

Tamalpais High School



The College Application Process

Senior Night

September 13, 2018

Counseling Office

- **Scott Birkestrand, Counselor**
- **Brian Napolitano, Counselor**
- **Sandra Pula, Counselor**
- **Jane Zimmerman, Counselor**
- **Alexandra Hunt, Counselor**
- **Melanie Voorsanger, Career Specialist**
- **Jane Shapiro, Counseling Secretary**

Positive Parenting

- This year and a half is another rite of passage in parenting.
- Your child is well-prepared for college.
- Your child will get into college.
- This is a period of growth for you, your child and your family
- You have counselors as your allies
- Managing Stress – Courses/process
- You are not alone!

Senior Essentials

- College Rep Visits
- Workshops
- Your grades – staying the course through JUNE
- Finishing SAT / ACT
- Sending your SAT / ACT scores
- Essays
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov
- CSS Profile: www.cssprofile.org (Not required for UC/CSU's)
- Scholarships

Coming Up With New Options

- Get creative exploring college options
- WUE
- Naviance
- Colleges That Change Lives
- College Board Big Future
- FairTest.org
- Safety, Match, Reach
- Finalizing the List
- Financial Options
- Community College
- Gap Year

Deadlines

- **Regular**

- November 30th, December 15th, January 1st, January 15th, February 1st ...and then some more...

- **Rolling**

- ASAP, often with Priority Filing dates; **best to file early! (Univ.of Colorado, Univ of Oregon, ASU, Univ of Arizona)**

- **Early Action**

- November 1 or 15th: non-binding (“single-choice” EA)

- **Early Decision**

- November 1 or 15th: binding (Some ED II as well with later deadlines)

- **Priority Deadline**

- Used for scholarships – varies by college

College Requirements

- Courses
 - Graduation Requirements
 - “A-G” courses (UC / CSU approved list can be found online)
 - “Challenging course load”
 - Meeting minimum and/or average GPA’s (vary year to year)
- Admissions Tests
 - SAT
 - ACT
 - SAT Subject Tests
 - Test Optional
- Letter of Recommendation
 - Counselor AND teachers
- Other Activities
 - Activities that show “sustained involvement with increasing levels of responsibility”

Tips & Tricks

Check out the following links for “A-G” lists:

<https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/details/1330/>

Organizational Tips

The transcript gives colleges much insight into the educational journey of the student. It is important to be mindful while crafting these transcripts.

- Set up a college email account
 - Check it daily
 - Make it simple
- Make a spreadsheet
 - College list and notes
 - Logins and passwords
 - Transcript
 - Extracurricular Descriptions
 - Scholarships
 - To Do list
- Correct your ESCHOOL email (jshapiro@tamdistrict.org)
- Make sure to send out thank you notes to everyone who helps you in the college process from teachers to those who provide scholarships you may receive.

Tips & Tricks:
You can find a template for a college spreadsheet on [Ms. Voorsanger's website.](#)

What You Need to Know

- CEEB Code – 051975
- School – Tamalpais High School
- Type – Public
- Date of Entry – 08/2015
- Graduation Date – 06/13/2019
- Address – 700 Miller Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941
- Counselor Information

Common Errors

- Make sure that your name remains consistent on all forms and is the same name on your birth certificate and your social security card.
- Deadlines are FIRM
- File FAFSA early
- Know the A-G list

California State Universities (CSU)

- 23 CSU Campuses!
- Cal State Apply: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
- Application available **October 1**
- Deadline **November 30**
- No letters of recommendation, essays, or SAT Subject scores
- Admission based on “**A-G**” courses grades 9-12 and [Eligibility Index Score](#)
- Local Service Area – Sonoma State and San Francisco State
(admit at minimum eligibility)

*Exception:

CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

- Holistic review

(Subject tests, rigor of coursework, extracurriculars, etc)

CSU GPA:

- ★ “A-G” Classes Only
- ★ 10th & 11th grades
- ★ Minimum GPA of 2.0

ELIGIBILITY INDEX

SAT (GPA x 800) + (Your SAT score)
Minimum = 2950

ACT (GPA x 200) + (10 x ACT Composite)
Minimum = 694

[CALCULATE!](#)

University of California (UC)

- 9 UC Undergraduate Campuses
- Application available August 1
 - ◆ Filing period from November 1 – **November 30**
- Evaluate HOLISTICALLY based on 14 factors
 - ◆ GPA
 - ◆ Test Scores
 - ◆ Rigor of coursework
 - ◆ Personal Insight Questions
 - ◆ Extra curriculars, special circumstances, etc.
 - ◆ Eligibility in the Local Context ([ELC](#))
 - ◆ Each campus weighs the factors differently
- No Transcripts, No Letters of Rec

UC GPA:

- ★ “A-G” Classes Only
- ★ 10th & 11th grades
- ★ Minimum GPA of 3.0

Resources:

- [UC Application](#)
- [UC Campuses](#)
- [Admissions Information](#)
- [A-G course search](#)
- [Personal Insight Questions!](#)

Private Schools

- Admissions Guidelines different for all schools **DO YOUR RESEARCH!!**
 - ◆ *Holistic Evaluations*
 - ◆ *GPA, Rigor of coursework, Test Scores, Essay Questions, Letters of Rec, Extracurriculars, etc*
- Regular Decision, Early Decision and Early Action Deadlines
- GPA includes 9th grade and 1st semester Senior Year
- Transcripts
- Letters of Rec
 - ◆ *Teacher(s)*
 - ◆ *Counselor/Counselor Report*
(Individual instructions by counselor have been sent to students)
- Most Widely Used Application Platform = [“The Common App”](#)

Research Tools:

- ★ [California Colleges](#)
- ★ [College Navigator](#)

→ **NOTES ON Common App**

- ★ **Private Schools and Some Public Schools**
- ★ **Waive FERPA rights!!**
- ★ **Add and Choose Recommenders**
- ★ **Be aware of your own deadlines and requirements.**
- ★ **Set and Choose Decision Plan for each individual School**
- ★ **Supplemental Questions**
- ★ **There are some other application platforms, (e.g. The Coalition or Universal App) We recommend Common App. *(If using another platform, communicate needs with your counselor clearly)***

Public Out of State

- Admissions Guidelines Similar to UC/CSU, but double check
 - ◆ Sometimes require a transcript or LOR, but not often
- Manage application platforms
 - ◆ Use Common App when possible to save time!
- Manage Deadlines
- Consider the [Western Undergraduate Exchange!](#)
- Ask questions of your Counselor or Ms. Voorsanger
- Research!

Quick Note on Classes & Apps

- ★ Be aware that the classes you say you are taking are a **commitment.**
 - Once you submit an application, you are expected to complete the courses you have shown as “in progress”
 - Grades expected to be comparable or better than grades in the past
 - Any level changes or course drops will need to be **reported to admissions departments.**

Admissions Departments Don't Like Surprises!

California Community Colleges

- www.cccco.edu
- Cost effective
- No SAT/ACT required
- Great transfer rates
- Admission based solely on community college grades for students applying to California public schools
- Research Transfer by college and major on assist.org

College of Marin

- Applications are open in Fall, but students can apply anytime.
- College of Marin Counselor Visit - Spring
- Application Workshops - Spring
- Placement tests on campus – April
- Transfer program (TAG)
- Requirements to enroll / register on-time
- The benefits of community college and transferring to a four year

UC Personal Insight Questions

- ★ 8 Questions, Choose 4
- ★ All questions are equal
- ★ “Questions” vs. “Essays”
- ★ More like an interview than a writing sample
- ★ Make the most of your word count and question choices
- ★ Looking for information and evidence about WHO YOU ARE:
Depth, Growth, Leadership, Challenges
- ★ Take advantage of **Writing Tips and Recommendations!**

Common Application Essay

- 7 prompts, Choose 1 -- 650 words
- Qualitative Information - WHO YOU ARE
- Evidence of strengths, resilience, challenges etc. What YOU will bring to their campus
- Writing Skills matter
- General Essay; goes to every school on your common application.
- More specific detail may be requested in supplemental essays

Supplement Questions

- Arguably more important
- Three kinds:
 - Why us?
 - Why your major?
 - Creative question
- Will vary in question and number of questions based on school
- DO YOUR RESEARCH

Common Errors

- Not answering the question or all of the question.
- Not focusing enough on yourself.
- Including too much description, clichés, or not using your word count effectively.
- Falling into prompt / question “traps”
- Not telling the truth

Financial Aid Basics

- Financial Aid Night (October 11, 2018, 6:30pm, RM 2020)
- <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens October 1st
- You will need your 2017-18 year taxes (the ones you filed April 2018)
- The earlier you submit the FAFSA the more likely you are to receive a better financial aid package
- Financial aid packages are sent after admissions decisions are sent.
- Use financial aid calculators to make sure that you have “financial safeties” on your list.
- Applications are not done after submitted – if you want money for college you’ll need to keep writing essays.

College Season Etiquette

- This is an individualized process.
- It *is* inappropriate to ask where someone is applying.
- Ask qualifying questions.
- It is okay to keep your list to yourself.
- Be open-minded.
- Try to let go of bias, judgment, and ego.
- Treat others the way that you would want to be treated.

Resources & Timeline

- CCC Website (www.thsccc.wordpress.com) – Calendar, College notes, appointment scheduling, job postings, scholarship postings, etc.
- Naviance – Calendar, College Stats, Scholarships
- Sample Work Timeline:
 - September (1 week): Common App / UC Application (Information, Courses & Activities), Letters of Recommendation
 - September (2-3 weeks): Common App Essay
 - October (2-3 weeks): UC Questions and/or supplement questions
 - November: Early Action / Decision Deadlines
 - November 30: UC / CSU Deadlines
 - December – February: Common Application and all other applications (minus rolling)

Transcripts

- NO transcripts needed to apply to CSU or UC schools unless they contact you, EXCEPT for final transcript in June after acceptance
- Private colleges/universities need the 6th and 7th semester transcripts
- Check school websites to see what they want for transcripts
- Form available in counseling office and sent to you in September

Sending the Transcript

- Form in counseling office or online
- Transcript is free
- ONLINE – if the school will take transcripts online – sign-up so we can submit your transcript electronically.
- Transcript only: Bring in a stamped envelope for each school requesting a transcript by mail. The name of each student needs to be in LOWER left hand corner of the envelope
- DO NOT put a return address on envelope
- Leave envelopes with the counseling secretary. She will check them into the system.
- If school requires more than a transcript in the mailing add an extra stamp.

Counselor Letter of Recommendation

- All seniors were sent information about the LOR and the LOR packet.
- Follow instructions sent by your counselor to complete your LOR information. You will receive an email with follow up instructions
- Check your email accounts regularly as we will only be communicating via email.
- Please respect the time of your teachers and counselors

Teacher Letter of Recommendation

- Contact the teacher who knows you and your study skills the best
- Ask the teacher what he/she needs to complete the letter
- Teachers may request a resume
- Make sure to invite your teacher to the application or provide a stamped and addressed envelope
- Ask teachers if they would prefer electronic submission
- 1 – 2 teachers
- Other letters
- Teachers do not get a copy of our LOR packet

Inviting your counselor to the Common Application

- ❑ Handout
- ❑ Register
- ❑ My Colleges
- ❑ Future Plans
- ❑ Applicant
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Academics
- ❑ School Forms
- ❑ Check the directions we sent you!

Gap Year: What is it?

- **Break from “formal” education**
- **Learning continues in a different format and venue**
- **Find your purpose**
- **Re-awaken your love of learning**

GAP YEAR

- 2019 Gap Year Fair
 - January 5 - February 7, 2019
 - Check the website for times and locations
 - <http://usagapyearfairs.org/fairs/>

Non- College Options: Gap Year

- www.usagapyear.org
- www.thinkingbeyondborders.org (Thinking Beyond Borders)
- www.amigoslink.org (Amigos de las Americas)
- www.leapnow.org (LeapNow): Transforming Education)
- www.nols.edu (National Outdoor Leadership NOLS)
- www.outwardbound.org/gap-year-semester-courses (Outward Bound)
- www.rusticpathways.com/gap (Rustic Pathways)
- www.theleap.co.uk (The Leap)
- www.wheretherebedragons.com/whydragons.who (Where There Be Dragons)

Free Gap Year Programs

- AmeriCorps
- VISTA
- National Civilian Community Corps
- Habitat for Humanity
- City Year
- Public Allies
- The Corps Network www.corpsnetwork.org
- World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
- Global Volunteers
- International People's College in Denmark
- Masa Israel

Gap Year Association

Students who have taken a gap year overwhelmingly report being satisfied with their jobs. Upon further inquiry, Haigler found that this was related to a less-selfish approach to working with people and careers. [Karl Haigler & Rae Nelson, The Gap Year Advantage, independent study of 280 Gap Year students between 1997 - 2006]

For most students, gap year experiences have an impact on their choice of academic major and career – either setting them on a different path than before a gap year or confirming their direction (60% said the experience either "set me on my current career path/academic major" or "confirmed my choice of career/academic major"). [Karl Haigler & Rae Nelson, The Gap Year Advantage, independent study of 300 gap year students between 1997 - 2006]

Taking a 1-year break between high school and university allows 'motivation for and interest in study to be renewed.'
[Birch, "The Characteristics of Gap-Year Students and Their Tertiary Academic Outcomes", Australia, 2007]

Upcoming Dates

- Application Workshops (Wednesdays @ Tutorial)
- Essay Workshops (Fridays @ Tutorial)
- Essay Review (Tuesdays @ Lunch)
- FAFSA Opens (October 1st)
- Financial Aid Night (October 11, 2018, 6:30pm, RM 2020)
- UC / CSU Applications Deadline (Nov 30)