

Senior Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

August

- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Visit some college campuses
- Narrow your college list to no more than five schools
- Request catalogs and admissions information
- Contact your high school counselor for registration materials and test dates for SAT and/or ACT.

September

- Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school
- Make a list of test names, dates, fees, and registration deadlines, and of deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications
- Remember that you must take tests like the SAT and ACT at least six weeks before the deadline for scores to be submitted to colleges
- Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors, and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications

October

- Take the SAT or ACT exam, if necessary
- Work on admissions application essays
- Visit your top school choices. Interview students, faculty and staff
- Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights
- Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due
- Some private universities may require that you register for the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (www.collegeboard.org) at this time. (This determines your qualification for private school aid)

November

- Take the SAT or ACT exam, if necessary
- Obtain financial aid applications from your guidance office or college of choice. Read them carefully to determine what information is required and when the applications are due
- Begin preparing your college applications. Check with colleges to find when materials must be postmarked
- If you plan to file your FAFSA on-line, apply now for your PIN at FAFSA PIN site.

December

- Pick up a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at your high school counseling office or your local library. Begin working on it. DO NOT SUBMIT IT BEFORE JANUARY 1.
- Pick up a GPA Verification form for state aid at your high school
- Apply for outside funding or scholarships
- PARENTS: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools

January

- Submit your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and GPA Verification form, as soon after January 1 as possible. To file your application on-line visit www.fafsa.ed.gov
- KEEP ALL COPIES OF ALL FORMS COMPLETED AND OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AT POST OFFICE
- January is Financial Aid Awareness Month. Look for special programs in your area
- PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early – schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid

February

- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Submit GPA Verification form, if you have not already done so
- Mail your FAFSA (Free Applications for Federal Student Aid), if you have not already done so
- KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS COMPLETED AND OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AT POST OFFICE
- Research taking advanced placement (AP) or college-level examination program (CLEP) exams
- Rank your finalized list of colleges

March

- Look for your Student Air Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information
- Submit tax forms to the school's financial aid office, if requested. Contact the financial aid office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.

- Postmark deadline for FAFSA, State Aid, and GPA verification is March 2. (*Some schools may have earlier priority filing deadlines*).
- If you have not received your SAR four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3242

April

- Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid awards you receive from various colleges
- Check with the college you've chosen to attend about the details of signing and returning your financial aid award letter
- Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc.)
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline
- Notify the schools that you will not be attending of your final decision

May

- Advance Placement (AP) examinations are given in high schools nationwide
- If you have not received notice regarding your Cal Grant application from the CA Student Aid Commission, contact them at 1-888-CAGrant as soon as possible

Important Numbers and Websites

Federal Student Aid Information

1-800-433-3242

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.pin.ed.gov

California Student Aid Commission

1-888-242-7268

www.csac.ca.gov

CSS Profile Information

1-3-5-829-9793

www.collegeboard.org

Financial Aid Information Page

www.finaid.org