

Junior College Information Night



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October 17th, 2019

What we will cover tonight:

1. 11th grade to-do lists
2. College research & creating balanced lists
3. Finding best fits
4. Sticker price vs. true cost
5. Planning reduces pain
6. Everyone has a role

Why now?

Students who start the process early:

1. Are less stressed
2. Make educated decisions
3. Keep perspective
4. Feel successful

You are building your application
NOW.

To Do: Create a College List

When: Spring 2020

How:

1. Figure out priorities/needs
2. Research colleges/institutions
3. Schedule a mtg with Ms. Jurkovich
4. Discuss list with family

Things to Consider:

Balancing a list (reach, target, safety)

Number of apps and supplements

Cost to apply

Research & Finding “Best Fit”

- **Look beyond acceptance**
 - “How will this college help me achieve my goals?”
 - Support Services
 - Enrichment opportunities
 - Graduation Rates
 - Post-Graduate Experience
- **Look beyond academics**
 - “What will my life be like at this college?”
 - Student Organizations
 - School Traditions and Campus Events
 - Demographic Information
- **Prioritize your needs**
 - Majors, setting, urban/rural, big/small school, public/private, etc.

College Research

- **Gathering Information:**

- Individual School 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)

- www.ctcl.org

- **Use the web:**

- www.collegeweeklive.com

Do Your Research

○ Students Rising Above Hub:

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

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

● **Contact the schools:**

○ Contact admissions office for publications

○ Follow colleges on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

● **See the college first hand::**

○ **Visit the school!**

✦ Preview Days: (UCSC Fall Saturday Tours 11/2; St. Mary's College of California Fall Preview Day 10/12—register online);

✦ **Diversity Day Fly-Ins:**

✦ <http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/college-fly-in-and-diversity-programs/>

✦ Schedule a campus tour (read about tips for college visits in packet)

Do Your Research

○ Attend a college fair:

- ✦ WACAC and NACAC College Fairs (Registration recommended)

- ✦ Saturday, April 25th: Santa Clara (NACAC Fair)

- ✦ <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/san-francisco/>

- ✦ Saturday, May 2nd: St. Mary's-Moraga (WACAC Fair)

- ✦ <https://www.wacac.org/college-fairs/wacac-fairs/>

- ✦ **Citywide College Night**

- ✦ Fall 2020

- ✦ Over 70 college representatives attending!

- ✦ Attend CSU, UC, financial aid, & transfer workshops at ASTI

Do Your Research

College Fairs & Campus Visits:

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

College Rep Visits at ASTI

Meet with College Representatives at ASTI:

➤ **Mills College:**

➤ Tuesday, 11/5—1:00pm, Computer Lab

➤ Read weekly announcements & check email for upcoming scheduled visits!

To Do: Create a Timeline

When: Spring/Summer 2020

- How:**
1. Look at your college list & application requirements
 2. Create testing timeline
 3. Consider Early Action/Decision
 4. Backwards-map deadlines and all components of application
 5. Discuss timeline with family

Things to Consider:

- Balancing schoolwork and applications
- Costs associated with application process

Applying to College

- Eligibility vs. Acceptance
- Freshman vs. Transfer Application
 - CSU: CSU Mentor (Open 10/1; File 10/1-11/30)
 - UC: (Open 09/1; File 11/1-11/30)
 - Private Schools: Common App + Supplements (Opens in Aug; varies)
 - Fee Waivers: At end of App OR :
 - COST: CSU (\$70) UC (\$70) Private (\$0-\$90)
 - Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG)
 - Meet with a college counselor during Sept 2020
- Early Action vs. Early Decision

What are colleges looking for?

- **Transcript: GPA and strength of program**
 - Most important
- **SAT or ACT scores:**
 - Super score vs single sitting
 - SAT optional movement:
<http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>
- **The UC Personal Insight Questions**
- **Extracurricular activities**
- **Awards and Recognition**
- **Letters of Recommendation (private colleges)**

What is my GPA?

- **UC/CSU:** 10th-11th grade only
 - They do consider 9th grade coursework and grades
 - Only A-G coursework is considered
 - GPA is recalculated w/ up to 8 additional honors points (community college courses)
- **Private Schools:** 9th grade-12th grade Fall
 - All classes are considered
 - GPA is not weighted
 - Rank is not reported
 - GPA is accompanied by a school profile

What GPA Do I Need?

- UC: 3.0 GPA minimum
- CSU: 2.0 minimum
 - Above 3.0 GPA = SAT/ACT isn't considered:
 - (CSU East Bay, SF State)
- Private Schools: Look at middle 50%

How do I report my SAT/ACT?

- All scores are self-reported, then verified
- Send your scores to each institution
 - ACT: \$13 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 2020

****For most campuses***

To Do: Sign up for SAT/ACT

When: Spring/Fall 2020

- How:**
1. Revisit school requirements
 2. Take SAT and ACT practice tests
 3. Look at when tests are offered
 4. Create study plan
 5. Discuss cost with family

Things to Consider:

More is not always better

Study is critical for repeats

Take the test twice

Which tests do I need to take?

- **UC/CSU:** SAT w/ Essay or ACT w/Writing
 - SAT subject tests are optional; certain disciplines recommend subject tests
- **Private Schools:** SAT w/ Essay or ACT w/Writing; sometimes SAT Subject Tests
- **Cost of Tests**
 - SAT w/ Essay: \$64.50
 - ACT w/ Writing: \$68
 - SAT Subjects: \$26+\$22/test (\$26 language)
 - Fee waivers available for those who qualify

SAT & ACT Prep

Khan Academy (Free)!

www.khanacademy.org

- Diagnostics
- College Board written questions
- Log in with Gmail or Facebook account
- PSAT Scores—targeted practice with Khan Academy

To Do: UC Insight Questions

When: Spring/Summer 2020

- How:**
1. Look at prompts
 2. Brainstorm topics
 3. Remember the purpose
 4. Leave time to proofread
 5. Families: give privacy

Things to Consider:

Too many editors = loss of voice

Prompts overlap

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

What makes a good UC Insight Response?

- Voice
- Honesty
- Maturity
- Details & examples
- Being you—Telling a story about yourself.
- Meaning & significance

UC 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.

To Do: Ask for Letters of Rec

When: Spring-Fall 2020

- How:**
1. Consider relationships with teachers
 2. Ask ASTI teachers in Spring
 3. Ask PCCD instructors in early Fall
 4. Make it easy on the instructor—See letter of rec handout
 5. Don't forget to thank them!

Things to Consider:

Scholarships also need letters

What about letters of recommendation?

- NONE for UC and CSU

(Sometimes UC will request after submission)

- For Secondary School Report (online)
 - Account in Common App
 - List of schools and due dates
- For Teacher Recommendations
 - See handout for guidelines
 - Use proper decorum and send a thank you card

Financial Aid Overview

To Do: Gather Info for Financial Aid

When: FAFSA/CA Dream Act App/CSS
Profile Opens October 1st 2020

How:

1. Look up due dates
2. Gather docs early
3. Use 2019 taxes
4. Make copies of everything

Things to Consider:

Scholarships are due throughout

Pin codes/fees are associated

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)

What determines the true cost?

Government Money:

- FAFSA/CA Dream Act (by March 2nd)
 - ✦ Grants (Cal Grant, Pell Grant)
 - ✦ Subsidized Loans (Stafford)
 - ✦ Unsubsidized Loans (Parent PLUS Loan)
 - ✦ Work Study
 - ✦ Net Price Calculators (visit college websites)
 - ✦ Institutional Money:
- CSS (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: Net Price Calculators
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Find your own money
 - Private Scholarships
 - www.finaid.org
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.scholarship.com
 - **Check your email from Ms. Jurkovich!!!!**

How do I manage all of this?

Create a timeline!

1. Create a college list
2. Assess the work that must be done
3. Backwards map to accomplish tasks
4. Include appts 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

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."

Review Handouts & Questions?

My Contact Information

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