



Welcome

11th Grade Parent &
Student Information
Night

February 10, 2016

Introduction

- **Counselors**

April Torres	A-D
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- **College and Career Advisor**

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- **Career Center Assistant**

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- **Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction**

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Is it easy to go to college?

Some recent admission rates

University	Admission Rate
UC Berkeley	19.1%
UCLA	16.2%
CSU Long Beach	35.2%
USC	17.8%
Stanford	5.1%
UC San Diego	8.81%

I thought you said this was easy?



Some better acceptance rates

University	Admission Rate
UC System Average (for CA residents)	60%
Sonoma State	81%
LSU	75%
SFSU	59.8%
Kansas State University	95%
University of Vermont	74%



Why Are We Here?

- Mid-point of the junior year.
- For the Class of 2017, the college process begins **now**.
- The junior year is the last chance to show many colleges completed work.
- There is still time to improve the “package” you present to colleges next year.
 - Make up courses before senior year (colleges can deny you if classes not made up before senior year).



Factors to Consider

- Type of School
- Research Opportunities
- Size
- Advising and Support



Factors to Consider

- Geography
- Campus Setting
- Graduation and Retention Rate
- Networking
- Cost/Financial Aid



Factors to Consider

- Social Atmosphere
- Cultural/Political/Ethnic Diversity
- Majors
- Calendar

Determining Factors

Recommended Resources (online)

- Collegeboard, Naviance, Collegeweeklive.com, assist.org, csumentor.edu, UC, nces.ed.gov, fairtest.org, and so on....
- **Recommended Resources (other)**
 - Fiske Guide, Peterson's, Barrons,
- **Use with Caution**
 - College confidential

How to Build Your Profile

- **Co-Curricular Activities** (take place in school)

Sports

Clubs

Community service projects

- **Extra-curricular activities** (take place outside of school)

Jobs (including summer jobs)

Athletic leagues/lessons

Art/music lessons and performances

Independent community service

Responsibilities at home

Church

**DON'T
stretch
yourself thin**

What Makes a Good List Great?

- A student's final college list will likely contain 4-8 colleges and universities.
- Each college or university will be classified as Reach, Target or Likely/Safety.
- Every college and university on the list should be a school the student would happily attend. There are more than 3,300 choices in the US, so there is no reason to apply to a school you don't want to attend.
 - What this means for other students applying (taking a spot away).

Decision Plans

- **Early Decision:** admit, deny, defer
apply by Nov.1 or Nov. 15, decision by
mid-December (BINDING if admitted)
- **Early Action:** admit, deny, defer
apply by Nov.1 or Nov. 15,
decision by mid-December
NON-BINDING
- **Early Decision II:** admit, deny, defer
apply by Jan. 1, decision by Feb. 1
BINDING if admitted
- **Regular Decision:** admit, deny, waitlist
deadlines can be as early as November 30;
many colleges and universities don't use
application deadlines at all

Application Process- Private/Independent

- Transcript
- Standardized testing (Optional in some cases, though highly recommended)
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement/essay/supplements
- Application: personal information, high school information, details of extracurricular activities
- Notes from campus/alumni interview
- Record of student contact
 - College visits at SMHS are a good way to establish this interest
 - Discipline/Code of Conduct

Transcript and Grades

- Colleges look at the transcript as the best indicator of past performance and future academic potential.
- Colleges evaluate not only the **grades received**, but also the **courses taken**, and hope to see that a student has selected a challenging course-load.
- Having all great grades is best, but colleges also appreciate a steady improvement.
- Colleges look beyond grades to the courses taken and hope to see that a student has sought a challenging course load.

Teacher Recommendations for Private Universities Only

- Colleges and universities will often require one or two teacher recommendations. A secondary school report and counselor recommendation will also be completed.
- Students should select teachers from either the 11th or 12th grade who know them well. Recommendations are less valuable if they are written by a teacher from 9th or 10th grade.
- Students can have an outside letter of support included in the file.
- Should ask by May!

College Choices Getting Organized



- Understanding the California Public College Systems
 - Community College Eligibility and Requirements
 - University of California Eligibility and Requirements
 - California State University Eligibility and Requirements



Understanding Community College

- California Community College System
- Over 100 throughout the state
- Minimum eligibility
 - High school graduate or age 18
 - Math and English placement tests taken in spring
- Attend CC Workshop in spring of senior year



Community College Pathways

- 2 Years General Education at CC
 - Complete number of GE courses
 - Transfer options (guarantee)
 - 2 years in a major at a university to earn a Bachelor's degree
- Associate Degrees
 - 2-year College Associate Degree
- Study abroad
- Occupation programs
- Field Trips
- Can save lots of money by starting out here

Understanding Freshman UC Requirements

- University of California (UC) System
 - 10 campus locations, 9 for undergrads
- Eligibility
 - 3.0 GPA
 - a-g Course List
 - SAT Reasoning or ACT with Writing
 - Subject Tests- depending on major and campus



Understanding UC Application

- Filing Period: Nov 1-Nov. 30. Can begin application Aug. 1
- Required:
 - 2 personal statements
 - Online application
 - SAT with essay or ACT with writing
 - SAT Subject Tests (for engineering, chemistry, or biological sciences)
- Not Required:
 - Transcripts
- Might be required – Letters of Recommendation
- Apply online www.ucop.edu/pathways



Understanding CSU Requirements

- California State University System
 - 23 Campuses
- Eligibility
 - Minimum 2.0 GPA
 - a-g Course list
 - SAT with Essay or ACT with Writing

Understanding Freshman CSU Requirements

- Filing Period: October 1-November 30
- Required
 - Online application
 - SAT with Essay or ACT with Writing (technically only required if GPA is under 3.0, but highly desirable to take either way)
- Not Required
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Transcripts
 - Personal Essays
 - List of Extracurricular activities
- Apply online at:
 - www.csumentor.edu



Isn't College Expensive?

What is a FAFSA?

Should I start applying for loans now?

How should I file my taxes to make this work?

Your Job Right Now.....





Resources Available

- Net price calculator
- FAFSA.gov (free customer service)
- Fall financial aid advice (Details TBD)



Scholarships at SMHS



- They are updated in Naviance most Fridays.
- Students can drop by the Career Center at anytime and pick up scholarship opportunities in our Bin.
- Remember the more scholarships students work on the more they can earn.
- Not all scholarships are need-based; there are many based on gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation, community involvement and location!
- Many scholarships are small amounts, but can easily add up
- Watch out for scams (requests for payment, guaranteed winnings, over the top hype)



The Dream Act

In the past, the State of California did not administer financial aid programs for undocumented students.

- However, thanks to a recent bill undocumented students now qualify to participate in state funded financial aid programs:
- This bill is known as the Dream Act and consist of two sections AB 130 and AB 131 these combined bills allow for AB540 students to receive Aid



To Qualify for AB540

Students must:

- Attended a California high school for 3 or more years (does not have to be consecutive)
- Graduate from a California high school with a high school diploma
- File a form with the college that they plan to attend (AB540 Affidavit)
- Apply for scholarships that don't need SSN
 - www.e4fc.org has a huge scholarship list

The Dream

- AB130 students can apply for and receive private scholarships from public schools, scholarships funded through private donors and alumni contributions.
- AB 131 calls for California's community colleges to allow students to apply for the Board of Governor's Fee Waivers, which waives the fees of qualifying low-income students.
- AB 131 allows current AB 540 students to apply for, and participate in, other student aid programs administered by California's public colleges and universities.
 - It also allow students to participate in state-administered financial aid programs such as Cal Grants. UC Grants, State University Grants, Fee Waivers, Chafee Grants and EOPS.

FILL OUT CAL DREAM APPLICATION AT
<http://www.caldreamact.org>



About Standardized Tests

- Standardized tests are the great equalizer because, unlike class work, every applicant has had the same test.
- SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject Tests become part of a cumulative record, so colleges will see all results from all sittings. Students should never select score choice.
- Colleges and universities are interested in your best work, so they will use your best scores in the evaluation process.



Standardized Testing

- Prepare for the SAT or ACT
 1. Both tests are fundamentally different than school tests
 2. Very coachable exams
 3. Time investment, not a financial investment
- Evaluate your need for SAT Subject Tests
- TOEFL?



Free & Low Cost Ways to Prepare

- Khan Academy (SAT)
- Free prep books – Career Center and Local Library
- Larger source of materials at low cost via Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and others
 - Make sure that you're buying a book for the right SAT or ACT. A \$2 prep book is not a good deal if it's the old test



SAT Reasoning/ACT

- Required by many 4-year schools
- Even if not required by your school choice, should still take it as some scholarships will require it
- All schools will accept highest score of either SAT or ACT.
- UC's – use highest sitting
- CSU's and some other schools use superscore
- Does not matter whether you take SAT or ACT



SAT SUBJECT TESTS

- 1 hour multiple-choice tests on specific subject areas
- Like final exams
- Typically required by selective schools
- No longer needed for UCs, though some campuses will require it for a specific major
- Math Level 2 ONLY accepted
- Can take 3 tests at one sitting

Earning College Credit or Placement

What can AP (Advanced Placement) Do for Students?

- Achievement: AP provides you the opportunity to earn credit or Advanced Placement for college and stand out in the college admissions process
- Preparation
 - Develop better study habits
 - Improve writing skills
 - Sharpen problem-solving abilities
- Confidence
 - To tackle academic challenges





AP Tests

- Scores of 3 or higher on AP tests will often earn college credit, placement in higher level classes or both.
- Colleges expect students to take the AP test after completing an AP course.
- AP Test Registration until March 4th
 - Students have received AP information packets
 - Payment is collected online
 - Reduced fee for those on Free & Reduced Lunch

SPRING 2016

- Take the SAT in May or June.
- Take any appropriate SAT Subject Tests in June.
- Essay workshop in Spring - Dates TBD.
- Ask 2 teachers from academic core classes and counselor for letters of recommendation.
- Fill out NCAA form for all athletes
 - For further questions, contact Coach Jeff Scheller at jscheller@smuhsd.org
- Scheduling with Counselor for 2016-2017 academic year

SUMMER 2016

- Use the summer wisely and effectively.
- Review and adjust the college list through research and campus visits.
- Begin UC application on August 1
- <http://ucal.us/statementvideo> (tips from admission staff and students for personal essay)
- Review the Common Application for possible essay questions and begin working on a college essay. Same prompts as last year. (*The most time-consuming part of the application*)
 - www.commonapp.org

FALL 2016

- Touch base with teachers and counselor to write your letters of recommendations (should be from junior or senior year).
- Check-in regularly for updates from College and Career Center.
- Continue your research using publications, information sessions and the Internet.
- Continue to schedule interviews and visit campuses.
- Finalize your list of between 4-8 colleges and universities by Thanksgiving Break.
- Carefully submit your applications by the stated deadlines.
- Attend the Senior College Night for explanation about the Process in September 2016.