

- **Thursday, November 1st, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

- Where/When: EHS Media Center, November 1st, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- <u>Student are eligible to win an Amazon gift card just for attending</u>!

Students should bring:

- 1) Student and parent social security #s (or Alien Registration # if not a U.S. citizen. If you have neither, can still qualify for the Dream ACT).

- 2) Most recent Federal Tax forms (1040, W-2, bank statements- for your private use only).

- **Both students and at least one parent/guardian must create an FSA ID BEFORE you start the FAFSA** - https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm

How do I manage all of this?

Create a timeline!

1. Create a college list with app deadlines (use the College Application Tracker in the SRA Hub)

2. Assess the work that must be done

3. Backwards map to accomplish tasks

4. Include appointments with Ms. Jurkovich

How do I manage all of this?

Don't duplicate work!

1. Examine applications for overlap
2. Use the Common App if possible
3. Gather common information (extra-curriculars, parent info) and KEEP it

How do I manage all of this?

Centralize your files!

1. Create Google Folder with UC Responses, Common App Essay, Supplements, Resume, etc
2. Make copies of EVERYTHING if mailing or faxing items

How do I manage all of this?

Use your resources!

1. Admissions Officers
2. Counselor (me) and ASTI/COA staff
3. Parents and Friends

What is my role in this process?

- Student's role: Player

- Parent's role: Devoted Fan

- My role: Coach

No organization/support team/person should want it more than the student. The student must be motivated and determined to "win."

Dos and Don'ts

- **Don't:**
  - Wait until the last minute
  - Make decisions based on others
  - Forget about HS Graduation Requirements
  - Come down with senioritis—12th grade counts!! (Including seminars)! D's=Drama
- **Do:**
  - Use this as an opportunity to be self-reflective
  - Be systematic and organized
  - Revise and check work before submitting
  - Feel free to "show-off"

To-Do Now:

- **1)** Make appointment with Ms. Jurkovich to review transcript, A-G requirements, high school graduation requirements, and to discuss college list/post ASTI plans. **(<u>Required</u>)!** ☺

- **Note:** I'm gone 10/1-10/5. Plan accordingly!

- **2)** Create SRA Hub Account

- **3)** Register for SAT/ACT if needed

- **4)** Attend UC Personal Insight Questions and college application workshops

- **5)** Ask for letters of recommendation

- **6)** Draft Insight Questions & Common App essay responses

My Contact Information

Email:

kjurkovich@alamedaunified.org

Phone: (510)748-4021 ext. 21776

Questions?