

Senior Year Timeline

College Applications and Financial Aid

| Checkpoint | Date(s) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Solidify college list</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with ASTI counselor to discuss list—make sure it includes a balance of reach and match schools | August/September |
| <i>University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) Applications Open Online</i> | August 1 st & October 1 st |
| <i>Draft and revise UC Insight Questions and college essays</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule meetings with ASTI counselor for feedback and revision early | September/October |
| <i>UC and CSU Applications Due</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Senior Info Night Attend college application workshops during fall semester at ASTI | UC/CSU Applications Due November 30 th |
| <i>Confirm letters of recommendation for private colleges</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See ASTI counselor for appropriate protocol when asking for letters of recommendation Letters from teachers/professors (usually at least 2) Letter from counselor | <u>At least one month</u> before letter is due |
| <i>Private college/university applications due</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If considering Early Action or Early Decision, check deadlines | Varying Fall deadlines—check college websites |
| <i>Take college entrance exams</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAT with Writing and/or ACT with Writing SAT Subject Tests (optional for UC's—recommended/required by some private colleges) | September/October test dates Final test date in December |
| <i>Send SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Test scores to colleges</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use CSU Mentor Code “3594” to send SAT to CSU's Send one ACT score to CSU and use ACT Score Manager to release scores to other CSU's Send one SAT score and one ACT score to UC's Send all scores individually to private/out of state colleges | October/November |
| <i>FAFSA & Dream Act Application Opens Online</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.fafsa.gov dream.csac.ca.gov/ | Opens October 1 st (File by March 2 nd) |
| <i>Complete CSS Profile</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required for some private colleges/universities—check individual college/university websites | Varying deadlines—many colleges require CSS Profile by January/February |
| <i>FAFSA/Dream Act Application & Cal Grant Forms Due</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Cal Grant forms to counselor mid-February Attend FAFSA workshops at ASTI early for help | March 2 nd |
| <i>Meet with COA Counselor if planning to transfer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss remaining requirements needed to transfer to desired college | February/March |
| <i>Compare Financial Aid Award Offers from Colleges</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with family and/or counselor to discuss financial aid packages | February through April |
| <i>Monitor college email and “to-do lists” daily</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay careful attention to any documents requested by colleges and accompanying deadlines If receive Augmented Review supplemental questionnaire from UC's, see ASTI counselor immediately for assistance | December through June |
| <i>Submit SIR (Statement of Intent to Register)</i> | May 1 st |

**The Alameda Unified School District,
St. Joseph Notre Dame High School,
& College of Alameda Present . . .**

The 28th Annual Citywide College Night

***Tuesday,
October 2nd, 2018
6:00 - 8:00 pm***

College of Alameda Gymnasium

**555 Ralph Appezato Parkway
Alameda, CA 94501**

For More Info Contact:

Gwen Meyer - (510) 337-7016 or

Chris Nye - (510) 748-4023 Ext. 2421

Attending Institutions Include:

**Carleton College
CSU Maritime Academy
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
CSU Chico
CSU East Bay
Humboldt State University
Sacramento State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Mills College
Oberlin College
Saint Mary's College
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Merced
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz
UC Los Angeles
University of Arizona
University of Hawaii
University of Oregon
University of San Francisco
Washington State University
West Point Military Academy
Over 70 colleges will be attending!!**

Attend Workshops on:

***College Basics
Financial Aid
UC Admissions
CSU Admissions
Community College: Transfer
Program & Benefits***

**See your high school counselor
for more information!!**



2018-19 SAT Administration Dates and Deadlines

| SAT Date | SAT Subject Tests Available | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline | Deadline for Changes |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| August 25, 2018 | See SAT Subject Tests available on this date | July 27, 2018 | August 7, 2018 (for mailed registrations) August 15, 2018 (for registrations made online or by phone) | August 15, 2018 |
| October 6, 2018 Register | See SAT Subject Tests available on this date | September 7, 2018 | September 18, 2018 (for mailed registrations) September 26, 2018 (for registrations made online or by phone) | September 26, 2018 |
| November 3, 2018 Register | See SAT Subject Tests available on this date | October 5, 2018 | October 16, 2018 (for mailed registrations) October 24, 2018 (for registrations made online or by phone) | October 24, 2018 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| December 1, 2018 Register | See SAT Subject Tests available on this date | November 2, 2018 | November 13, 2018 (for mailed registrations) November 20, 2018 (for registrations made online or by phone) | November 20, 2018 |
| March 9, 2019 Register | SAT Subject Tests not offered on this date | February 8, 2019 | February 19, 2019 (for mailed registrations) February 27, 2019 (for registrations made online or by phone) | February 27, 2019 |
| May 4, 2019 Register | See SAT Subject Tests available on this date | April 5, 2019 | April 16, 2019 (for mailed registrations) April 24, 2019 (for registrations made online or by phone) | April 24, 2019 |
| June 1, 2019 Register | See SAT Subject Tests available on this date | May 3, 2019 | May 14, 2019 (for mailed registrations) May 22, 2019 (for registrations made online or by phone) | May 22, 2019 |

TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



2018 | 2019

TEST DATE

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

| | Regular Deadline | Late Fee Required** | Photo Upload/ Standby Deadline |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| September 8, 2018 | August 10 | August 11-26 | August 31 |
| October 27, 2018 | September 28 | Sept. 29-Oct. 14 | October 19 |
| December 8, 2018 | November 2 | November 3-19 | November 30 |
| February 9, 2019* | January 11 | January 12-18 | February 1 |
| April 13, 2019 | March 8 | March 9-25 | April 5 |
| June 8, 2019 | May 3 | May 4-20 | May 31 |
| July 13, 2019* | June 14 | June 15-24 | July 5 |

2019 | 2020

Test dates for 2019-2020 will be posted on the ACT website in summer 2018.

Registration deadlines for 2019-2020 will be posted on the ACT website in spring 2019.

www.act.org

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February and July test dates. No test centers are scheduled in California for the July test date.

**All materials sent by mail must be RECEIVED by the last date of the late period, regardless of when they are postmarked.

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10 Tips to Create a Balanced College List!

You may have heard counselors or other students talking about how important it is to create a balanced college list. Are you wondering what they mean? Having a balanced college list means that there are colleges on your list from all of the following categories: *reach, target and safety*. These categories refer to how likely it is that you will be accepted to a college based on your GPA and test scores. You must apply to colleges from each category. *It is recommended that you apply to 8-10 colleges.*

Step 1: Get Started.

Select 5 key college characteristics that are most important to you. For example:

- Location: New York City, New England, beach town, Southern California, the South
- College type: public, private, out-of-state public, liberal arts college
- Campus size: large, medium, or small campus
- Campus setting: Rural, suburban, or urban
- Major/Program
- Extracurricular Activities: Greek Life, athletics, music groups, etc.

Step 2: Use College Search Engines.

Once you have a better idea of what college characteristics you want, use a college search engine, such as College Board BigFuture or College Greenlight, to discover new colleges based on your desired college characteristics.

Step 3: Make A List.

Compile a list of schools that stand out to you. It's okay if you have a lot of schools on your list; don't limit yourself yet. You can narrow down this list later.

Step 4: Review College Websites.

As you learn about colleges that may be a good fit for you, explore each college's website to learn more about the campus and programs available. See how the school's characteristics match up against what you are looking for in a school.

Step 5: Compare Your Stats.

Research each college on your list and find out how your GPA and test scores match up with the school's admissions criteria. Most colleges list the average GPA and SAT/ACT scores for admitted students. This helps you see if the college is a "reach," "target," or "safety" college for you. Some colleges with low admit rates will be a reach for all applicants. Remember that most schools consider other factors when they review your application (essays, class rigor, letters of recommendation, and extracurriculars).

Step 6: Create Your Balanced List.

As you compare your stats, make sure that you don't only have "reach" schools on your list or only have "safety" options. It helps to aim for at least 3 of each (3 reach, 3 target, and 3 safety).

- What is a "Safety" College? A "safety" college means that your test scores/GPA are above 50% of the students who were admitted, and the overall admit rate is higher.
- What is a "Target" College? A "target" college means that your test scores/GPA match the middle test scores/GPA of students who were admitted.
- What is a "Reach" College? A "reach" college means that your test scores/GPA are below 50% of the students who were admitted. A college is a reach if it has a lower admit rate (Stanford and Harvard are reaches for everyone).

Step 7: Keep Updating.

Your list should be a work in progress. You can update, add, or delete colleges as you learn more about different options.

Step 8: Be Happy About Your List.

You want to be excited about ALL of the colleges on your list. Avoid adding “safety” schools without researching. Your college list should represent colleges that you would be thrilled to attend.

Step 9: Be Open-Minded.

Many students talk about a brand-name “dream” college because it's popular, or because they feel pressure to apply from family and friends. However, there are AMAZING colleges across the country you should consider that you may not have heard of. Check in on the Hub and with your high school counselor about colleges that you may be unaware of that could be a good fit for you..

Step 10: Connect.

Once you have a good idea about the colleges you're interested in, make connections with each school. Check to see if they have fly-in programs or if they will be at a college fair in your local area. Find out if they have college visits scheduled on your high school campus.

Helpful Resources:

College Board Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

College Navigator: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Greenlight: <https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>

Colleges That Change Lives: <https://ctcl.org/>

College Scorecard: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

ScholarMatcher: <http://scholarmatcher.scholarmatch.org/>

Letters of Recommendation (Teacher/Professor)

Educators have many responsibilities—teaching, grading, planning lessons, attending meetings, etc. They enjoy writing letters of recommendation, but it does impact their schedules. The easier and more enjoyable you make the experience for your letter writer, the better letter you will receive.

Step 1: Ask yourself “what kind of student was I when I interacted with this educator?” In any recommendation letter, educators have a moral obligation to be honest. Educators will write exception letters for students, but only if they had exceptional interactions with the student. Ask yourself these questions:

Did I put forth my best effort on a daily basis?

Did I participate in class with insightful comments/questions?

Did I contribute to the class in a positive manner?

Did I show genuine interest?

Did I get to know this educator enough so that s(he) could write an entire letter about me?

*Note: Don’t just consider your grade when thinking about your interaction with the educator. It goes beyond that.

Step 2: Ask the educator if s(he) can write you a strong letter. If you did Step 1 correctly, then the answer should be “yes!” However, if you are still confused, ask your educator for an honest answer. Honesty is better than receiving a bad letter and jeopardizing your application.

- ✓ Waive your right to view recommendation letters on your application forms. Admission officers will trust them more if you haven’t seen them.

Step 3: Help the educator help you!

- ✓ Write a one to two page “letter” that will help the educator write you the excellent recommendation that you deserve. This letter should include the following:
 - How was the class/relationship for you? Give the educator a sense of what you got out of the class or relationship.
 - What are your long term goals for education and life?
 - What are 7 adjectives that describe your work and participation in the class/your interactions with the educator?
 - Describe any moments that really made the class/the relationship memorable or that made you stand out—for example, a great question, a conversation, an assignment, etc.
 - Describe one or more projects, events, examples of something in the class/interaction that you are proud of.
 - Are there any hardships you have faced that show your ability to overcome challenges in the class/relationship?
 - What grades did you receive in the class? First semester grade, current grade. If necessary, explain why you think your grade is less than what you hoped for.
 - Anything else that you think might help your educator right you a strong letter. If there is something specific you would like the educator to mention in the letter, be sure to specifically address it.
- ✓ Include a copy of your resume
- ✓ Include a copy of your transcript
- ✓ Include a list of colleges you are applying to with due dates

Step 4: Give the educator at least one month before the letter is due. Two months is even better. If ample time is not given, it will seem more of a burden to the educator, and the educator might not be willing to write your letter.

Step 5: Provide all of your materials (letter to educator, resume, transcript, list of college applying to with due dates) in a large manila envelope with your name. If you are using the Common Application or need your letters of recommendation submitted electronically, make sure you have the recommendation links emailed to your educator. Make sure you have your educator’s correct email address!

- ✓ If your letters must be mailed to the college, provide a self-addressed (use ASTI as the return address), stamped envelope to your letter writer.

Step 6: Check in a week or two before your letter is due to make sure the educator sent the letter.

Step 7: Write a thank you card to the educator. This shows professionalism and gratitude!

Letter of Recommendation (Counselor School Report)

When applying to private colleges and universities, your counselor must submit a School Report, which includes the ASTI School Profile, your transcript, a character/behavior evaluation, and a letter of recommendation. The counselor's letter of recommendation can be a very important piece to your college application. In order for your counselor to write a compelling, positive letter of recommendation, you should follow these steps.

Step 1: Ask your counselor to write you a letter of recommendation. You must give the counselor at least one month to write your letter. During the fall semester of your 12th grade year, your counselor will be asked to write many letters of recommendation. Plan to ask your counselor for this letter of recommendation during the spring semester of your 11th grade year before the summer break starts.

- ✓ Waive your right to view recommendation letters on your application forms. Admission officers will trust them more if you haven't seen them.

Step 2: Help your counselor help you!

- ✓ **Write a letter to your counselor highlighting the following questions/topics.** Use as many details and examples as possible in your writing so that s(he) can draw upon these examples when writing your letter:
 - **What are 7-10 adjectives** you would use to describe yourself?
 - Describe an academic accomplishment (major paper, science experiment and/or artistic project) you are most proud of, and tell why you take pride in it.
 - What kind of learner are you? Which academic setting or assignments make you thrive? What interests you?
 - List your three most distinguishing or most admirable qualities. Explain each in several sentences.
 - What do you hope to accomplish in college and after? Consider your intended major (if you have one), career goals, and your broader goals.
 - What do you consider your most important activities outside of school? List jobs, paid or voluntary; religious activities; hobbies; travel; music; art; and/or drama. Include the number of years of your involvement and the amount of time you spent on the activity weekly, and explain why this activity was significant to you.
 - Are there any **hardships** you have faced that show your ability to overcome challenges? Provide examples, and discuss what you have learned as a result of these hardships/challenges.
 - Describe your **family background**—are you the first in your family to attend college? Do you hold any leadership responsibilities at home (caring for siblings, interpreting for parents, taking grandparents to doctor's appointments, etc.)?
 - Are your grades (9th grade-present) an accurate representation of who you are as a student? If not, explain. *Make sure you explain any D, F, or W grades.*
 - Do you think your SAT/ACT test scores are an accurate reflection of your abilities? Why or why not?
 - Are you receiving IGETC and/or an AA degree? If so, list the AA degrees you plan to complete.
 - Anything else you want the counselor to mention in your letter. *If there is something specific you would like the counselor to address in your letter, be sure to specifically address it.*
- ✓ **Include a copy of your resume**
- ✓ **Include a copy of your SAT/ACT scores**
- ✓ **Include a list of colleges you are applying to with due dates**

Step 3: If you are using the Common Application or need your letters of recommendation submitted electronically, make sure you have the recommendation links emailed to your counselor. Make sure you have your counselor's correct email address!

Ms. Jurkovich's email address: kjurkovich@alamedaunified.org

Step 4: Check in one-two weeks before your letter is due to make sure your counselor submitted your letter.

2018-2019 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

2019-20 CSS Profile Student Guide

This guide provides the basic information you need to complete your CSS Profile application at cssprofile.org starting Oct. 1, 2018.

WHAT is the CSS Profile?

The **CSS Profile** is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For federal aid you must complete the **FAFSA**, available Oct. 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

WHEN do I complete the CSS Profile?

You may complete the CSS Profile as early as **Oct. 1, 2018**. You should submit no later than two weeks before the **EARLIEST** priority filing date specified by your colleges.

WHO must complete the CSS Profile?

Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile. A list of participating colleges is also found on the CSS Profile Homepage.

HOW do I complete the CSS Profile?

You submit the CSS Profile at cssprofile.org. Once you sign-in, you will find a list of useful documents, such as your federal tax returns and other financial information that you'll need to have at hand to complete the application. Help is provided within the application and additional help is available by chat, phone, or email by clicking "Contact Us" in the application.

WHAT does the CSS Profile Cost?

The fee for the initial application is **\$25**. Additional reports are **\$16**. Payment may be made via credit or debit card. First-time domestic college applicants may receive CSS Profile fee waivers if the student qualified for an SAT fee waiver, or if the student is an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24 or based on parental income and family size (e.g. family of 4 would qualify with income of \$45,000 or less).

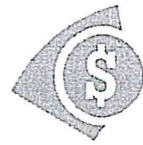
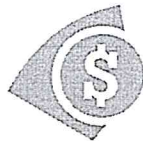
The Process

- 1., **Sign-in** – Use your College Board username and password or sign up for a new account. If you created an account for the SAT or to view your PSAT or AP scores, you should use the same user name and password for your CSS Profile application.
- 2., **Complete the Application** – As you answer questions, the system builds an application tailored to your family's situation. The application provides online help and edits to guide you. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting; save your application and return to complete it at any time.
- 3., **Submit the Application** – The date and time you submit your completed application will be recorded based on Eastern Time and your reports will be sent to the colleges you selected.
- 4., **Review Your Dashboard** – Once you submit your application, your dashboard will include your payment receipt and any next steps, such as submitting documents to the Institutional Documentation Services (IDOC).

You may add a college at any time. Sign in to the CSS Profile and click **Add a College or Program** on your Dashboard. You will be charged \$16 for each college you add. Any unused fee waivers will be automatically applied to your charges.

Questions? Customer Service Representatives are available via email, online chat, and phone. Visit collegeboard.org/contact-us#css for more details.

Completing the FAFSA/California Dream Act



STEP ONE:

You and your parents must gather the following documents:

- Social Security Number if you are a U.S. Citizen
- Alien Registration Number if you are an eligible non-citizen
- Driver's License
- Federal Income Tax Return from 2017
- W-2 Forms
- Any other records of income received, investments, etc.
- Current value of checking and savings accounts (at end of the month)

STEP TWO:

Your **Cal Grant GPA Form** will be submitted for you. You don't need to take any extra steps.

STEP THREE:

Obtain a FSAID Number

(This allows you to sign the completed form)

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

(Both you and your parents will need a FSAID, unless your parent does NOT have a Social Security # or Alien Registration #)

STEP FOUR:

Fill out the FAFSA for FREE online at:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

*Note: Do NOT fill out the FAFSA if you do NOT have a Social Security Number or an Alien Registration Number--see Ms. Jurkovich about the **Dream Act Application** instead:

<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

STEP FIVE:

Submit your FAFSA/Dream Act Application by

BY MARCH 2nd, 2019!!

FAFSA/Dream Act Tips

Parent Information:

- You may only use income information from a biological or adopted parent. You should not enter income information from a legal guardian, grandparent, sister, brother, uncle, etc.
- If you are in a legal guardianship (meaning you have court documentation stating you are in a legal guardianship), you will not fill out income information for a parent.
- If you are not in a legal guardianship and do not live with your biological parents, or do not have contact with a biological/adopted parent, see Ms. Jurkovich to discuss.
- If your parents are divorced or separated, use the income information from the parent that provides more than 50% of financial support to you.

Registering for the Selective Service:

- Males must register for the Selective Service in order to receive financial aid.
- Males may register for the Selective Service via the FAFSA by indicating that they would like to be registered when they turn 18.

Work Study & Loans:

- When asked if you are interested in receiving work study and loans, say “yes” to both. Indicating interest does not mean that you must take out student loans if offered.

Teach Grant:

- The teach grant is a grant given to students who indicate that they plan to pursue their field of study and career in teaching. There are specific requirements you must meet in order to receive the Teach Grant (teaching for a specific number of years in certain types of schools, etc). If you use a Teach Grant and do not meet the requirements, your Teach Grant will turn into a student loan.
- Select “no” or “don’t know” if you wish to learn more about the Teach Grant.

Selecting Colleges/Universities to Receive your FAFSA:

- You may list up to 10 colleges/universities on your FAFSA.
- You must submit the FAFSA to each college/university you applied to (e.g., all UC’s, CSU’s, private schools).
- If you applied to more than 10 colleges, complete the FAFSA, list 10 colleges, and click “submit.”
- Once you have received your Student Aid Report (SAR) electronically, follow these steps to add more colleges:
 - Click **Login** on the home page and log in to *FAFSA on the Web*. You will be given the option to **Make FAFSA Corrections**. Remove some of the colleges listed on your FAFSA, add the additional school codes, and submit the corrections for processing.