

Timeline for Applying to 4-Year College

Spring of Junior Year

- Focus on your classes and doing the best you can. Talk to your teachers. Ask for help when you need it. Invest your time and energy into making this a strong semester.
- Plan out your SAT/ACT testing schedule. Keep in mind any activities and commitments that are in high gear during the spring and/or fall. Do you have AP exams? What does your finals schedule look like? We recommend you take at least one exam in the spring and another in the fall after further study in the summer, as needed based on your scores. Remember that registration dates are usually about a month in advance of test dates. **See your Counselor if you qualify for a Fee Waiver (or if you're not sure if you qualify for a Fee Waiver).**
- Do you need to take SAT II Subject Tests? They are required at some highly selective and recommended for some STEM majors at the University of California – do your research.
- Bookmark the College & Career Center blog: <https://thsgcc.wordpress.com/> Ms. V is an excellent resource in this process. Stay up to date on the C&CC workshops and events such as the career speaker series (happening now), application and essay workshops (in the fall), local college fairs, scholarships, and more.

Summer after Junior Year

- Stay actively involved, whether you are working, volunteering, performing, competing, etc.
- Continue your college research and fine tune your list (likely, possible, stretch)
- Decide if you will apply Early (Early Action (non-binding), Early Decision (binding))
- Draft/finalize your college application essays (google the prompts)
- Complete your Counselor Letter of Rec packet (if your schools require one, typically private schools, EOP at Cal State)
- Decide which teacher(s) you will request a Letter of Rec from (if your schools require them)
- Prepare for any planned fall SAT/ACT exams
- Create a resume on Naviance

*** Applying to college is a lot of work. Making plans to leave home for something unknown can be scary. Feeling stressed is normal. If you are feeling overwhelmed or anxious, then make sure to reach out to a trusted adult – a parent, relative, teacher, counselor, Ms. V, or coach – for support. ***

Timeline for Applying to 4-Year College

Senior Year

August/September

- Finish whatever you didn't complete during the summer as soon as possible
- Plan and register for any final SAT/ACT exams you will take
- Check in with teachers and counselor about letters of recommendation
- Create your application accounts, keep your username, passwords, deadlines, and requirements organized
 - Start filling in basic information as the applications open, schedule time into your week to do this (on the weekend, during tutorial, whatever works for you)
- Attend the College & Career Center workshops and make an appointment with Ms. V to get essay feedback

October/November

- Early applications typically due 11/1 or 11/15; CSU/UC applications due 11/30
- Polish and finalize your essays and supplements
- Check financial aid pages for each school you are applying to – some schools require separate materials or have a different deadline for students applying for school-based aid (example: students applying for merit scholarships at USC must apply for admission by 12/1) – **do your research**

December

- Finish your applications with due dates December – January
- Complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and CSS Profile (if required by your school) – the CSS Profile is not free and you need to check deadlines by school

January/February/March

- Check your email and/or applicant portals – schools will notify you if you are missing materials
- Start researching scholarships, the College & Career Center blog is a great first step
- As soon as you start hearing from schools, start looking into housing requirements and deadlines

April/May/June

- Pay attention to commitment and housing deadlines and deposit requirements
- Stay committed to doing well in school, you're not done yet – college is still school and you need to maintain a strong record through graduation

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