

Timeline for College Bound Seniors

Pacific Grove High School Counseling Department

September

- Take challenging courses; note progress towards graduation and college.
- Register for October or November SAT Reasoning Test or ACT, and SAT Subject Test, if needed. (check individual colleges for last possible test date)
- Finalize list of colleges. Reduce list to 5- 10 schools. Review each college's requirements for admission.
- Check online for any college applications you will need. (CSU & UC are online in Oct.)
- Organize files, photocopy applications and begin to fill out rough drafts.
- Remind your parents to gather financial records.
- Submit PROFILE for appropriate colleges.
- Check PGHS Counseling Website for college representative visits on our campus.
- Plan visits and interviews to colleges while they are in session (send thank you's).
- Attend college weekends.
- Apply for social security card for work or for college.
- If under 18, obtain or renew your work permit.

October

- Register for December ACT or SAT Reasoning Test, and SAT. (check individual colleges for last possible test date)
- Subject Test, if needed.
- Take ACT and/or SAT Reasoning Test, and SAT Subject Test, if needed.
- Attend college programs and local high school college nights advertised in newsletter and PGHS Bulletin.
- Work on rough draft essays and applications.
- Send in "early decision," "early action" applications.
- Go online to www.csumentor.edu (CSU) or www.ucop.edu (UC) for applications.
- Keep checking PGHS Counseling website and Bulletin for scholarships.
- If any of your private colleges need a letter of recommendation or counselor report, pick up the **blue "Private College Packet"** from the Counseling Office. You will need to fill out the packet and return it to your Counselor. Check the deadlines listed in the blue packet.
- Make sure you meet all the requirements for admission and have taken all the required courses.
- Athletes should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.

November

- Submit UC and CSU applications as early in the month as possible. Deadline is November 30.
- Take SAT Reasoning Test, and SAT Subject Test, if needed.
- Register for December ACT, if needed.
- Finish all rough draft applications and essays. Have someone proofread.
- Regarding Private Colleges, give all recommendations and secondary school evaluation forms to teachers and counselor to fill out including mid-year reports. Check due dates!

- Apply to "choice colleges." Make sure you have all the necessary paperwork turned in.
- Observe deadlines. Send transcripts and test scores if requested.
- Keep your grades up. Colleges do look at semester and year end grades.
- Investigate scholarship options in Counseling Center and on the internet.

December

- Last day to submit a request for private college recommendations is December 1.
- Take ACT and /or SAT Reasoning Test, and SAT Subject Test, if needed.
- Send private college's applications.
- Plan holiday visits to colleges.
- Mail ROTC applications.
- Register for January SAT Reasoning Test, and SAT Subject Test, if not too late.

January

- **Collect Financial Aid information and apply for FAFSA forms (beginning January 1st) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure to apply for 2010-2011 School Year.**
- **FAFSA may be sent any time after January 1 and before March 2.**
- Request 7th semester transcripts be sent to colleges that request them.
- Check with teachers, counselor and colleges that all forms have been sent and received.
- Stay in contact with your representative at your first choice colleges. Ask if you can send any additional academic or talent information or letters.
- Watch application deadlines.
- Keep sending your applications. It is not too late to apply to many colleges.
- Request housing application from CSU.
- Continue scholarship search (see November).

February

- Check that the college has received financial information, test scores and all other forms. Can you apply for housing now?
- Some college acceptance letters may arrive. Inform your counselor when you hear from a college.
- Stay calm and enjoy your senior year.
- Send thank you notes to teachers, counselor and anyone who helped you through the process.
- Submit midyear reports to counselors.

March

- **FAFSA and Cal Grant forms due no later than March 2.**
- Submit tax forms to the Financial Aid Office of colleges who request them.
- Contact colleges with any new information if you've had a schedule change.
- Watch for Student Aid Report (SAR) to arrive, giving amount of student aid for which you are eligible. Make sure your colleges receive it. Keep the original.
- Continue scholarship search (see November).

April

- All colleges should respond.
- Decide where you wish to go. Revisit if necessary. Go to information meetings you are invited to. Write to the college you accept and those you do not. Inform counselor and teachers of your decision.

May

- Mail in deposit to one college by May 1. Sign and return financial award letter, if you received one, to accept.
- Fill out loan applications.
- UC – Subject A exam.
- CSU – placement exams.
- AP exams.
- Fill out dorm forms, if available.
- Start looking for a summer job. You may need the money!

June

- Congratulations graduate!
- Enjoy your summer. You deserve it.
- Turn in your final transcript request to registrar.
- Attend all advising days, open houses, orientation programs, and registration offered by your college.
- Read books on how to survive in college- physically, emotionally, academically, philosophically, and spiritually.
- Send thank you letters for any scholarships you have received.