

# 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE – FALL College Timeline

## AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- Academics**
- Take full load of college prep courses
  - Meet with school counselor or college advisor to review HS /college require
  - Complete College Profile Packet
- Applications**
- Narrow your list of colleges (8 to 10) – explore at [californiacolleges.edu](http://californiacolleges.edu)
  - Share your list of colleges with your parents, involve them in the process!
  - Develop a calendar of application due dates for private/out-of-state schools
  - Identify majors that most interest you! (also know options for undeclared major)
- Personal statement**
- Draft UC Personal Statement
- Testing (see counselor for fee waiver)**
- Re-take / REGISTER FOR SAT or ACT
  - SAT II aren't required for UC or CSU, but UC HIGHLY recommends them for certain selective majors. Find out if your major requires that you take the SAT II and register: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions)
- For private or out of state schools, visit the university's website
- Letters of recommendation**
- Create list of whom you will ask to write letters and find out if HS has request process
- OTHER**
- Create organization system for your college application materials
  - Create professional e-mail address
  - Mark calendar with dates/deadlines
  - Continue participating in extra-curricular activities
  - Make copies of EVERYTHING and file!
  - If you are an undocumented student talk to your counselor about AB540 and visit [websites-maldef.org](http://websites-maldef.org) – [ab540.com](http://ab540.com) – [e4fc.org](http://e4fc.org)
  - If you plan to compete in Division III college sports register with the NCAA - [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

## OCTOBER

- Academics**
- Keep up your grades! Colleges do not accept D or F grades!
- Applications**
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, Begin CSU application [csumentor.edu](http://csumentor.edu)
  - Submit EOP app. along with CSU app. - [www.csumentor.edu/planning/eop/](http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/eop/)
  - Some private colleges require forms prior to application – submit if necessary
- Personal statement**
- Find 1-2 people to review UC Statement
  - Use UC Statement to draft Private school essays
- Letters of recommendation**
- Request letters of recommendation forms (provide copy of College Profile and additional forms)
- Scholarships / Financial Aid**
- Scholarship search – [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) – [scholarship.com](http://scholarship.com) – college center – apply!
  - Develop a calendar of application due dates for scholarships – apply!
  - Use UC Personal Statements for essays
  - Male students applying for Financial Aid (FAFSA) must register with Selective Service - [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)
  - Pass the CA HS Exit Exam (CAHSEE) – a requirement for Cal Grant
- OTHER**
- Visit College Campuses & websites
  - Attend College & Transfer Fairs
- CSS Financial Aid Profile**
- Required by some private schools - Due between Nov. and Feb. (you must visit the Financial Aid website of EACH institution to find out due date)
  - Website below has information on participating institutions and forms: <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>

## NOVEMBER

- Make a pact with a friend or two to help each other get through the college application process together!
- Academics**
- Keep up your grades! Colleges do not accept D or F grades!
- Applications**
- Nov 1<sup>st</sup>: Begin UC application [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)
- Personal statement**
- Finalize UC Personal Statement
  - Find 1-2 people to review Private School Essays
- Testing**
- Send test scores to ALL universities or systems you applied to – [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) – [ww.act.org](http://ww.act.org)
  - UC - if you send to one UC campus, all will receive
  - SAT institution code for CSU is 3594
  - When you send final SAT or ACT test scores, all of your past test scores will be automatically sent
- Letters of recommendation**
- Request letters of recommendation forms (provide copy of College Profile and additional forms)
  - Remind recommenders of due dates 1-2 weeks prior
- Scholarships / Financial Aid**
- Continue the Scholarship search – [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) – [scholarship.com](http://scholarship.com) – college center - counselor
  - Continue applying! Or do you prefer loan debts?!
- Important Deadline November 30<sup>th</sup>**
- UC and CSU applications due (Plan to submit by Thanksgiving!)

## DECEMBER

- Academics**
- Keep up your grades! Colleges do not accept D or F grades!
- Applications**
- Begin private school applications. Visit individual websites or [commonapplication.org](http://commonapplication.org)
- Personal statement**
- Finalize Private School Essays
- Letters of recommendation**
- Remind recommenders of due dates 1-2 weeks prior
- Scholarships / Financial Aid**
- Continue the Scholarship search – [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) – [scholarship.com](http://scholarship.com) – college center – counselor
  - Apply for your federal PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov), you will need it to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- OTHER**
- Applied to a CSU? Ask your counselor if you are required to take either one of the following test and register - English Placement Test (EPT) and the Entry-Level Mathematics Test (ELM) – [www.els.org](http://www.els.org)
  - Check professional e-mail account carefully / frequently for requests and information from colleges and scholarship programs
  - Learn about financial aid at [www.calirants.org](http://www.calirants.org), [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov), and [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Important Deadlines (Dec – Jan)**
- Private school applications typically due (Dec – Jan)
- First-round of scholarship deadlines (Dec – Jan)

## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE – SPRING College Timeline

### JAN / FEB

#### REMEMBER TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERYTHING YOU SUBMIT!

- Keep up your grades! Don't drop classes! Remember, your admission will be conditional and you must complete all of your "planned" courses for the Spring with a C or better. Should you drop a class, you will need to write a letter explaining the situation to each university in which you applied
- Did you receive a D or F in one of your "a-g" courses? If so, you need to write a letter explaining the situation and how you plan to make up the course - send to each university you applied to (may hurt your chances of receiving admission)
- Ensure mid-year reports for private schools are submitted by your counselor or registrar
- Make sure to check your e-mail and respond to any requests made by admissions officers
- Check-in with your counselor or college advisor to make sure you are on track to graduate and continuing to fulfill your "a-g" college requirements
- Most "regular" decision applications for private schools are due, send all required materials
- Continue applying for scholarships!

#### Financial Aid

- Ask your parents to file their Federal Income Taxes ASAP (you will need information to complete the FAFSA) – if necessary you can use last year's information and update after you submit
- Attend a CA Cash for College Workshop for free help in completing the FAFSA – for dates and locations go to [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)
- Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet which you will find at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) - completing this form will help you gather the information you will need to complete the FAFSA - Call FAFSA for help if needed! 1-800-433-3243
- Ensure that your HS submits your verified Cal Grant GPA – you must submit 2 forms by March 2<sup>nd</sup> to be eligible for financial aid: 1. FAFSA and 2. Cal Grant GPA verification

#### CSS Financial Aid Profile

- Required by some private schools - Due between Nov. and Feb. (you must visit the Financial Aid website of EACH institution to find out due date)
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### MARCH / APRIL

- Don't let SENIORITY get you! Focus on completing the goals you have set for yourself!
  - Keep up your grades! Remember, if you receive a D or F in a college preparatory course the university can rescind their acceptance letter
  - Be sure to send your AP test scores to the colleges you applied to
  - Planning to attend at CSU? Are you required to take the English Placement Test (EPT) and the Entry-Level Mathematics Test (ELM)? See your counselor or college advisor – if required, register for the test(s) ASAP, otherwise, you will not be allowed to enroll - <http://www.els.org/cs/about>
  - Admission letters and Financial Aid Award letters will begin to arrive from 4-year Universities! Evaluate your options, visit schools (virtually or in person) and make your selection.
- #### Financial Aid
- FAFSA is due on March 2<sup>nd</sup> - print and keep confirmation page for your records
  - Check the status of your application 1 week after submission (if you used a PIN)
  - With your PIN, you can edit and resubmit corrections electronically
  - (April) To view and print your SAR (Student Aid Report) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Community college students must take a copy of their SAR to the college financial aid office.
  - Reviewing Financial Aid Award Letters:
    - Compare cost of attendance
    - Compare how much aid you are receiving (combination of grants, scholarships and loans)
    - Compare your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) for each school
    - If your finances have changed (after completing the FAFSA) you may be able to appeal the Financial Aid Award – contact the school's Financial Aid Office

### MAY / JUNE

- Submit your SIR (Statement of Intent to Register) and deposit by May 1st
- Apply for housing (most applications require a deposit!)
- Make reservations to participate in orientation and registration programs
- Visit your school registrar and make arrangements for your FINAL transcript to be sent to your future college!
- Create a budget for the upcoming school year
- Open a bank account if you don't already have one
- Finalize Summer plans – taking a community college course, participating in an internship, volunteering and working are great ways to stay active!

### SUMMER

- Write thank you notes to everyone who helped you during your college application process.
- Attend orientation, advising and transition programs available at your college.
- Collect and pack items you will need for college
- Take time to recognize your hard work and dedication . . . prepare yourself for the fun, excitement, and hard work headed your way!

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