

Senior Action Plan

FALL - Put your Application together

- ◆ **Take Sat1 & Sat 2 and/or ACT before January.**
- ◆ **Narrow your list of Colleges** to between 5 and 10 Colleges. Get applications and financial aid info for each. Visit as many potential choices as possible.
- ◆ **Make a calendar with the following:**
 - Test dates, fees and deadlines
 - Application due dates
 - Required financial aid application deadlines
 - Deadlines for recommendations, transcripts, and other materials
 - Highland deadlines for scholarships
- ◆ **Ask for recommendations** Fill out a “BRAG” sheet and make a resume. Give brag sheet, resume, a stamped, addressed envelope, and any required forms to each person you have asked to write a letter of recommendation.
- ◆ **Write application essays** and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.
- ◆ **October 1st—November 30th** is the application period for Cal State’s and U C’s.

Applying Early Action or Early Decision?

- ◆ **November 1st:** For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT scores to colleges at *collegeboard.com*.
 - Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.

Get Financial Aid Info

- ◆ Attend financial aid information events.
- ◆ Talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and learn about it with Completing the PROFILE.
- ◆ Use Scholarship Search at *collegeboard.com*, review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources.

WINTER– Application Details

- ◆ Most regular applications are due between January 1st and February 15th with the exception of Cal State’s and UC’s. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- ◆ Have your high school send your transcript to colleges with the 1st semester grades, using *docufide.com*.
- ◆ Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.

Financial Aid: Apply Early. Apply Right.

- ◆ You and your family should save this year’s pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you’ll file early next year.
- ◆ Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1st as possible! The application period is from January 1st through March 2nd. Men 18 or older must register for the selective service to receive federal financial aid.

Beware of Scholarship Scams– Free money shouldn’t cost a thing

Go to *collegeboard.com*, click on: “FOR PARENTS” tab; look for the heading **Learn more** and click on: “Can you spot a scholarship scam?”

“a-g” Requirements

- “a” **History/Social Science** - 2 years
 - “b” **English**– 4 years
 - “c” **Mathematics** - 3 years (4 recommended)
 - “d” **Laboratory Science**– 2 years (3 recommended)
 - “e” **Foreign Language** (the same language) - 2 years (3 recommended)
 - “f” **Visual /Performing Arts**– 1 year
 - “g” **Elective Courses** (chosen from the subject areas listed above or approved college prep elective courses)- 1 year
- 15 units of required courses passed with a “C” or better**