

SENIOR'S COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

- _____ 1. Check college admission websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid, and housing information.
- _____ 2. Ask a counselor to help evaluate your records for high school graduation and A-G courses fulfillment. Make sure you are taking the correct classes for your college choices, including AP or Honors. Check this website for classes at your high school that are A-G approved: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/search/institution>
- _____ 3. Register to take admission tests (SAT Reasoning Test, ACT Assessment Plus Writing, and SAT Subject Tests – www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org).
- _____ 4. Keep your test scores, transcripts, list of extra-curricular activities (also volunteer and work experience) organized to help you complete college applications. This includes community college transcripts too.
- _____ 5. Rank your finalized list of colleges (safety, target, reach schools).
- _____ 6. UC Applications open August 1st but students can't submit until Nov 1-30th.
- _____ 7. Research college fly-in programs to explore potential colleges and universities both in state and out-of-state <http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/college-fly-in-diversity-programs/>
- _____ 8. Prepare for the financial aid process. Gather family income tax records. Familiarize yourself with types of financial aid and how to apply. For general financial aid information, check out www.finaid.org

OCTOBER

- _____ 1. Attend the College Information Day event on the UC Berkeley campus.
- _____ 2. Research scholarships and email, write or call for applications and further information (if needed).
- _____ 3. Begin asking teachers, counselors, or employers for letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications.
- _____ 4. Begin work on your autobiographical essay for college applications, and get feedback from teachers and other adults who don't know you very well and can act like admission readers.
- _____ 5. Begin asking teachers, counselors, or employers for letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications.
- _____ 6. Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school.
- _____ 7. Take admission tests (ACT, SAT I and/or SAT Subject Tests).
- _____ 8. Some private colleges require that you complete the CSS/Financial Aid Profile at this time: www.collegeboard.com/profile
- _____ 9. Apply for state and federal financial aid. **SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA or CA DREAM ACT BETWEEN OCT 1-MAR 2, online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov or <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>** and submit your GPA Verification to CSAC.

NOVEMBER

- _____ 1. Submit University of California and California State University applications. The deadline is **Nov 30**. www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.calstate.edu/apply
- _____ 2. Private schools have varying filing dates, so check each individual school. Some colleges subscribe to a common application: www.commonapp.org or www.eduinonline.com
- _____ 3. Take admission tests (ACT, SAT I and/or SAT II).
- _____ 4. Apply for EOP and contact each UC/CSU EOP office of interest to check application deadlines.
- _____ 5. Attend special programs such as college fairs or financial aid nights.

DECEMBER

- _____ 1. Take admission tests (the Dec tests are usually the last tests available to seniors for college admissions).
- _____ 2. Apply for scholarships. Use the winter break to write essays and complete scholarship applications.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- _____ 1. Apply for scholarships!!! (Many scholarships are available and due between January and April).

MARCH

- _____ 1. The FAFSA and GPA Verification Form are due by March 2nd (postmarked)!
- _____ 2. Submit all supplementary documents to colleges and financial aid institutions at their request (i.e. copy of income tax forms, transcript).
- _____ 3. Apply for scholarships.
- _____ 4. Expect your Student Aid Report (SAR) and California Aid Report (CAR) via mail, email, or websites. Create a WebGrants account to check status of Cal Grant at www.webgrants4students.org
- _____ 5. Constantly check for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, fees, scholarships, etc.).
- _____ 6. Admissions notifications usually come out in March and April for most colleges.

APRIL & MAY

- _____ 1. Expect financial aid award packages from the colleges that you listed on your FAFSA.
- _____ 2. **May 1** is the official reply/intent to register date for most colleges.
- _____ 3. Apply for housing (if not sooner!)
- _____ 4. Take assessment/placement tests like AP Exams, UC Analytical Writing, CSU's ELM and EPT.
- _____ 5. Apply for scholarships.
- _____ 6. Request final transcripts to send to your college during the last two weeks of school or immediately after.
- _____ 7. Apply for community college, take assessment tests, and register for classes... get ahead by taking summer school!

JUNIOR'S COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

- _____ 1. Sign up and take the PSAT/NMSQT with your counselor. For test information, visit: www.collegeboard.com
- _____ 2. Ask a counselor to help evaluate your records for high school graduation and A-G courses fulfillment. Make sure you are taking the correct classes for your college choices, including AP or Honors. Check this website for classes at your high school that are A-G approved: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/search/institution>
- _____ 3. Research and apply for scholarships that are specific for juniors.
- _____ 4. Get involved in extra curricular activities, community service, leadership opportunities, internships, or work.
- _____ 5. Check college admission websites for requirements and visitation dates.
- _____ 6. Attend the College Information Day event on the UC Berkeley campus.
- _____ 6. Research California colleges at www.californiacolleges.edu. Research colleges throughout the U.S. at www.collegeboard.com.

NOVEMBER

- _____ 1. Network with other college-bound students for information on college choices and opportunities.
- _____ 2. Talk with family, counselors, and friends about your college plans.
- _____ 3. Keep a list of colleges, careers, and majors that might appeal to you.
- _____ 4. Apply for scholarships.

DECEMBER

- _____ 1. Plan college campus visits with your family or pre-college student programs.
- _____ 2. Update skills and areas you'd like to use in a career.
- _____ 3. Apply for scholarships. Use the winter break to write essays and complete scholarship applications.
- _____ 4. Want to see how financial aid can pay for your education? Try www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov. For general financial aid information, check out: www.finaid.org

JANUARY

- _____ 1. Visit college campuses on semester break holidays.
- _____ 2. Review your PSAT scores with your Math and English teachers.
- _____ 3. Plan a strategy for getting the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT Assessment Plus Writing and SAT Subject Test scores you want. (Your strategy could include review of test taking skills and practice of specific skills areas). Try FREE SAT prep websites like www.number2.com.

FEBRUARY & MARCH

- _____ 1. Register to take admission tests (SAT Reasoning Test, ACT Assessment Plus Writing, and SAT Subject Tests – www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org).
- _____ 2. Choose your top 5 colleges.
- _____ 3. Plan visits, and collect information on each college.
- _____ 4. Research private scholarships, sign-up for www.fastweb.com for FREE scholarship searches.
- _____ 5. Explore careers in more depth, collecting information by reading and talking to people with careers that interest you. Ask what skills are needed in these fields, and determine what you need to develop.

APRIL & MAY

- _____ 1. Visit distant colleges during spring break. (Some colleges can arrange for you to stay over-night in the dorms for your visit.)
- _____ 2. Review your SAT or ACT scores and GPA with your counselor to determine your eligibility.
- _____ 3. Take AP Exams and SAT Subject Tests while the information is still fresh in your mind and near the end of the year when you've learned the most from your classes.
- _____ 4. Attend the East Bay College Connection at Saint Mary's College of California.
- _____ 5. Attend the Alameda County College Fair at CSU East Bay.
- _____ 6. Apply for scholarships.

JUNE - AUGUST

- _____ 1. Continue to collect information on your top colleges and career choices.
- _____ 2. Obtain a summer job or internship that might be related to your career interests.
- _____ 3. Take a summer enrichment course at a community college.
- _____ 4. Read books, newspapers, or magazines, and review your math skills over the summer, to help prepare you for the SAT or ACT.
- _____ 5. Start drafting your UC personal insight statements, create a brag sheet, and record everything that you've been involved in the past 3 years.
- _____ 6. Graduating seniors become college freshmen, and are a great source of information. Additionally, they may be open to assisting you with a campus visit in early fall.