

College Planning Guide



CEF COPTIC
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Senior Year Timeline

Your Senior Year of High School

Your senior year is going to be very busy. You will be finishing your high school work, applying to colleges, and applying for scholarships and financial aid. You will have a lot to do, but if you work hard this year, and complete each of the tasks below when suggested, you can do it!

Keep this handbook throughout the year. Check off each task as you complete it.

JUNE/SUMMER

- Meet with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track for graduation. Arrange to make-up any missing credits during the summer or **EARLY** in the school year at a Community College or Adult School.
- Summer program
 - Finalize college list
 - Register for www.CSUMentor.com and complete High School Planner
- Start Personal Statement
 - Print them, and
 - Save them on your email, and
 - Save them on a jump drive.
- Study for the SAT/ACT
 - Review your scores and aim to raise them in the Fall
 - Register for the Fall SAT exam in October or December

FALL SEMESTER

- Review your transcript with your high schools and UB Counselors. Are there classes you still need to take to be college ready?
- Register for the SAT & ACT– check with UB Counselor high school counselor for fee waivers. **Remember that December is the last time seniors can take the SAT & ACT.**
- Consider taking community college courses if you have early dismissal.
- Check application deadlines for the colleges and scholarships to which you plan to apply.
 - Some colleges require early submission of admission applications for merit or need-based scholarships.

OCTOBER

- Cal State Application opens

NOVEMBER

- Complete college applications – apply to **at least four** UC and CSU institutions:
- Request that your high school transcripts be sent to all institutions to which you are applying.
- Apply for scholarships BEFORE application deadlines.
- Identify “nominator” and “recommenders” for the Gates Millennium Scholarship.
- Apply for the Dell Scholarship application available at <http://www.dellscholars.org/public/>

DECEMBER

- Apply for the Gates Millennium Scholarship– deadline early January – apply now.
- Send SAT & ACT scores to colleges after you receive your final December scores.

JANUARY

- Ask your parents to complete their 2010 IRS tax forms as early as possible – your financial aid for college depends on it!
- Request a US Department of Education PIN number for the FAFSA.
 - You will have the option to get your PIN # immediately by email.
 - WRITE IT DOWN and keep in it a safe place. If emailed, it will not stay in your email.
- Your parents will also need a PIN to sign the FAFSA (www.pin.ed.gov).
- File the FAFSA January 1-March 2 to meet the Financial Aid File Completion deadline for Fall Semester.
 - Early submission of the FAFSA improves your chances of receiving financial aid and scholarships.

FEBRUARY

- College specific scholarships are often due in early spring. Check with each campus for specific deadlines.
 - The UC Application also serves as the UC scholarship application, so no additional application is necessary.

Attend a FAFSA/financial aid workshop with your parents through CEF at your church or at your high school. You can also check www.icanaffordcollege.com and they have listings of financial aid workshops throughout Southern California.

MARCH

- Cal Grant Applications are due **March 2**.
- UC decisions will be e-mailed to students March 1st-31st. CSU decision notifications will vary.

APRIL/MAY

- AP Exams
- Apply for campus housing if you plan to live in the dorms.
- Financial aid and scholarship award letters will begin to arrive in April. Read aid award letters carefully and be sure to *meet deadlines in order to receive award*.
- Sign commitment forms and send enrollment fees (if applicable) to the college you choose.

JUNE

- Graduation!!! Congratulations!!!

