

Applying to College: Tips for All Seniors

Identify where you plan to be in the fall of 2010.

- ✓ Links to all California colleges (UC, CSU, Community Colleges, Privates), including applications for admissions and financial aid information, can be found at www.californiacolleges.edu Click on “Add Your Counselor” for ongoing support, including email communication and application assistance. Student last names A-La: LdeBie; Le-Z: RRodriguez
- ✓ Explore various campuses and majors anywhere in the US at www.petersons.com and www.collegeboard.com

What you should know to get ready for Community College.

- ✓ Community College registration begins in the **Spring Semester**. Listen to morning announcements for information about workshops offered by Community College counselors at DHS.
- ✓ Explore Community College **vocational** programs at www.bayareacareerguide.org
- ✓ Explore Community College **transfer** programs at www.assist.org You will need to select college you are transferring from.
- ✓ If you plan to begin your college at a Community College, you do **not** need to take the SAT or ACT exams.

What you should do to apply to a CSU campus.

- ✓ Review your high school transcript to ensure you have met “a – g” requirements.
- ✓ CSU require SAT or ACT (December may be the last test date. Check the campus website.)
- ✓ CSU application is available at www.californiacolleges.edu with a link to www.csumentor.edu beginning **Oct 1 and due by Nov. 30; do not ask for an official transcript to be sent unless specifically requested by a CSU admissions office.**
- ✓ CSU application will ask for “a – g” courses (and grades) from 9 – 12th grade and test scores.
- ✓ **Your EAP scores (check STAR test score report) will impact CSU placement testing and course enrollment.**
Explanation of your EAP status can be found at www.calstate.edu/eap

What you should do to apply to a UC campus.

- ✓ Review your high school transcript to ensure you have met “a – g” requirements.
- ✓ Take SAT or ACT Plus-Writing & two Subject Exams from different subject areas. If taking math subject exam, be sure to take Math Level 2, not Level 1 (OFFICIAL Scores **MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN** December).
- ✓ UC application is available at www.californiacolleges.edu with a link to www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply starting Oct. 1st. UC applications **must be submitted between Nov. 1st and Nov 30th**
- ✓ UC application will ask for a – g” courses (and grades) from 9 – 12th grade, test scores, honors/awards, extra-curricular activities, community service, work experience, and two personal statements. Start now—don’t wait until November.

What you should do to apply to a private college.

- ✓ Applications are located on college websites or at www.commonapp.org and usually due by Jan 1st.
- ✓ Early Action or Early Decision applications are usually due by Nov. 15th (check the college website).
- ✓ Most privates accept the SAT or ACT Plus-Writing (check their admission website for last test date).
- ✓ Most privates want same as UC *plus* letters of recommendation, official transcripts, and fall grades.
- ✓ Give a letter of recommendation packet to teachers/counselor as soon as you can. Letters of recommendation packets are located in the Counseling Center. Counselors need at least 2 weeks notice to write letters of recommendations.

Information for Seniors who need to take (or retake) college admission exams this fall:

- ✓ SAT or Subject Exam fall testing (Registration deadlines) dates: **Oct. 10** (Sept. 9), **Nov. 7** (Oct. 1), **Dec. 5** (Oct. 30). Register at www.collegeboard.com Costs: \$45 SAT; \$38 for 2 Subject Tests. DHS Code number: **050755**
- ✓ ACT or ACT Plus Writing fall testing (Registration deadlines) dates: **Oct. 24** (Sept. 18), **Dec. 12** (Nov. 6). Register at www.actstudent.org Costs: \$32 ACT without Writing; \$47 ACT Plus with Writing . DHS Code number: **050755**
- ✓ **VERY IMPORTANT ABOUT SENDING SCORES:** When you register for the SAT or ACT, you list four colleges to send your scores to for free. If you do not list any colleges and wait to see your scores, then you need to go online (College Board or ACT web site) and **pay** (\$9.50 for EACH) to have official **scores sent** to colleges. **There is no advantage to having your scores withheld; colleges will use your best scores for making admissions decisions.**

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information:

- ✓ **Want to go to college or a career/technical school, but don’t have the money?** A Cal Grant or Pell Grant can help you get the most financial aid possible to pay for college or most career/tech schools and you don’t have to pay it back! **Do this now:** APPLY for a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) personal identification number (PIN) at www.fafsa.ed.gov . Parents AND students must have PIN numbers to file a FAFSA. Filing period for FAFSA is between January 1 and March 2, 2010. More information about Cal Grants is available through the California Student Aid Commission at www.calgrants.org.
- ✓ **Submit your student’s Social Security Number** to Dixon High School Registrar, Maria Torres (mtorres@dixonusd.org) as soon as possible. Grade point average verifications for Cal Grant programs are sent electronically for every senior who submits a SSN. Don’t be left out!
- ✓ **Check out websites for scholarship information:** www.fastweb.com and www.collegeboard.com and DHS website link: http://dhs.dixonusd.org/Counseling/paying_for_college.html
- ✓ Local scholarship applications will be available in March 2010.