

College Prep Resource Packet



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Senior Year Checklist

June-July

- ☐ If needed, create a new email for college related info ONLY. Colleges mostly communicate by email!
- ☐ Research majors/colleges & create your college list. Sort by reach, match, safety schools.
- ☐ Start your brag sheet and/or resume see link in the brag sheet Page
- ☐ Work on [UC PIQ's](#) and private college personal statements. Write, revise, edit, & repeat!
- ☐ Take community college courses, attend a summer enrichment program, go on college tours, take on an internship, or any new learning experience in your area of interest.
- ☐ Remind your parents to have their 2025 taxes completed.

August

- ☐ [UC application](#), [CSU Application](#) and the [Common Application](#) available AUGUST 1st! You can create your account and begin your app!
- ☐ Start thinking about what teachers you will request recommendations from, some teachers need to know this month.
- *Note: Use a personal email for all college related accounts, not your LAUSD email.**
- ☐ Continue to revise and edit your [UC PIQ's](#) and [Common Application](#) personal statement and supplements.
- ☐ Complete your extracurricular / activities list and have descriptions for what you did exactly (you will copy & paste into your application later).

September

- ☐ Start asking teachers for recommendations (forms or letters). Be clear what you need it for and how teachers should submit it. Provide a brag sheet and your college writing responses to help give your teachers context.
- ☐ Continue working on your [UC](#) and [CSU](#) college applications.
- ☐ Continue to revise and edit your [UC PIQ's](#) and personal statements.
- ☐ Complete your extracurricular portion using your brag sheet (copy & paste into app later).
- ☐ Find out if the [CSS profile](#) is required for your Private Colleges (financial aid application requirement) and make a list of the deadline
- ☐ **Attend the College Center's College Application workshops**

October

- Begin your one of the applications above and begin collecting all the information you will need to complete the application.
- ☐ If you're eligible begin the CSU/ EOP portion and ask for two people to complete the recommendation form. Submit their emails in the EOP recommendation section, and provide the teachers with your brag sheet & EOP responses.
 - ☐ If you're applying Early Decision/Early Action...Request **Counselor Recommendation by October 1st** for Common Application/Private Colleges & Universities
 - ☐ Polish up your UC application and private college applications if necessary.
 - ☐ Attend the College Center's College Application workshop

November

- ☐ Attend the College Center's Application Sessions as needed, a schedule will be sent on Schoology
- ☐ SUBMIT UC AND CSU APPLICATION- DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30!
- ☐ SUBMIT PRIVATE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS for [Early Decision and Early Action](#)- DEADLINES VARY
- ☐ If you need to Request a **Counselor Recommendation** for Common Application/Private Colleges & Universities Regular Decision, **request by December 1st**

December

- ☐ FAFSA (for students who are permanent residents or citizens) Opens December
- ☐ CA Dream Act Application (Undocumented Students) Opens Too!
- ☐ CHECK YOUR EMAILS REGULARLY! You have important information from your colleges!
- ☐ Create your portals for the colleges you applied to

☐ Apply for scholarships, Mrs. Marquez will be posting them on Schoology! Look for freshman scholarships at the schools you applied to.

☐ **Attend the College Center's financial aid workshop!**

*** Senior year grades still count! Campuses can rescind your admissions if you receive a D or F senior year especially if they are A-G requirements. Check with the university if this occurs!**

January-February

☐ Create university portal accounts, login to the university email(s) and portals on a regular basis!

☐ **Request official mid-year transcripts** (PRIVATES ONLY) just in case the colleges you applied to asks for it.

☐ If you included it on your application, send your OFFICIAL SAT or ACT SCORES! (Typing in the score into your application was NOT official. Send your score from collegeboard.org or act.org).

☐ **Attend the College Center's Financial Aid Workshop!** Continue working on your financial aid application (FAFSA or CADAA) and submit early!

☐ Apply to community college! Complete all the steps for the LA Promise (free tuition). Check the college website for more info. Utilize the College Center resources for support.

March-April

☐ **SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA/CADAA! PRIORITY DEADLINE: MARCH 2**

☐ Check your portals, college emails, and mail for your ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATIONS from colleges

☐ Check your college portals regularly and thoroughly. Submit any required documents as soon as possible. This could delay your financial aid award!

☐ Check your Cal Grant and FAFSA/Dream ACT status on webgrants4students.org

☐ Review Financial Aid Award Letters from schools who offered you admissions.

☐ **Schedule an individual meeting with Mrs. Marquez to review & compare financial aid awards**

☐ Explore housing options and submit housing application before deadline, some require a deposit

☐ For CSU's: Check your Cal State Early Start status for your English and math placement.

☐ Review your admission offers, make pro/con list, and be ready to make a decision by May 1st

☐ Apply to community college: Complete all the steps for the LA Promise (free tuition), check the college website for more info, utilize the College Center resources for support.

May-July

☐ **MAY 1 IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR STATEMENT OF INTENT TO REGISTER (SIR) TO A 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY.** Some campuses may require a deposit (ask about waiver or deferral).

☐ Continue to check portals/emails regularly for updates, attend senior day events

☐ Sign up for orientation or summer bridge programs (usually required). Meet with your college advisor and register for your Fall college classes.

☐ Follow up with financial aid! If you are eligible for the Cal Grant, create a WebGrant4Student account and claim your Cal grant by notifying them which college you plan on attending. Accept/decline financial aid award through your university portal. Sign up for direct deposit!

☐ Complete the **Senior Exit Surveys** that are required to get cleared for graduation, the college you list here will be the college that will receive your **FINAL TRANSCRIPT**

☐ Pick up official transcripts from College Center after graduation, Mrs. Marquez will have a Summer Schedule for help and support

*** Senior year grades still count! Campuses can rescind your admissions if you receive a D or F senior year especially if they are A-G requirements. Check with the university if this occurs!**

College Pathways & Eligibility

1	❑ Community College (Generally in the Spring semester) ➤ High School Diploma or Equivalent ➤ NO SAT and ACT score required ➤ NO minimum GPA required* (exception honors programs)
2	❑ California State University (CSU) - DEADLINE NOV. 30 ➤ 2.5+ CSU GPA will be eligible and 2.0-2.5 GPA will be evaluated ➤ Evaluation based on # of A-G courses above the minimum, household income, extracurricular involvement, and other information that each campus will decide. Current update on eligibility here. ➤ C grade or higher in ALL A-G requirements ○ Check the UC website for UC approved A-G courses. Go to https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist and search Sun Valley Magnet School. Each school year has a separate list of courses. ➤ CSU EOP - Short Answer Questions & 2 Recommenders (Electronic Forms)
3	❑ University of California (UC) - DEADLINE NOV. 30 ➤ 3.0 minimum CSU/UC GPA ➤ C grade or higher in ALL A-G requirements ○ Check the UC website for approved A-G courses. Go to https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist and search Eagle Rock High School ➤ NO SAT and ACT score required ➤ Application Requires ○ Lists of extracurricular activities, work/volunteer, awards/honors, etc. ○ Personal Insight Questions (4 Required) - Short Responses each 350 words, one question is required and everyone answers that required question, you choose the rest. ○ NO Letters of Recommendation Required in UC Application
4	❑ Common Application (CA) - DEADLINE VARIES ➤ Apply to more than one private or out of state in ONE online application! ➤ Requirements depends on the college or university ➤ May require SAT or ACT score ➤ Generally require completion of subject courses (similar to A-G) ➤ Personal Statement (650 Word ESSAY) ➤ Supplemental Writing- Some colleges require multiple supplemental essays vary in length ➤ Letter of Recommendations depends on college, some require 1 teacher LOR or Counselor LOR
5	Other Colleges & Universities Abroad - DEADLINE VARIES Applying to Colleges Abroad Learn about various countries and their admissions process ➤ UCAS Application- Universities & Colleges Admissions Service for the United Kingdom Learn more here

REACH, MATCH, SAFETY SCHOOLS

Depending on your eligibility & cost you will want to create a list of 6-12 colleges to apply to. Have a mix of safety schools, match schools, and reach schools.

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety Schools: A college in which your academic record exceeds those of the average accepted student so that there is a high probability that you will be admitted. Remember, nothing is guaranteed! |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Match Schools: A college in which your academic record reflects that of the average freshman. You can apply with confidence that you have a probability of being admitted. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach Schools: A college in which your academic record is below the average accepted student. It is important to be realistic, but you never know what will happen. Especially if you make the time to develop a very strong application. |

1. Utilize the college search tools in Naviance to create a list of best fit colleges for you! Add them to your prospective list. Continue to research the college's on their websites to determine if they are match, reach, or safety schools.
 1. Go to the Naviance login page for students: [Naviance Log-in](#)
 2. Log in with your LAUSD single sign on.
 3. Click on **Colleges** tab, **Research Colleges**, **SuperMatch**.
 4. Use the **Choose Fit Criteria** menu at the top to select criteria based on what you are looking for in your college experience. You do not need to select something under every category, only select which are most important to you.
 - a. Click on the **Tool Tips** icon throughout the search to read definitions of the criteria.
5. Place the criteria into **Must Have** or **Nice to Have**.
6. Check the **Fit Score** to learn more about why the school is listed for you.
7. **Pin to Compare** schools you are interested in.

Exploring Programs & Majors

Search tools for each Higher Education system

Community College	https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Find-a-College Search tool for all programs in the California Community College System
California State University (CSU)	CSU Search Degrees CSU Impaction CSU Impaction Matrix CSU Redirection
University of California (UC)	UC Check Majors
Private Colleges & Universities	The best tip is going directly to the Colleges website or using Naviance search tool to find colleges that match your interest criteria Private colleges offer fly-in & diversity programs too, check them out!

Brag Sheet

A brag sheet is a list of your volunteer and community service, work and internship experiences, extracurricular activities, educational preparatory programs, awards and honors, and coursework other than A-G.

The ERHS brag sheet was designed for students to gather all of their information in one document and to provide to individuals when requesting a **recommendation**.

[FIND THE ERHS BRAG SHEET HERE!](#)

Extra-Curricular Activities & Awards



Examples:

ROP

Response

Title of
duties,

Sample:



Coursework Other than A-G

Yearbook, Peer Counseling, Leadership, Computers, Courses, Catechism, Technical Training, CPR & First Training, etc.

Course Description: Position (if any), description of training received, programs used, achievements, etc.
Computer Graphics & Design - Trained in Adobe

Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Flash Animation. Developed graphic imaging editing skills using industry software. Achieved Adobe Certification.

Word Bank: Trained in, responsible for, in charge of, selected to or for, selected among # students, organized, planned, assisted, participated in, structured, prepared, worked on, developed..., contributed, joined, took part, involved, shared responsibility for, founded, co-founded, created, established, directed, produced, gained...

✓ Educational Preparation Programs

Examples: AVID, College Match, ETS, SAT/ACT Prep, AP Readiness, AP Boost, ARC, COSMOS, EAOP, Talent Search, TRIO, ETS, TELACU, MESA, Upward Bound, STARS, Internships, etc.

Title of Program Description: Position (if any), services received, experiences gained, events you participated in

Sample: *Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) -- Received academic advising,*

participated in college, financial aid and SAT prep, gained knowledge of college resources, motivated to pursue higher ed

Word Bank: Received training in, selected for, selected among # students, assisted with, participated in, prepared for, worked on, developed, took part in, involved, gained understanding of, acquired skills in, motivated to, was mentored, attended workshop about, was guided in, etc.



Examples:

events,

events,

Title of

any),

taken and if
action verbs.



Volunteer & Community Service

Volunteer clubs, church, school (fundraiser, food drives, tutoring, clean-up), community (hospital, library, shelters, family responsibilities (caretaker/tutor)

Program/Clubs/Organizations Description: Position (if description of extent of involvement and initiatives possible give statistics (numbers, amounts, etc). Use

Sample: *Academic Tutor - Instructed 15+ students in mathematics up to pre-calc level; aided with homework, problem solving, and concept mastery. Resulted in proficient benchmark scores for all.*

Word Bank: Tutored, assisted, helped, provided, serviced, created, coordinated, oversaw, directed, raised (amount #), worked, supervised, cooked, fed, organized, collaborated with., participated in..., planned, staffed events such as..., etc.

✓ Work Experience

Examples: Paid work or internships

Title of Business/Program/Organizations

Description: Position (if any), description of responsibilities, roles, and



promotions

Sample: *Sales Associate/Cashier -- Oversaw sales and transactions, received & recorded inventory, responsible for training new employees, gained exceptional customer service skills.*

Word Bank: Provided, coordinated, oversaw, directed, supervised, organized, collaborated with, assisted with, filed, responsible for, in charge of, managed, promoted to, trained others in, supervised, etc.

Use of Earnings? Examples: *I used earnings to contribute to household bills... to alleviate financial burden on parents by purchasing my own school supplies (laptop/printer) and school events.*

✓ Awards

Examples:
involvement,

community

national

examples:

(English,

1st, 2nd, 3rd

(Captain, President, VP, Treasurer, etc.)



& Honors

School (academic, classroom, departmental, sports, program services, science fair, competitions, etc.), church (confirmation, accomplishment & contribution acknowledgements), (contest, accomplishment & contribution awards), state and rankings, selected for scholarship or programs. Specific Academic Excellence, Perfect Attendance, Department Math, History, Science, Foreign Language, etc.) Award, MVP, Place, Semifinalist, Finalist, Scholarship, Leadership Position

Title of Award or Program Name Description: Description of selection criteria. If possible ranking (national, state, city, district, school, academy) or statistics (1 of only # students selected or 1 of # selected from # of applicants).

Sample: *Youth Scholarship -- Awarded \$10L rigorous selection process: nomination, interview, and present community project demonstrating passionate commitment. 1 of 5 students statewide.*

Word Bank: Recognized for, selected from among, top student, # place, completed, awarded, honored for, commitment in, academic excellence, demonstrating leadership, developing, achieving a, etc.

✓ Extracurricular Activities

Examples: School (Sports, Clubs, Leadership, Journalism, ARC, Band, ROTC, Decathlon, Debate), Church (Catechism, Confirmation, youth groups, altar boy/girl, choir), Community (club sports, involvement in organizations) and other (private music lessons), etc.

Title of Program/Club/Organizations Description: Position (if any), description of extent of involvement and initiatives

taken and if possible give statistics (numbers, amounts, etc) and results

Sample: *Key Club - Treasurer - Allocate funds, gained school administrative approval, raised over \$500, participate in general club activities - clean ups, food drive, community events*

Word Bank: Responsible for, in charge of, selected to or for, selected among # of students, organized, planned, assisted, participated in, structured, prepared, worked on, developed, contributed to, joined, took part, involved, shared responsibility for, founded, co-founded, created, established, directed, produced, gained understanding of, acquired skills in, promoted, designed, learned, etc.



What are the Essay Requirements for my College Applications?

Cal State EOP Application Questions (CSU) <u>What is EOP?</u>	EOP questions for students who are applying to the EOP Program which is specifically for low-income students. The questions are: Briefly describe your family’s economic background including information about your financial challenges. (500 words) Why would you like to attend college? Discuss your career and personal goals. Are there any particular circumstances, school experiences, or persons that influenced your preparation or motivation to attend college? Please explain. (1000 words) Briefly discuss your academic background. Did you utilize any additional support at your high school, such as tutoring? Do your grades in high school and/or college reflect your academic ability or potential? (1000 words) List any volunteer, extracurricular activities, or work experience in which you are or have been involved in the past two years. (500 words) Is there any additional information you would like EOP to consider in determining your admission to the program? (1000 words)
UC Application (UC)	<u>Personal Insight Questions</u> You choose 4 questions to answer out of 8 questions, each response has to be up to 350 words. Click link above for the prompts and check out tips on the next page.
Common Application	The Common Application has 1 long essay of about 650 Words find the prompts <u>here</u>. Check out the <u>College Essay Guy’s Personal Statement Resources</u>. Supplemental Essays: Every college that you add to your Common Application could potentially request supplemental questions and/or essays. You won’t know the exact prompts until you add those colleges to your Common Application. Check out the College Essay Guy’s <u>Supplemental Essay Guides</u>.

UC PIQ TIPS

Start early. Give yourself plenty of time for preparation, careful composition and revisions.

Write persuasively. Making a list of accomplishments, activities, awards or work will lessen the impact of your words. Expand on a topic by using specific, concrete examples to support the points you want to make.

Use “I” statements. *Talk about yourself so that we can get to know your personality, talents, accomplishments and potential for success on a UC campus. Use “I” and “my” statements in your responses.*

Proofread and edit. *Although you will not be evaluated on grammar, spelling or sentence structure, you should proofread your work and make sure your writing is clear. Grammatical and spelling errors can be distracting to the reader and get in the way of what you’re trying to communicate.*

Solicit feedback. *Your answers should reflect your own ideas and be written by you alone, but others — family, teachers and friends — can offer valuable suggestions. Ask advice of whomever you like, but do not plagiarize from sources in print or online and do not use anyone’s published words but your own.*

Copy and paste. *Once you are satisfied with your answers, save them in plain text (ASCII) and paste them into the space provided in the application. Proofread once more to make sure no odd characters or line breaks have appeared.*

Relax. *This is one of many pieces of information we consider in reviewing your application. Your responses can only add value to the application. An admission decision will not be based on this section alone.*

What about the “Additional comments” section? *After you complete the personal insight questions, you will see another section called “Additional Comments.” This is an optional section and should not be used as a continuation of your responses to the personal questions. Instead, you should use this section to: 1. Provide additional clarification on important details in your application, such as honors, awards, activities, 2. Share information regarding a nontraditional school environment or unusual circumstances., or 3. Describe anything else that you HAVE NOT had the opportunity to include elsewhere in your application. There is a 550 word limit.*

Financial Aid Steps

Step 1: [Create an FSA ID](#) (For Student & Parent) when it opens in December

Note: If you have an older sibling, your parent may have created an FSA ID previously, use the same one.

Step 2: The [FAFSA](#) opens in December of your Senior Year and closes March 2nd of your Senior year for students who are citizens or permanent residents. It is strongly recommended to apply early!

You can apply from your computer <https://studentaid.gov/> or download the APP to your phone: <https://studentaid.gov/mystudentaid-mobile-app>

FAFSA Application YEARS:

Option A (OPTIONAL). 2026-2027 FAFSA (This application makes you eligible to receive federal funds during the **summer after you graduate** before you start Freshmen year in college.

Option B (REQUIRED). 2027-2028 (This application will makes you eligible to receive federal funds to help pay **Freshmen year.**)

If you are **undocumented and/or have no social security number** you are to file a [California Dream Act Application \(CADAA\)](#)

Step 3: Once your FAFSA has been processed create your [Webgrant Account](#) to learn if you're eligible for a Cal Grant

Step 4: If you're applying to Private Colleges & Universities, check to see if they require the [CSS Profile](#), if so file this with your parent before the University's deadline.

Scholarship Sites

Scholarships by Grade Level & Age
https://www.scholarships.com/
https://www.fastweb.com/
https://www.chegg.com/scholarships
https://www.cappex.com/
College Board Scholarship

Going Merry Scholarships
Scholarship Owl
Raise Me
Super College Scholarships
The Gates Scholarship Deadline: September 15 th
Be a Boss Scholarship for Girls Deadline: September 15 th
Scholarships for Undocumented Students Get Schooled MALDEF Scholarship Resource Guide JLV College Counseling

*Check your Class Schoology group, Mrs. Marquez will post scholarship applications as they come in.

* Also see [ERHS College Center Newsletter](#)

References: Sun Valley Magnet School College Center, collegeessayguy.com