

THE PATH TO COLLEGE ADMISSION

9TH GRADE

- Build a firm foundation of knowledge and skills. Begin taking the “A – G” requirements. See: <http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ag/a-g/welcome.html>
- Develop good study skills and try to earn A’s or B’s in all classes
- Join clubs or teams at your school
- Meet with your school counselor and discuss your goal to attend college
- Start a college folder to gather information about activities and awards

10TH GRADE

- Take “A – G” courses ~ at least 3 -4 every year
- Strive for A’s and B’s in all courses
- Sign up for the PSAT in October if you are taking Algebra II or higher
- Research colleges on Naviance. Check admissions standards, programs of interest, tuition and location
- Start resume on Naviance
- Visit at least one college campus; take tour and talk to students.
- Get involved in sports, extracurricular activities or volunteering

11TH GRADE

FALL

- Stay on track with C grades or better in “A – G” college prep courses.
- Take the PSAT in October and sign up for SAT and/or ACT in spring.
- Work on your list of colleges
- Continue to visit colleges

WINTER

- Practice taking the SAT and/or ACT with sample tests

SPRING

- Review senior class schedule with counselor; consider AP, honors and community college courses
- Continue college visits, attend college fair
- Take the SAT (March, May, June) and/or ACT (April, June)
- Take the EAP tests (during STAR testing)
- Look for summer jobs, courses and volunteer opportunities

SUMMER

- Update Resume and complete Student Brag sheet on Naviance
- Finalize list of colleges and organize into 3 categories: safe, realistic, and reach
- Make a checklist of what each college needs (personal statement, transcript, letters of recommendation)
- Write a draft of your personal statement
- Mark calendar of important dates and deadlines for the upcoming year
- If you plan to retake the SAT or ACT in the fall, register for the test

12TH GRADE

FALL

- Meet with your school counselor
- Request recommendation letters from teachers: give each writer stamped, self-addressed envelope and forms if not using on-line forms
- Double-check deadlines for college applications and financial aid
- Oct, Nov, Dec: Last chance to take SAT and ACT
- September: Apply to rolling admission schools (ex. U of Oregon)
- November: Apply to CSU and UCs.
- Send SAT or ACT scores to each college

WINTER

- December: Submit Common Application and scholarship applications that are due
- January: Apply for the FAFSA with a parent or guardian. www.fafsa.gov
- February: Most financial aid deadlines
- Sign up for summer orientation or bridge program
- Sign up for housing

SPRING

- March 2: Cal Grant GPA deadline
- March/April: Check mail for college decisions and financial award letters
- If wait-listed, let admissions know you’re still interested
- May 1: Tell each college that has accepted you whether you plan to attend
- Send SIR and deposit to school of choice
- Need to take placement exams?
- Arrange for your final transcript to be sent to the school you plan to attend