

Senior Overview Calendar 2023-2024

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

Meet with Mrs. Bergum/your counselor to finalize your college list.

- Register for the October SAT or ACT Test if needed.

Note for Class of 2024: Many institutions are still test-optional for the fall application cycle. Check colleges you are applying to see if required. UCs and CSUs do not use SAT/ACT scores for admission.

- Formulate college list:
 - 1-2 reach schools
 - 2-4 target schools
 - 2-3 safety schools, including at least one financial safety.
- Request teacher and counselor recommendations (ONLY if requested by your colleges) AFTER you complete your CHS Personal Data form under About Me tab and personally ask your teacher. Give them at least 2 weeks to write for you. **UCs and CSUs typically do not need recommendations.**
- Decide if you are applying Early Action or Early Decision to the institutions that have this option. Select your choice in Naviance under Colleges I'm Applying To and note deadlines.
- If you are attending DVC after high school, apply for **spring 2024** as a concurrently enrolled high school student. Attend a DVC Kick Start workshop offered during advisory. More info to follow!
- Create an account on the <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply> for CSU applications. Submit application between October 1 and November 30.
- UC application opens on August 1 at <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu>
 - Submit application from October 1 through November 30.
- If you are applying to private or out-of-state colleges that use the Common Application, create an account at www.commonapp.org Note requirements for applications to each college you are applying. **You must match your Common App in Naviance for documents to be sent!**
- Continue working on drafts of private college essays and UC personal insight questions.
- Attend **College Info Night for Senior Families on September 14**. More info to follow!
- Attend **MDUSD College Fair** at Ygnacio Valley High School this fall. Date/time TBD
- Attend college presentations and college application workshops in the CCC throughout the fall.

OCTOBER

- October 1: CSU application opens- Deadline November 30
- CADAA (California Dream Act application) launches October 1st. FAFSA is scheduled to launch in December this year. To learn more and get help with these forms, attend the Cash for College workshop in the fall, scheduled for December 7, time TBD.
- Attend the **Career Education Fair on October 18** to find out about trade apprenticeship programs, specific career training, community college certification programs, military, and more.
- Register for the November SAT if you need to take it. See notes about testing this year.
- Finalize 4 of 8 personal insight questions for UC's and essays for private colleges.
- Using Common Application? Match your Common App in Naviance! This is required to send documents to colleges that use the Common Application.
- Using Coalition Application? Make sure you check the box to indicate that you are sending transcripts separately. Request your transcripts in Naviance.
- Look for scholarships in Naviance, on College & Career webpage, and scholarship board in CCC.
- Request transcripts for private colleges AFTER submitting application(s).

NOVEMBER

- Register for December SAT/ACT test. This is typically the last testing date colleges will accept, but check the college you are applying to for specific information.
- Complete your college personal essays/UC Personal Insight Questions.
- Submit your UC and CSU applications before Thanksgiving so that you have time to relax!
- Letters of Recommendation are NOT needed for UC/CSU. Send transcripts only when the college requests it. If needed, request transcripts in Naviance.
- **UC and CSU deadlines are November 30...** make sure you know deadlines listed for other schools!
- After you apply, look for communication from each college and create your portal account.

DECEMBER

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is scheduled to launch in December, due to an application revision. To learn more and get help with these forms, attend the Cash for College workshop in the fall.
- **Cash for College Night is December 7.** Attend this financial aid presentation to learn more about how financial aid works and get help completing your FAFSA or CADAA after the presentation.
- Complete all private and out-of-state college applications before winter break, keeping track of application deadlines. Confirm teacher recommendations have been uploaded to Naviance.
- Send Official SAT/ACT test scores to colleges that accept them.
- Request transcripts for private/out of state colleges through Naviance, if requested by college.
- Cal Grant: MDUSD automatically uploads your student GPA to CSAC. You don't need to file any other paperwork except the FAFSA or CADAA to be considered for California state aid.

JANUARY

- Continue applying for scholarships. Scholarships listed in Naviance under Colleges and on school website under College & Career Center. There are several local scholarships available from January-May!
- Check your college portals and your email frequently! Colleges post your application status on the portal. It is your responsibility to know what is needed from you.

FEBRUARY

- Keep your grades up! Colleges do not accept D's and F's. Acceptances may be rescinded!
- Check with the colleges regarding housing availability. Even if you have not been admitted, you may want to apply for housing and send in the non-refundable deposit to ensure housing.
- Attend DVC Info Meeting if planning to attend DVC in the fall, or if needed as a backup school. You will complete a spring and summer application as part of the application process. Take advantage of DVC presentations so you can learn about services available at DVC.

MARCH

- March 2: Deadline for submitting FAFSA and CADAA.
- After submitting FAFSA/CADAA, create a Web Grants account at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov> for accepting your Cal Grant, if awarded.
- Admission letters from UC's, CSU's and private colleges arrive.
- Review financial aid options as you receive them. Meet with Mrs. Bergum or counselor to go over financial aid award letter if you need help understanding awards.

- ❑ Students attending DVC in the fall: Complete DVC application, complete required assessments and sign up for Counseling 095 to qualify for priority registration. This is critical so that you get a better chance of getting your classes!
- ❑ LMC has a similar application process, but not the same; this is the time to apply.

APRIL

- ❑ Make sure all paperwork is submitted and on time to your chosen campus! Missing deadlines could cause you to be denied.
- ❑ Continue to apply to local scholarships in the spring; check Naviance and announcements for updates.

MAY- JUNE

- ❑ May 1: National Candidate's Reply Date – deadline to notify colleges of your decision. You must accept one offer, even if waitlisted at other schools.
- ❑ Contact all other colleges where you were admitted and withdraw your admission.
- ❑ Keep updated on housing applications/reservations, placement testing and any form deadlines.
- ❑ Remember to keep your final semester grades up! If your grades fall, admission may be rescinded!
- ❑ Order Final Transcript through **Naviance** to be sent to the college you plan to attend. Registrar will send only when final transcript has been requested in Naviance.
- ❑ Complete the Senior Graduation Survey in Naviance.

Notes: Read all college applications and requirements thoroughly. Each college does things differently and has different due dates! If you have a question, students should call the college admissions office. Colleges want to help and want to hear from the student. Check the College & Career webpage often for updates and additional information. Follow College & Career on social media for deadlines and dates of important events and activities relating to college, career school and other post-secondary opportunities.

For updates, help or a quick question, this works really well:

Sign up for CHS College & Career Center Info for Class of 2024 Remind:

<https://www.remind.com/join/2024foru>

Follow on Instagram: @chs_collegeandcareercenter

Follow on Twitter: @ConcordHighCCC

Naviance - log in with Classlink!

- **Go to Concord High website, College & Career page, under counseling.**
- **Click on Naviance (top right of page)**
- **Click on "log on with Classlink"**
- **Your username is your email for Chrome book**
- **Standard password is first initial of first name, first initial of last name, and all the digits of your student ID #.**

College Application FAQ's for Class of 2024

How many colleges should I apply to? Select 1-2 reach, 2-4 target, and 2-3 safety colleges, including at least 1 financial safety. Remember that highly competitive schools take about 4% to 9% of applicants. Apply to colleges that are the right fit for you, both academically and in the way the campus feels. You should visit the campus you are interested in before you accept, if at all possible.

I'm confused about the whole process. Where do I start? Use **Naviance** as a tool to discover your interests, strengths, and colleges that will have a major you are interested in studying.

- o In Naviance, go to Colleges tab and explore using SuperMatch™ College Search.
- o Under About Me, complete the Concord High Personal Data Form in surveys.
- o Make an appointment with Mrs. Bergum to discuss your college/career plans. Click on appointments on the College & Career Center webpage. You will fill out a google form and will be able to request a meeting at your convenience. For quick questions, join the College & Career Class of 2024 at <https://www.remind.com/join/2024foru> or email Mrs. Bergum at bergums@mdusd.org.
- o Your counselor can also help with the college process.

I have my college list...now what? Enter the colleges you are applying to in Naviance under Colleges I'm applying To. This is also where you will request transcripts when required by college.

Should I use my nickname when applying to colleges? No. Use your legal name on all college and test documents. The college can easily misfile your information if you do not use your legal name on everything...It has to be accurate, or you will create problems for yourself!

Do you have any application tips?

- o Create a professional sounding email to use on applications and check email often.
- o Do not miss deadlines.
- o Read every application completely, and keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- o Save your username and password in a safe place for every account you create.

When do I apply? CSU www.calstate.edu/apply UC www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

Filing period for both UC's and CSUs are from October 1 through November 30. Private and out of state colleges have various deadlines, so check their websites.

I am considering Early Action or Early Decision, but not sure what the difference is between the two options. Early Decision is a binding agreement between you and a college where you promise to attend if accepted. Early Action is nonbinding, but you find out early if you are accepted. Before you apply either ED or EA, check with the college to see if they will roll your application to non-ED/EA status if you are not accepted.

What about out-of-state and private schools? Check for WUE schools. They can save you money with grants and scholarships plus, you can receive your bachelor's degree in 4 years from the majority of out-of-state schools. Consider private colleges. If you have above a 3.5 GPA, you might qualify for scholarships and/or grants to defer cost.

WUE? What does that mean? WUE (pronounced "woo-wee") is the Western Undergraduate Exchange, coordinated by WICHE. WUE is a regional tuition-reciprocity agreement that enables students from WICHE states to enroll in more than 150 participating two- and four-year public institutions at 150% of the enrolling institution's resident tuition. Not all state schools participate, funds can be limited by major, and other factors, and not all students are eligible. For more information, check out <https://www.wiche.edu/wue>

Once I submit my application, how do I know when to send my transcript and test scores? Every school to which you apply will tell you how to set up an account (portal). They will communicate with you by leaving messages you will see when you login on the school's portal and by email. Check this often!!! This is your responsibility... if you miss a deadline because you weren't checking your portal account, you could have your application disqualified. It make take 3-5 weeks to process any documents that you send. If you have any questions, call the admissions office.

Should I just send my transcripts and test scores to all of my colleges when I apply? NO! Send transcripts and test scores only when they are requested by the college. Remember to READ THE APPLICATION thoroughly.

When the college asks for my transcript, how do I request? Log onto Naviance, go to [Colleges I'm Applying To](#), click "Request Transcripts" located at the top of the page, and fill out the form. Our registrar, Mrs. Kwiatkowski, will send transcripts after you have requested in Naviance.

How about requesting transcripts if using the Common Application? Follow directions above.

What's the last day to take the SAT or ACT? Typically December. **Note: Class of 2024- SAT/ACT admission requirement is no longer required at CSUs and UCs. Check private college policies for this application period.**

How do I enter my senior year classes on a college application? I don't have grades yet. Enter fall semester classes as "In Progress" and spring semester classes as "Planned".

What is FERPA? Waiver of Access for the Common Application. The Common App will ask you whether you want to waive your right. Waiving your right lets colleges know that you will never try to read your recommendation letters. That, in turn, reassures colleges that you recommenders have provided information that is candid and truthful. If you choose not to waive this right, some recommenders may decline your request and some colleges may disregard letters submitted on our behalf. You must complete this step and link to Naviance before you can add teacher and counselor recommenders.

How do I request recommendations? Complete the **CHS Personal DATA form in Naviance**, under [About Me](#) tab. Very nicely, approach two academic subject teachers and one counselor you know that knows your work. Ask if they would write you a letter of recommendation. Please remember that teachers write these letters on their own time and are not obligated to do so. If they agree, give them a handwritten thank you note thanking them for writing your recommendation and include a deadline for them (make it a week before your first college deadline.) Go to Naviance, [Colleges I'm Applying To](#) and at bottom of page, click Letters of Recommendation to request so they can upload.

What if I'm not accepted to my first choice college? Can I appeal? There is a process for appealing. However, schools will only review an appeal if there is some new and different information that the school has not seen before. Appealing just because "I really want to go there" is not grounds for review.

How much does college cost? You can go to each college website and check its Net Price Calculator. This will give you a good idea of cost for that particular college. You can also see costs in Naviance, under the **SuperMatch** college search. This is a good time to discuss how your family (you and your parents) are going to pay for the cost of college or career school.

Financial aid. How do I get it? The FAFSA, Free Application for Student Aid, is available at <https://fafsa.ed.gov> . The CADAA, California Dream Act application (DACA or undocumented students meeting AB 540 criteria use this form) is available at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing> . Your application needs to be submitted by March 2. Concord High will be hosting a Cash for College workshop this fall on December 7. You should attend in order to get help completing your FAFSA or CADAA. Get your application submitted as soon as you can. FAFSA is scheduled to launch in December this year, due to a revision of the application.

What is the Dream Act Application, and do I know if I should fill it out instead of the FAFSA? You may be eligible to fill out the Dream Act Application, a financial aid application for students who meet AB540 qualifications or have DACA status. For more information, go to www.cadreamact.org or contact Mrs. Bergum for more information. We will also be discussing the Dream Act application at the Cash for College workshop this fall.

What about loans? There is information in College & Career Center or on the webpage on loans. Federally subsidized loans are the way to go if you need a loan for college. Remember \$25,000-\$30,000 in loans can be manageable, but more than that and you take on a heavy debt for a long time. It's worth researching ways to get your degree with less debt.

What if I want to go to a Community College? You will still use Naviance to look at 4-year colleges to transfer to, and make sure to add DVC or LMC in "Colleges I'm Applying To" so it will be easy to request transcripts later in the year. Use the resources in Naviance now in order to make the transition smoother. You can also use to look at career searches if you are researching trades or other career programs. Community colleges have many certification programs that take a few years to complete. Visit College & Career Center to check out brochures on certification programs at DVC and LMC.

- o Attend DVC meeting in fall
- o Complete orientation, assessments, and counseling 095 by spring semester in order to get an early registration date for fall of 2024.
- o Complete FAFSA or Dream Act Application in order to qualify for First Time, Full Time, Free Tuition (FT3) program offered by Contra Costa Community College District.
- o Look for Scholarships in Naviance, CCC website, and College & Career Center
- o Make an appointment with Mrs. Bergum in College & Career Center to review all options.

Stay connected this year!

- **Email Mrs. Bergum at bergums@mdusd.org** for any questions you have on the process.
- Check the **College & Career webpage on the CHS website to make an appointment**, and for current info on application information, scholarships, financial aid, testing information, and related topics.
- **BEST WAY TO REACH ME QUICKLY!** Sign up for **CHS College & Career Center Info for Class of 2024 Remind: <https://www.remind.com/join/2024foru>**
- **Follow College & Career Center on Instagram @chs_collegeandcareercenter, Twitter @ConcordHighCCC, and Facebook @collegecareerchs**

See you soon! Mrs. Bergum CHS College & Career Advisor bergums@mdusd.org