

# **College Tip Sheet for Juniors**

## **Naviance/Family Connection:**

- **Log On/Register:** Sign on and utilize your Naviance account at <http://tp.sduhsd.net>.
  - The student “registration code” is your student ID#.
  - The parent ID is your student’s ID# with a lowercase “p” at the end.
  - Download the Naviance Smart App and keep your email up to date for news and updated information on college representative visits and scholarship information.
- **Register for College Visits:** Click on the “college” tab and register for college visits. Meet college representatives that come to TPHS in the fall. These college visits help you figure out your college “fit,” and you will be personally demonstrating interest in a particular college that the representative records!
- **College List:** Move your “thinking about” college list to your “applying to” official senior year list. Teachers and counselors cannot access your applications from the “thinking about” holding area. **Complete this step by August of 2017.**
- **Scholarships:** Click on the “college” tab followed by “scholarships.” Peruse community scholarships throughout the senior year. Check the scholarship criteria to find out if you qualify for the scholarship.

## **Senior Application Tips:**

- **Senior Year Schedule:** Keep your senior year schedule academically strong and competitive. Many colleges will require a senior year transcript and all colleges will want to know what you are taking.
- **GPA: UC, CSU, Private and Out-of-State Colleges**
  - UC & CSU: Remember your GPA will be calculated from the weighted 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade to determine GPA eligibility.
    - “D” or “F” grades: Only calculate the improved, revised letter grade into the GPA equation.
    - UCs: You must report ALL course grades, including “D’s” and “F’s.”
    - CSUs: Only report the revised course grade onto the application.
  - Private/Out-of-State Colleges: The total academic GPA will include 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - For most 4-year colleges “D” grades are not considered in meeting subject requirements, so it is highly recommended that “D” grades be repeated.
- **Stay Involved:** Clubs, leadership, community service, athletics and extracurricular activities. Document your hours and contact information for your activities – résumé format.
  - **Résumé Feature in Naviance:** Begin recording your activities and awards on the résumé builder in Naviance located under the “college” and “about me” tabs.

- **Letters of Recommendation (Private/Out-of-State Colleges Only):**  
Begin thinking about who (most current teachers) you would like to ask to write your letters of recommendation (1-2 teachers and possibly your counselor). The courteous way is to **request the letter in person first**, NOT through an email. A minimum of 2-3 week notification is required prior to deadlines...you are not the only one requesting a letter of recommendation!
- **College Essays:** Begin rough drafts of college essays! Prompts available in early to mid-summer in most cases. The Common Application Essay and UC Insight Questions are available this summer....get started!
- **Do Your Best!** Ask for help when you need it. Meet with your teachers and/or counselor if you have a question. Remember all college acceptances are conditional pending satisfactory completion of the senior year!
- **SAT & ACT TESTING:** All college admission exam links are on the home page of Naviance. Polish remaining tests through the early fall of your senior year.
  - SAT [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (register for the SAT with Writing).
  - ACT [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (register for the ACT with Writing).
  - **Early November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> Applicants:** Final testing month recommendation is August- early October of senior year. It is important to remember you are filing your application “early,” which means you want your file to be evaluated as of November 1<sup>st</sup> or November 15<sup>th</sup> – all documents are ready to be reviewed. To make sure your official test scores reach your admission’s file, plan ahead!!
  - **SAT Subject Exams:** Many private colleges and specific majors require SAT Subject Exams. Check the college’s website under admissions for testing requirements. We recommend taking these exams at the end of the year the course is taken, typically an advanced level course.
    - 2-3 Subject Exams
    - Both the UC and CSU systems do not require Subject exams for admissions review. However, some majors may require or highly suggest the Subject exams and the Subject exams may be considered to satisfy a subject deficiency by examination. **Pick only those subjects that showcase your strengths.** (If taking Math...Math Level 2 is recommended.)
  - **How many times can I take the tests?**
    - Multiple times however, we suggest 1-2 times.
    - Many colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT and will utilize the highest score, as is the case with the UCs. The UCs will only utilize the highest total score from one testing date – no super score.
    - Some colleges will “**Super Score**” which is a fancy term for utilizing the highest score in each category from multiple, different test dates.
      - If you are not satisfied with your scores, you will still have an opportunity to take both the SAT and ACT exams again in the fall of your senior year. Most colleges will accept up through the November testing date, with some accepting scores up through the December testing date. Check the individual college admission policies.

- **Official Scores:** Colleges require your official scores to be sent directly from College Board and/or ACT.
  - **UC:** SAT - Send to one UC = they all share the results.
  - **CSU:** SAT – enter the code “3594” once and ALL CSU’s receive the score with one fee.

- **Notes for Test Preparation:**

- PSAT: Access free online test prep with Khan Academy at collegeboard.com.
- Naviance/Family Connection: Link to SAT and ACT website for FREE test preparation tools and exams!
- SAT: College Board Website - Sample test questions available. Sign up for the “Question of the Day.”
- ACT: Sample test questions available at actstudent.org.
- Test Preparation books available for purchase at bookstores and online sites.
- Private Tutors

### **California Public 4-Year Universities Factors Considered for Admission (UC’s)**

Comprehensive Review Factors for Freshman Applicants:

1. Academic grade point average in all completed “a-g” high school courses.
2. Scores on the ACT Assessment plus Writing or SAT Reasoning Test with Essay
3. Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, computer coding or athletic endeavors; special skills.
4. Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of the student's high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs.
5. Academic accomplishments in light of the student's life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status.

### **California State University (CSU)**

The eligibility index calculator below is used as an admission rating:

- SAT scores:  $(\text{GPA} * 800) + (\text{your SAT Math \& Critical Reading score}) = \text{your eligibility index.}$
- ACT scores:  $(\text{GPA} * 200) + (10 * \text{your ACT composite score}) = \text{your eligibility index.}$

\*All approved college prep "a-g" courses taken after 9<sup>th</sup> grade. CSU does not include the SAT or ACT writing scores in the Eligibility Index.

California residents must have a **minimum** index of 2900 using SAT scores or 694 using ACT scores. After computing your index score, go to the CSU website you are interested in attending to see their “average” admission index (since most CSU’s average eligibility indexes are higher than these minimum numbers).

