



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

ACHIEVE UC

UC Preparation Calendar

FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

7-8 SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Use an online inventory to explore your career interests: californiacolleges.edu
- ☐ Talk to a trusted adult about going to college.
- ☐ Make schoolwork, participation and attendance your top priority, and ask for help if you need it.
- ☐ Seek out extra classes and enrichment activities.

Parent or Guardian

- ☐ Contribute to a college savings plan to begin preparing for the costs of college.

Together:

- ☐ Read, read, read.

9 FALL NINTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Enroll in courses that meet “a-g” requirements. Your counselor will know which ones qualify.
- ☐ With your counselor, create a four-year schedule that meets both high school graduation and “a-g” college entrance requirements.
- ☐ Download a copy of the UC Academic Planner to help you stay on track: eaop.org/resources

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Meet and establish regular communication with your student’s teachers and counselor, so they know you expect progress reports about college preparation.
- ☐ Encourage your student to explore extracurricular activities at school and in the community.
- ☐ Check the high-school website for information about events, testing dates, attendance reports and access to your student’s grades.
- ☐ Find out if your school has educational outreach or UC readiness programs, such as the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP).

WINTER NINTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Talk with your parents or guardians about your academic strengths and weaknesses. Explore tutoring resources to improve in weak areas.
- ☐ Enroll in honors courses in subjects at which you excel.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Check in with your student’s teachers and counselor to find out how he or she is doing academically and socially. (Social challenges can affect academic performance.)

Together:

- ☐ Create a college information folder for materials on college-related topics.
- ☐ Follow the University of California on social media to stay up to date on preparing for UC. Find social media links at universityofcalifornia.edu.

SPRING NINTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Look early for summer jobs or internships. Consider those that will expand your academic and leadership capacities.

Together:

- ☐ Explore summer academic enrichment opportunities at high schools or community colleges in your area. Apply as early as March for these courses.

SUMMER NINTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Create a summer reading list, with input from teachers, counselors and the local library.

10 FALL TENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Review your four-year academic plan with your parents or guardians, teachers and counselor. Make sure you are on track with fulfilling college course requirements.
- ☐ Prepare and register early for the PSAT. See your counselor for information.

WINTER TENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Set up free online accounts with collegeboard.org and californiacolleges.edu. The College Board account allows you to research colleges and helps you prepare for the SAT. The California Colleges site will help you research colleges.
- ☐ Transfer your PSAT scores to KhanAcademy.org to receive customized SAT preparation support.
- ☐ Set up a separate email account for all college-related correspondence.

SPRING TENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Begin early to explore summer jobs, academic enrichment and volunteer opportunities, being mindful of application deadlines. Ask your counselor about summer courses available to you at local colleges.
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to discuss junior year coursework, especially AP and honors courses.

SUMMER TENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Confirm your summer plans.
- ☐ Create a summer reading list, with recommendations from teachers, counselors and the local library.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Meet your student's teachers and counselor.
- ☐ Encourage your student to seek help with challenging subjects, enlisting a tutor if necessary.

Together:

- ☐ Participate in a college fair and attend a college financial aid workshop if one is offered.
- ☐ Work together to find interesting extracurricular activities that work with the family schedule. Explore opportunities for the student to take a leadership role in current activities.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Talk to your student about their progress in school. Identify areas in which he or she excels, and encourage enrollment in honors and Advanced Placement courses in those subjects.
- ☐ Talk about possible careers with your student. Help identify people you know whose careers are of interest to him or her, and arrange meetings with them.

Together:

- ☐ Review your student's PSAT score report and discuss areas of challenge, in preparation for the SAT the following year.
- ☐ Research and discuss colleges and costs.
- ☐ Take a tour of a local college or university while school is in session.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Meet with your student to discuss the activities listed at left.
- ☐ If the student does not have a Social Security Number (SSN), go to SSA.gov to learn about obtaining one. While many private scholarship resources don't require them, your student will need a SSN for state and federal aid.

Together:

- ☐ Explore how UC supports diverse students and communities online at diversity.universityofcalifornia.edu.



Students who plan to participate in Division I or II college sports should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center in the summer of junior year.

11 FALL ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Sign up to take the PSAT in October.
- ☐ Make a list of colleges you are considering, noting campus size, location and resources.
- ☐ Learn the entrance requirements for the schools on your list.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Discuss your student's college-preparation progress with teachers and counselor.
- ☐ If the student does not have a Social Security Number (SSN), go to SSA.gov to learn about obtaining one. While many private scholarship resources don't require them, your student will need a SSN for state and federal aid.

Together:

- ☐ Attend a college night or college fair.
- ☐ Take a tour of a local college while classes are in session, to get a feel for the campus.
- ☐ Begin researching scholarships at your target colleges.
- ☐ Familiarize yourselves with the costs of college: tuition, fees, housing, food and supplies.

WINTER ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Meet with college friends returning for winter break and gather suggestions on preparing for the first semester of college. If possible, put your parents or guardians in touch with theirs so they can share information, too.
- ☐ Look for your PSAT results to arrive in December.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Study your student's PSAT score report so you will be aware of areas that need strengthening as they prepare for the SAT.
- ☐ Ask your student's counselor about fee waivers for the SAT. Eligible students can receive up to two waivers.

Together:

- ☐ Carefully plan the schedule for the spring SAT (and SAT Subject Tests, when relevant) and/or ACT. SAT Subject Tests can be taken as soon as your student has completed the related coursework. Schedules and practice tests are available at collegeboard.org.
- ☐ Register for the SAT and/or ACT 6–8 weeks ahead, to get best practice exam dates and locations.

SPRING ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Take at least one practice exam before you take the SAT.
- ☐ Review your senior-year schedule with your counselor.
- ☐ Research and apply for summer jobs, classes and/or volunteer work.
- ☐ Prepare early for the May AP exams.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Use online tools such as the FAFSA Forecaster (fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm) to estimate potential financial aid and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Together:

- ☐ Begin actively searching for scholarships and financial aid.
- ☐ Continue college visits while classes are in session.

SUMMER ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Create a summer reading list, with recommendations from teachers, counselors and the local library.
- ☐ Review the Personal Insight Questions and information about them on the UC Admissions website. View these videos about the questions:
UC Diversity and Engagement personal insight video: <http://bit.ly/2byGokN>
UC personal insight video: <https://youtu.be/adw4RHu6fOI>

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ If planning a summer vacation, include a college tour.

Together:

- ☐ Create a list of target schools, and keep track of their various admission requirements.
- ☐ Mark your calendars with important deadlines for applications and financial aid.
- ☐ Register now for fall ACT, SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests. Early registration will ensure availability of the best locations and dates. Remember the December test date.

12 FALL TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ If you have not registered for the ACT, SAT or SAT Subject Tests, do so now.
- ☐ Identify three or four people whose judgment you trust to review your application materials. Do this early, so they have time to give you helpful feedback with enough time for you to make use of it.
- ☐ Ask for letters of recommendation for colleges that require them at least three weeks before they are due. Provide your sources with your resume, transcript and any other information about your activities, accomplishments and future goals.
- ☐ Make sure your guidance counselor sends your transcripts to colleges that require them.
- ☐ Send your official ACT and/or SAT scores to all colleges to which you're applying.
- ☐ Beginning October 1, the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application are available. Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal, state and university aid (fafsa.ed.gov). Submit the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application by March 2.

WINTER TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Meet with college friends returning for winter break and gather their suggestions on preparing for the first semester of college.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Review all the steps at left with your student to make sure they are completed on time.
- ☐ If your student is undocumented and planning to apply for financial aid through the California Dream Act, apply for a Parent PIN at dream.csac.ca.gov.

Together:

- ☐ Go over all the admission requirements and deadlines.
- ☐ Review details with counselor.
- ☐ Apply for any college application fee waivers directly through each college. If you've received an SAT fee waiver, you may be eligible for an application fee waiver.
- ☐ If you are eligible for a fee waiver, use it to apply to at least four UC campuses.
- ☐ Attend a college fair or college open house.
- ☐ Create your application account in ApplyUC beginning August 1 (admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu/applicant).
- ☐ Apply to UC campuses between November 1 and November 30.
- ☐ Parent and student will need separate Federal Student Aid IDs (FSA ID) to apply for financial aid online. Go to fsaid.ed.gov to create a FSA ID.
- ☐ For undocumented parents of students who are U.S. citizens and are unable to obtain an FSA ID, it is recommended that you complete the FAFSA by early February. You will need to mail the provided signature page to the Department of Education to complete the process.

Together:

- ☐ Take note of scholarship applications due in December.
- ☐ Attend a financial aid night at your student's school and/or a community event such as Cash For College (cash4college.csac.ca.gov) for help with filling out the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application.
- ☐ Submit the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application no later than March 2.
- ☐ Student or school must submit a verified Cal Grant GPA by March 2. Get the form and deadline information from csac.ca.gov/pubs/forms/grnt_frm/gpa_information_release.pdf.
- ☐ Look for the Student Aid Report (SAR), about three weeks after you've completed the FAFSA. Make any changes and return it. If you don't receive it, call 800-433-3243.

SPRING TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ If you plan to attend community college in the fall, apply now.
- ☐ Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer opportunity.
- ☐ Continue to maintain good grades and attendance. Colleges have been known to rescind offers of admission when students don't maintain good grades in their final high-school term.
- ☐ Look for admissions decisions (and financial aid awards) to arrive in February/March.
- ☐ Prepare for the AP exams, held in the first two weeks of May. If your scores qualify, you can earn course credit at many colleges. Send your scores to the college you will attend in the fall.
- ☐ If you have been wait-listed, contact the admissions office and express your continued interest in the school.
- ☐ Find out about test dates for any placement exams your college might require.

Parent or Guardian:

- ☐ Review all the steps at left with your student to make sure they are completed on time.
- ☐ Compare financial aid award letters. Contact financial aid officers if you have questions. If you have not received enough aid, ask if other options are available.
- ☐ Make arrangements for you and your student to attend open house or preview day.

Together:

- ☐ Review all acceptance and financial aid letters. Notify all colleges of acceptance or rejection of admission, or financial aid offers by May.
- ☐ If you have not received financial aid award information from a college within a month of receiving an acceptance letter, contact the college's financial aid office immediately.
- ☐ Send a deposit to the chosen college.
- ☐ Investigate summer preparatory programs at the college the student will attend. These programs offer for-credit courses and can provide a successful start to college.
- ☐ If your student is not admitted to any of the colleges to which they applied, make an appointment with the school counselor immediately to discuss options, including community college transfer to UC.

SUMMER TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- ☐ Confirm that your final transcripts have been sent to the college you will attend in the fall.

Together:

- ☐ Make preparations for the following school year.

For complete information about getting started at UC, use this link: achieve.universityofcalifornia.edu