

College Readiness Calendar

ELEVENTH & TWELFTH GRADES

It's never too early to start preparing for college. Early planning and preparation will help you and your student feel more informed and in control of the bright future ahead!

ELEVENTH GRADE

FALL

September, October, November

- Sign up to take the PSAT in October.
- Meet your student's teachers, reintroduce yourself to the counselor and discuss your student's preparation for college.
- Take a tour of a local college or university while classes are in session to get a feel for the campus.
- Have your student make a list of "target" colleges he or she is considering. Take into account location, size, campus resources and student demographics.
- Ensure that your student is familiar with the entrance requirements for target schools.
- Attend a College Fair or College Night.

WINTER

December, January, February

- Encourage your student to talk to friends who are home for college winter break about their college experience. Consider talking with their parents to get a parent perspective.
- Your student's PSAT score report will arrive in December; this will help identify challenge areas for the SAT Reasoning Exam.
- Ask the school counselor about fee waivers for the SAT exams. Eligible students can receive up to two waivers.
- Have your student carefully plan the spring SAT with Essay and SAT Subject Exam schedule. Subject Exams should be taken as soon as possible after completing the appropriate coursework. Testing schedules and practice exams are available at www.collegeboard.com. Register 6–8 weeks before each exam to ensure preferred testing date and location.

SPRING

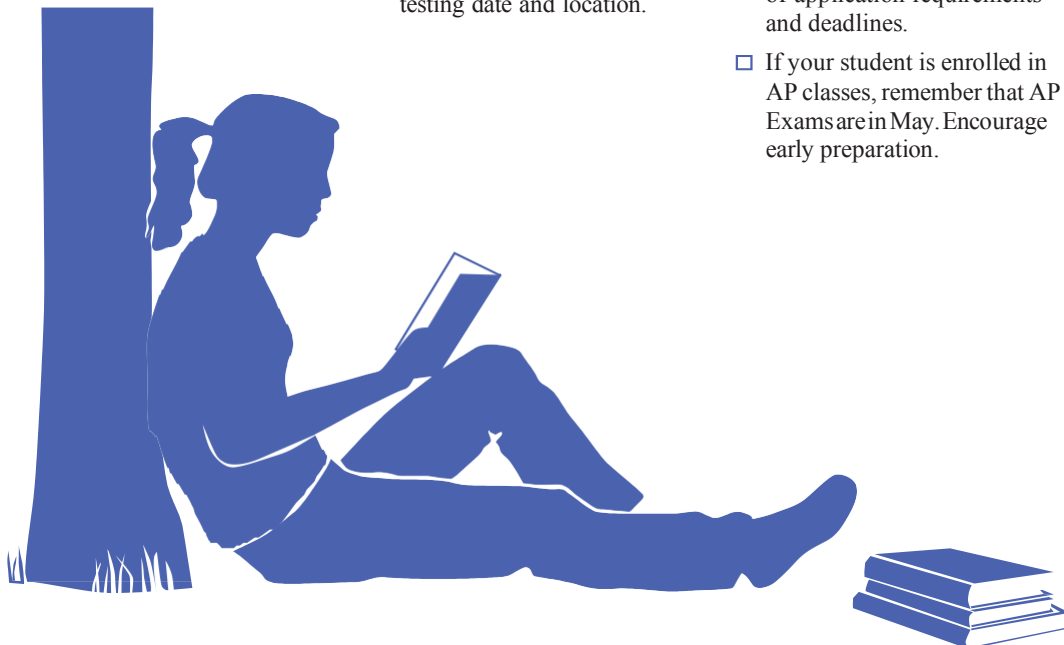
March, April, May

- Continue college visits with your student while classes are in session.
- Encourage your student to take at least one full-length practice exam before the SAT Reasoning Exam.
- All students should review their senior year class schedule with their counselor, including selection of possible AP or community college courses.
- Begin actively searching for scholarships and financial aid.
- Use tools such as the online FAFSA Forecaster (www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/) to help calculate how much financial aid your student will receive and to estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- Explore summer jobs, academic enrichment and volunteer opportunities. Be aware of application requirements and deadlines.
- If your student is enrolled in AP classes, remember that AP Exams are in May. Encourage early preparation.

SUMMER

June, July, August

- Finalize summer plans.
- If taking a summer vacation, include a college tour!
- Create a summer reading list. Teachers, counselors and the local library will have recommendations.
- Students should complete a draft of the personal statement. Look into workshops offered by college preparation programs at local colleges, as they can provide the information and structure your student may need to get started.
- Assist your student in narrowing the list of schools to which he or she plans to apply. The list should include "safe," "realistic" and "reach" schools. Ensure that your student makes a checklist of admissions requirements (transcripts, application fees, test scores, recommendation letters, essays, financial aid applications, etc.).
- Together, mark a calendar with important application and financial dates and deadlines for senior year.
- If your student plans to take the ACT, SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Exams in the fall, he or she should register now to ensure a top-choice date and test location. Remember that the December test date is the last time to take the exam to meet college application deadlines.



T W E L F T H G R A D E

F A L L

September, October, November

W I N T E R

December, January, February

S P R I N G

March, April, May

S U M M E R

June, July, August

- Together, review admission requirements and deadlines for all schools to which your student will apply. Meet with the counselor to review details.
- If your student plans to take the ACT, SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Exams this fall, he or she should register now.
- If needed, apply for college application fee waivers directly through the colleges. All students who receive an SAT fee waiver are eligible for four application fee waivers from the College Board.
- Attend a College Fair or College Open House.
- Ask high school counselor and other trusted individuals to review application materials. Provide reviewers with materials early so they have ample time to strengthen the application.
- Ensure that your student asks for any required recommendation letters at least three weeks before the due date(s). Give each recommender required forms, resume and a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Ensure that the school guidance office sends transcripts to colleges.
- Apply to CSUs starting on Oct 1 and UCs starting on November 1. Deadline for both is November 30.
- Your student should send their SAT scores to the colleges where they have applied.

Tip:
Your student should plan on completing college applications two weeks before the application deadline to allow time for revisions and changes without feeling rushed.

- Encourage your student to talk to college friends on winter break about how prepare for the first semester of college.
- Many scholarship applications are due in December.
- File your taxes as early as possible.
- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available starting October 1 and can be completed on or after this date. You and your student will need a separate Personal Identification Number (PIN) to complete the FAFSA online. Be aware that most priority financial aid deadlines are in February.
- Attend a Financial Aid Night at your student's high school and/or in your community, such as a Cash for College event (www.californiacashforcollege.org).
- Approximately four weeks after completing the FAFSA, your family will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR), a summary of the information provided on the FAFSA. Make any necessary changes and return.

Tip:
if your student receives a D or lower in an A-G course, talk to his or her counselor immediately to discuss options.

- If your student plans to attend community college in the fall, apply now.
- Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer opportunity early.
- Your student should prepare early for AP Exams held the first two weeks of May. A qualifying grade can earn college credit at many colleges. Send scores to the college he or she will attend in the fall.
- Most admissions decisions and financial aid award letters will arrive in April.
- Compare aid award letters. Talk to financial aid officers if you have any questions. If you have not received enough aid, ask if other options are available.
- If your student has been wait-listed, he or she should contact the admissions director and express continued interest in the school.
- Your student should notify all colleges of his or her acceptance or rejection of admissions or financial aid offers by May, and send a deposit to the chosen college.
- Find out about test dates for placement exams your student's college may require.
- Encourage your student to maintain good grades and attendance.
- Together, explore summer preparatory programs at the college your student will attend. These programs offer opportunities to take courses for credit and provide skills and information for a successful start to college.
- If your student is not admitted to any of the colleges to which he or she applied, see the counselor right away to discuss options.

- Your student's final transcript should be sent to the college he or she will attend in the fall.
- Finalize summer plans.
- Help your student prepare for the following school year.
- Celebrate your family's hard work and accomplishments!

