

## Fall Semester

### Important Dates and Deadlines:

**August 1st:** UC and Common App Open

**October 1st:** Cal State App and most Community College Apps Open

**November 1st:** Typical Early Action/Early Decision Application Deadline for various colleges

**December 1st:** UC and Cal State Application Deadline

**January:** Private and Out-of-State College App Deadlines will vary

**January 15th:** Cal State EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) Deadline for qualifying students:

<https://www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/eop/Pages/default.aspx>

<b>Explore Futureology Resources</b>	Check out Futureology's Website for upcoming events: <a href="http://www.cusd-futureology.org">www.cusd-futureology.org</a> Check out Futureology's Youtube Channel for over 100 videos on college admissions: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@cusd-futureology">www.youtube.com/@cusd-futureology</a>
<b>Attend College Rep Visits</b>	Meet with college reps during a visit at your school to learn about programs and have a conversation with the person who might be reviewing your application!
<b>Finalize your list and start your applications</b> (Aug/Sep)	Finalize your list to include Likely, Target, and Reach Schools (with the majority of your list falling under the "Target" category). Create your college app accounts and prioritize completion by deadline. Keep track of all your usernames and passwords Use this spreadsheet as a tool: <a href="https://bit.ly/cusdcollegelist">https://bit.ly/cusdcollegelist</a>
<b>Request Letters of Recommendation</b> (Aug-Sep)	If your college(s) require it, request letters of recommendation from your teacher(s) and/or counselor. Note that many counselors have a packet you must complete to receive a LOR, be mindful of those deadlines. Give your recommenders at least 3 week's notice!
<b>Register for and take or re-take the SAT or ACT</b> (Aug-Nov)	Register for and take the ACT <b>or</b> SAT exam if you are prepped, ready, and only if it's relevant for the college you're applying to based on their testing policy. Make sure your scores are received by the college's app deadline. December is the last date you should consider testing.
<b>Draft your college essays</b> (Aug-Nov)	Create a doc with all essay prompts pasted on it and begin drafting your responses (prioritize writing by application deadlines), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UC Personal Insight Questions (4 prompts, 350 words max per prompt)</li> <li>• Common App (1 prompt, 650 words max) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Supplemental Essays (number of additional writing prompts and word limit will vary by individual schools, please check your application)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Draft descriptions of extracurricular activities &amp; awards</b> (Aug-Nov)	Create a document and write descriptions for each of your Activities and Awards from high school. <b>UC Application:</b> 350 characters per description <b>Common Application:</b> 150 characters per description
<b>CUSD College Fair</b> (October 4)	Meet college admissions reps and explore breakout sessions at the Annual CUSD College Fair! Learning about specific majors, programs, or even campuses can help you make better decisions as you finalize your college list! Register here: <a href="http://www.cusd-futureology.org/college-fair">http://www.cusd-futureology.org/college-fair</a>
<b>Submit College Applications</b>	UC and Cal State Applications due December 1st Private/Out of State Early Action/Early Decision due November 1st
<b>Complete Financial Aid Application</b> (Opens October 1st, Due March 2nd)	Complete the <b>2026-27 FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application</b> . If you're unsure which application you need to complete, please contact your college and career counselor.  <b>FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):</b> <a href="https://studentaid.gov/">https://studentaid.gov/</a> <b>CA Dream Act Application:</b> <a href="https://dream.csac.ca.gov/">https://dream.csac.ca.gov/</a> <b>CSS Profile:</b> For students applying to various Private/Out-of-State Schools, you may also be required to submit the CSS Profile as an additional financial aid application: <a href="https://profile.collegeboard.org/PPI/participatingInstitutions.aspx">https://profile.collegeboard.org/PPI/participatingInstitutions.aspx</a>

## Spring Semester

### **Important Dates and Deadlines:**

**January 1st:** Community College Priority Application Deadline

**January:** Private and Out-of-State College App Deadlines will vary

**January 15th:** Cal State EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) Deadline for qualifying students:

<https://www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/eop/Pages/default.aspx>

**March 2nd:** Financial Aid Application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act App) Due

**May 1st:** Deadline to Submit Intent to Register (SIR) at your college of choice.

**July 1st:** Deadline to submit Final Transcript to college of attendance

<b>Keep up your Grades</b>	Maintain your grades during senior year. Ds and Fs can lead to admissions decisions being rescinded!
<b>Monitor College Applications</b> (Jan)	Create your college portal accounts and make sure all materials have been received and action items are complete. While you're following up, send thank you notes to the teachers/counselors/advisors who wrote your recommendations. Not only will they appreciate the gesture, but they deserve it!
<b>Submit Community College Application by Priority Deadline</b> Deadline: Jan 1st	For students interested in attending a community college, make sure to submit your application by January 1st to receive priority registration for Fall classes and for priority consideration for the California Promise Program (two years of tuition coverage at various community colleges in CA). Meet with a community college counselor after you apply.
<b>Financial Aid</b> Deadline: Mar 2nd	If you haven't already, complete the <b>2026-27 FAFSA or CA Dream Act</b> by the March 2nd state priority deadline. Note that some private and out-of-state colleges may have earlier deadlines. If applicable, make sure you've also submitted a CSS Profile for your college if they require it.
<b>Scholarships</b> (Ongoing)	Search and apply for scholarships. Don't know where to start? Use Futureology's Scholarship Guide: <a href="https://bit.ly/futureologyscholarships">https://bit.ly/futureologyscholarships</a>
<b>College Decisions</b> (Feb-Mar)	Decisions typically come out during this time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept or decline any waitlist offers</li> <li>• Compare college financial aid packages</li> <li>• Go on any final college campus visits (in person or virtually: <a href="https://campustours.com/">https://campustours.com/</a>)</li> <li>• Review housing options and submit housing application if applicable.</li> </ul>
<b>Decision Time</b> Deadline: May 1st	<b>Submit your Intent to Register at the college of your choice by May 1st!</b> Even if you have accepted a waitlist offer at other schools, you should still submit an intent to register at a college that accepted you and that you plan to attend.
<b>Complete Senior Survey</b> (May)	Complete the CUSD Senior Survey that will be sent to you through your school.
<b>Send Final Transcript</b> (June)	Request a final transcript to be sent to the college or university you will attend via Parchment through your HS website. Order transcript and select "Hold for Grades" so that your final transcript will be sent after you graduate.
<b>Community College Fall Registration</b> (May-Jun)	If attending community college, register for Fall classes with the help of a community college counselor. Students will be assigned a registration date once they complete all application steps.
<b>College placement exams</b>	Register for college placement exams (English, math, etc.) if the college you're attending requires them.
<b>Plan summer activities</b>	Congrats on all your hard work! Enjoy your summer before college!