

## STEPS FOR SENIORS IN PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

**Note: This is the first of many handouts you will be receiving. Please get a folder to keep this and all of your college and financial aid information organized in ONE place.**

1. Pursue and maintain a rigorous course of study during your senior year. The colleges will look at senior grades closely. Colleges prefer to see an upward swing in grades. For the marginal student it may make the difference as to whether or not you are accepted. (The best predictor of success in college is grades in high school while pursuing a rigorous program of study.)
2. Use your legal name and the SAME name on all tests, apps, transcripts, etc. - no nicknames. If your family is low income, see **Mrs. Charles IMMEDIATELY**. You may qualify for fee waivers for testing and college applications.
3. If you are applying to a University of California or California State University campus, you should have the ACT or the SAT Reasoning Test taken by December (October for impacted campuses). For UC, the ACT must include writing.
4. ALL COLLEGE APPLICATIONS ARE DONE THROUGH NAVIANCE. If you have not already completed your prospective college list ("Colleges I am Thinking About"), **do so right away**. Do not move your colleges to "Colleges I am applying to" until you are SURE you are going to apply there. Apply to the University of California and California State University (through links on Naviance) whether you have your test results back or not. Cal State applications open October 1st and close November 30th; UC apps must be submitted between Nov. 1st and 30th, although you can begin working on the application August 1. Common App also opened August 1. As you progress through the college application process, keep your Naviance page updated.
5. Check on Naviance for a listing of college speakers at lunch or during classes; you also sign up for these speakers on Naviance. You must sign up no later than **8 A.M. the day BEFORE the speaker is scheduled**. Write the date & time in your planner; you will not receive a reminder pass. Be sure to **ASK (Do not tell)** your teacher the DAY BEFORE for permission to attend if it is during class. The college representatives are an excellent source of information; they are also advocates for you in the admissions process. A handout with suggested questions is in 200B.
6. Visit the campus of the college or colleges you are interested in applying to in order to obtain firsthand information about the programs available. It is important to get the "feel" of a particular college. You will have a day free from school on October 14th (if you are not on Kairos) so that you can visit campuses. Make arrangements now so that you use the day well.
7. Obtain and read the catalogs from the colleges you are interested in. Many of these catalogs are available for borrowing from the Guidance Room (200B). Virtually all of them are on-line; link to them easily through Naviance.
8. Counselors will be in the RRC every day at lunch in Oct. and Nov. to help you fill out your college applications. Community College application/assessment procedures begin later.
9. Private school applications are available through Naviance links as well. You are strongly encouraged to use the Common Application for many colleges, such as LMU, USD, Santa Clara, NYU, and the Claremont colleges. It is available through a link on Naviance.
10. Helpful handouts available in 200B are "College Interviews," "Writing Your Essay," etc. Pick up any or all of these.
11. Your counselor will have your unofficial transcripts and a Transcript Release Form for you within the next couple of weeks. You may get your transcript once you have submitted your Transcript Release Form and \$15 to your counselor. Class ranks and GPAs will be available on your Naviance profile page. Please use the class rank when applying for the SAT if you are updating the Student Descriptive Questionnaire. If you have taken the SAT previously, you do not need to fill out the Student Descriptive Questionnaire again, but you may (and should) alter any items that need updating, such as class rank.
12. Frequently discuss your career plans, college choice, and financing of college with your counselor. Counselors may be able to help students avoid some of the problems that may occur in the college admission process.
13. Discuss your ideas and involve your parents when planning for college. Ideally, planning for college should be a collaborative effort - among student, parents, and school.