

# Senior Overview Calendar 2024-2025

## AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

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

- Your college list should include up to:
  - 1-2 reach schools
  - 2-4 target schools
  - 2-3 safety schools, including at least one financial safety.
- Use the college search tool in CaliforniaColleges.edu account to research colleges/universities.
- Request teacher and counselor recommendations (ONLY if requested by your colleges) AFTER you complete your **Senior Brag sheet** and personally ask your teacher. Give them at least 2 weeks to write for you. **UCs and CSUs typically do not require recommendations from applicants.**
- If you are applying Early Action or Early Decision to the institutions that have this option, note early deadlines and requirements.
- Register for the October SAT or ACT Test if needed.
  - Note for Class of 2025: Many institutions are still test-optional for the fall application cycle. Check colleges you are applying to see if required. UCs/CSUs do not use SAT/ACT scores for admission.**
- **New, simplified college application process beginning with class of 2025!**
  - You will be launching your **CSU application through CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Submission window is open October 1 through November 30.
  - You will be launching your **UC application through CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Submission window is open October 1 through November 30.
  - You will be launching your **community college application (DVC, LMC or other)** through CaliforniaColleges.edu. Attend a DVC Kick Start workshop offered during advisory this fall.
- If you are applying to private or out-of-state colleges that use the Common Application, create an account at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) Note requirements for applications to each college you are applying to. Request transcripts for private colleges AFTER submitting application(s).
- Attend **College/Career Info Night for Senior Families on September 12 at 6:30 pm.**
- Attend college presentations and college application workshops in the college & career center throughout the fall. Sign-ups will be advertised in announcement slides.
- Continue working on your UC PIQs or personal essays for your college applications.

## OCTOBER

- October 1: CSU application opens- Deadline November 30
- FAFSA and CADAA (California Dream Act application) launches October 1st (tentative) for 2025-2026. To learn more and get help with these forms, attend a fall **Cash for College workshop**.
- Attend the **CHS Career Education Fair on October 16** to find out about trade apprenticeship programs, specific career training, community college certification programs, military, and more.
- Attend **MDUSD College Fair on Thursday, October 24** at Ygnacio Valley High School this fall.
- Register for the November SAT if you need to take it. See notes about testing this year.
- Finalize PIQs for UC's and other essays for private colleges.
- Look for fall scholarships in announcement slides, on College & Career webpage, and scholarship board in the college & career center.

## NOVEMBER

- **Cash for College Workshop:** Attend this financial aid presentation to learn more about how financial aid works and get help completing your FAFSA or CADAA after the presentation. Date/Time TBD.
- 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 through Parchment.
- **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 and CADAA application. We will work on these forms in Gov/Econ class. To learn more and get help completing forms, attend the Cash for College workshop in the fall.
- Complete all private and out-of-state college applications before winter break, keeping track of application deadlines.
- Send Official SAT/ACT test scores to colleges that accept them.
- Request transcripts for private/out of state colleges through Parchment, 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 announcements, google classroom, College & Career Center social media, 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.
- It's scholarship season! You should be applying for local scholarships announced in slides and in google classroom.

## 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 awards if you need help understanding the terms.
- 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 announcements for updates.
- Complete the Senior Graduation Survey. More info to follow.

## 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 **Parchment** to be sent to the college you plan to attend. Registrar will send only when the final transcript has been requested in Parchment.
- Senior Graduation Survey must be completed before you graduate.

**Notes: Read all college application requirements thoroughly. Each college does things differently and has different deadlines! 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 Google classroom and 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.**

Sign up for CHS College & Career Center Info for Class of 2025 Remind:

<https://www.remind.com/join/2025foru>

Follow on Instagram: @chs\_collegeandcareercenter

Follow on Twitter: @ConcordHighCCC

## College Application FAQs for Class of 2025

**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. Take time to visit the campus you are interested in. It's important to do your research!

**I'm confused about the whole process. Where do I start?** Use **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to research colleges that will have the major you are interested in studying.

o Go to the Colleges tab and explore using the **college search tool** or **major search tool**. Favorite ♥ colleges to start building your list.

o Complete your **Senior Brag sheet** if you need a recommendation from a teacher or counselor.

o Make an appointment with Mrs. Bergum to discuss your college/career plans. Use the QR code on fliers posted on campus or 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 2025 at <https://www.remind.com/join/2025foru> or email Mrs. Bergum at [bergums@mdusd.org](mailto:bergums@mdusd.org).

**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?** You will be applying to UC, CSU and community college apps through the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform. We will help you register your student account the first week of school! 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 non binding, 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 that you apply to 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 takes 3-5 weeks to process any documents that you send. If you have any questions, call the college's 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 it?** You will request transcripts through Parchment. Our registrar, Mrs. Kwiatkowski, will send transcripts.

**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 tells colleges that you will never try to read your recommendation letters. That, in turn, reassures colleges that your 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.

**How do I request recommendations?** Complete your **Senior Brag sheet** before requesting! Very nicely, approach one or 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. Remember to thank them and make sure you specify a deadline provided by the school.

**What if I'm not accepted to my first choice college? Should I appeal?** There is a process for appealing. However, schools will only review an appeal if there is some new and compelling information that the school has not already seen in your application. Appealing just because “I really want to go there” is not grounds for review. Take advantage of the waitlist if offered to you.

**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 the cost for that particular college. You can also view cost in the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform, under the college search tool. 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://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>. 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>. The applications open in October. Your application needs to be submitted by March 2. Concord High will be hosting a Cash for College workshop this fall in November. You should attend in order to get help completing your FAFSA or CADAA. Get your application submitted as soon as possible.

**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 [dream.csac.ca.gov/landing](https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing) 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 the College & Career Center or on the web page on loans. Federally subsidized loans are the way to go if you need a loan for college. \$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. Talk to Mrs. Bergum/your counselor for more info.

**What if I want to go to a Community College?** You will still use CaliforniaColleges.edu to look at 4-year colleges to transfer to, and you will apply to DVC or LMC through this platform. Use the resources in CaliforniaColleges.edu now in order to make the transition from community college to your four year school smoother. You can use the career search tool 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 the app process by spring semester in order to get an early registration date for fall of 2025.
- o Complete FAFSA or Dream Act Application in order to help you qualify for the free tuition program offered by Contra Costa Community College District.
- o Look for scholarships in weekly announcements, 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!**

- **Stop by! I'm in the College & Career Center at brunch, lunch and by appointment. Let's chat!**
- **Email me at [bergums@mdusd.org](mailto:bergums@mdusd.org)** for any questions you have on the process.
- Check the **College & Career webpage on the CHS website** 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 2025 Remind: <https://www.remind.com/join/2025foru>**
- **Follow College & Career Center on Instagram @chs\_collegeandcareercenter, Twitter @ConcordHighCCC, and Facebook @collegecareerchs**