

Senior College Admission & Financial Aid Checklist/Calendar

FALL of SENIOR YEAR (First Semester)

SEPTEMBER

- ✓ Make a list of important deadlines for college admission applications and financial aid due dates
- ✓ Sign up to take the SAT or ACT (if needed.). **For Class of 2022, all UC's and CSU's will NOT consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admission decisions or when awarding scholarship. NOTE: A few private colleges will still require SAT/ACT test scores, so it's your responsibility to call their admission office or check their college website for updated SAT/ACT test requirements.**
- ✓ Look into taking Advanced Placement (AP) HS courses & registering to take their exams in May for college credit
- ✓ Register in Naviance to **VIRTUALLY** meet with college representatives via ZOOM (Wednesdays after the school day is over) or plan to attend **VIRTUAL & SOME IN-PERSON** college fairs or view **VIRTUAL** college tours of their campuses by visiting their websites. Check various communication platforms to stay informed when these events happen
- ✓ Ask colleges you're applying to about their financial aid programs
- ✓ Male students need to register with the US Selective Service at www.sss.gov or pick up an application at any local post office, otherwise males will NOT be eligible for Federal Student Aid
- ✓ Check out monthly scholarships on MCS Scholarship bulletin by visiting <https://www.mcs4kids.com/district/counseling-and-guidance/college-counseling/financial-aid>
- ✓ Look into the AmeriCorps program, which can allow you to earn educational awards in return for community service <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/join-ameri-corps>
- ✓ Research military branches and their educational benefits <http://todaysmilitary.com>

OCTOBER

- ✓ Complete and submit the **FAFSA or Cal Dream Act** as soon as possible after October 1st **EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!**
- ✓ You and one parent **MUST EACH** register for a FSA ID# at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> so you can electronically submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at: <https://fafsa.ed.gov> . For those students who don't have a social security number, submit the California Dream Act Application online at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>
- ✓ Gather necessary tax information and documentation in preparation for filling out the FAFSA or Cal Dream Act <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>
- ✓ Sign up to attend **FREE** Community Cash for College events in your surrounding area and sign up to attend financial aid workshops for help on campus during the school day. Check various communication platforms to stay informed when these events happen
- ✓ Visit your top college choices by attending College Preview Days or watch **VIRTUAL** tours of their campuses
- ✓ Ask teachers who know you well, for letters of recommendations for private college admission and/or scholarship applications (**CSU's & UC's DO NOT REQUIRE THEM**)
- ✓ Get started filling out forms and writing essays for college admission applications and/or scholarship applications

NOVEMBER

- ✓ MCS District will electronically submit GPA Verification forms for the Cal Grant **after** you submit your FAFSA or Call Dream Act online
- ✓ Note which private colleges require additional financial aid applications/information (such as CSS profile for private colleges)
- ✓ Submit your college admission applications. **DEADLINE to SUBMIT UC & CSU APPLICATIONS is NOVEMBER 30th**
- ✓ Begin the process of searching & applying for scholarships <https://www.mcs4kids.com/district/counseling-and-guidance/college-counseling/financial-aid>

DECEMBER

- ✓ MCS District will electronically submit GPA Verification forms for Cal Grant **after** you submit your FAFSA or Cal Dream Act online
- ✓ Keep a copy or printout of everything you submit for FAFSA or Cal Dream Act
- ✓ Check your home mailbox and email regularly for college admission letters and financial aid offers from your colleges if you applied early decision or early action
- ✓ Continue to search & apply for scholarships

SPRING of SENIOR YEAR (Second Semester)

JANUARY

- ✓ MCS District will electronically submit GPA Verification forms for the Cal Grant **after** you submit your FAFSA or Cal Dream Act online
- ✓ Keep a copy or printout of everything you submit for FAFSA or Cal Dream Act
- ✓ Seniors who are accepted & plan to attend a CSU, **MUST** demonstrate readiness to take college level coursework in English and Math. Visit the CSU's, EAP website for more detailed info regarding multiply measure options to help determine if you're exempt from having to take EARLY START summer courses in English and/or Math <https://www.csustan.edu/early-assessment-program>
- ✓ Complete and electronically submit the **FAFSA or Cal Dream Act Application by the MARCH 2nd deadline**
- ✓ Continue to search & apply for scholarships

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- ✓ MCS District will electronically submit GPA Verification forms for the Cal Grant **after** you submit your FAFSA or Cal Dream Act online
- ✓ Soon after submitting your FAFSA online, go back to the FAFSA website <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> to review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy
- ✓ Check your mailbox, email or college portal for college admissions notifications and financial aid award letters
- ✓ Respond promptly to any requests for additional information from your college
- ✓ Respond immediately to the Financial Aid office of your college, especially if you are selected for Verification through FAFSA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pa7w6qX8jFw> **NOTE:** Until you've made the necessary changes, your financial aid will be put on hold. Contact your college's Financial Aid office if you have questions or need assistance
- ✓ Submit FAFSA or Cal Dream Act Application by the **MARCH 2 deadline**
- ✓ After submitting your FAFSA or Cal Dream Act, create a Cal Grant account on "Web Grants for Students" at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/> then click on Award Detail to view what grants you qualify for
- ✓ Continue to search & apply for scholarships

APRIL

- ✓ Review, evaluate & compare all financial aid offers carefully. Use the following organizational sheet to help compare <https://downey.mcs4kids.com/documents/College%20Financial%20Aid%20Comparison%20Sheet.pdf>. Don't forget to contact your college's Financial Aid office with any special circumstances
- ✓ First consider grants, scholarships and other aid that you don't have to pay back, before accepting a student loan
- ✓ Decide on a college you've been accepted to and notify them of your "intent" to enroll by **MAY 1st**.... and don't forget to also send in your deposit to hold your spot by **MAY 1st**
- ✓ Make sure to sign and return your college's financial aid award letter (located on in your college portal account), noting the awards you're accepting and the ones you're declining
- ✓ Notify the colleges that you **WON'T** be attending in the fall
- ✓ Continue to search & apply for scholarships

MAY

- ✓ To be cleared for graduation, Seniors **MUST** take the Senior Exit Survey in Naviance by May 1st. Completing the survey is also how Downey's Records Office will know what college to send your final transcript
- ✓ If you received a Cal Grant, make sure to log on to "**Web Grants for Students**" at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/> and verify the date you graduated and college you will be attending. **If you don't do this, then your grant money will NOT be released to the Financial Aid office of your attending college**
- ✓ AP Exams are typically administered in May
- ✓ Look for a summer job to help with upcoming college costs or do a summer internship
- ✓ Continue to search & apply for scholarships
- ✓ **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!!!**