

Senior/College Planning Timeline

Fall and Spring Semesters:

Avoid “senioritis”! Colleges look at both first and second semester grades.

August:

- Talk to a school counselor about the possibility of concurrent enrollment at a local community college
- Talk to a school counselor about taking the appropriate classes during your senior year
- Get information on prospective colleges or plans for after graduation
- Besides applying for a FAFSA, some colleges require the CSS/PROFILE, a supplemental financial aid form. Check to see if the college you are interested in applying to require the PROFILE
- Consider doing volunteer work. Colleges are looking for well-rounded students.

September:

- Register for the October/November SAT or ACT. All seniors must take the SAT or ACT by December of their senior year
- Start reviewing your college choices
- Review your high school transcript with your counselor
- Become familiar with job search skills and the application process
- Make sure you have all the credits and courses that are required for all the colleges you plan to apply to
- Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers, counselors or principals with stamped, college-addressed envelopes, making certain that your portions of the forms are filled out completely and accurately
- Most early decision and early applications are due between October 1st and November 1st. If you plan on taking advantage of these options, remember to request that your high school send your official transcripts to the college on time

October:

- Make a final list of schools that interest you and keep a file of deadlines and required admission items for each school
- CSU begins accepting applications for admission in October. Many CSU’s close admission applications on November 30th

- Register for the November/December SAT or ACT. All seniors must take the SAT or ACT by December of their senior year
- Get started on any essays to be included with your applications
- Attend college fairs
- Pinpoint your career options- begin Job search
- Become familiar with the job interviewing process

November:

- UC accepts admission applications from November 1st-30th
- Consult with your school counselor regarding scholarships opportunities
- Work on scholarship applications and mail according to deadlines
- Check with the financial aid office of schools you are applying to for specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board, and any additional financial aid info they require

December:

- Watch your mailbox if you submitted an early decision application
- Apply for your FAFSA Pin number. Both student and parent need a PIN number as it serves as your electronic signature
- Make sure your official SAT/ACT test scores are being sent to the colleges to which you are applying
- Schedule any remaining required interviews
- Submit all applications with January 1st deadline
- Become familiar with resume writing
- Start thinking about a summer job to supplement your college funds
- Re-check your graduation status

January:

- Complete and submit your college financial aid application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) between January 1st and February 15th
- Check for other financial aid options
- Observe deadline for admissions, financial aid and testing
- Consider purchasing a laptop for college
- Request that your high school send your official transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying
- Make sure your parents have completed their income tax forms in anticipation of the financial aid applications
- Keep an eye out for financial aid workshops and seminars

February:

- If you completed the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report within four weeks

- Submit Cal Grant GPA verification form (end of February)
- Complete scholarship applications
- Contact the college admissions office to which you have applied to make sure your information has been received
- Maintain good grades
- Continue with job search, as needed

March-April:

- You will probably hear from the colleges as to whether or not you are accepted by April 15th
- Continue to seek scholarships
- Submit Cal Grant GPA verification form by March 2nd
- Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers
- Prepare cover letters and resumes for selected occupations, if appropriate
- Begin the job application process, if needed
- Keep counselor informed about job status (employment, military and apprenticeship)

May:

- Take AP exams for any AP subjects you took in high school
- Decision time! Most colleges require notification by May 1st
- See your doctor for a physical and any necessary vaccinations

June:

- Have your school send your final transcripts to the college you will be attending
- Contact your college to determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due, and how much it will cost

Suggestions from the CSU Admission Director:

Have a back up plan.

The deadlines are firm. There are furlough days so don't plan on always being able to reach someone in admissions.

Use re-routing if offered.

Pay attention. Read your e-mails carefully from each campus.

FAQs:

Can I transfer from one CSU to another? The first priority for transfer admission are students from community college. Everyone else is second.

Should I send transcripts? It's up to each campus. Pay attention during the application and check your e-mail.

Should I declare a major? Cal Poly SLO and Cal Maritime require you to declare a major on your application. The other CSUs do not. Choose carefully and do not plan on playing major "switcheroo" afterwards.

When will I be notified of admission? Some campuses may let you know earlier, but most notifications start in January of 2012. You will hear from each campus you applied to by March 1. Your local campus, CSU Sacramento, may let you know even before January.

Can I get a fee waiver for the application cost? You will be prompted on the on-line application to answer a few questions about family income. If you qualify you will receive 4 free applications.