

Senior Year The Year of Opportunities



College Choices-

- Private, UC, CSU or Community College
- Cal State University application time period October 1st- November 30th (www.csumentor.edu)
- University of California application time period November 1st- 30th (www.universityofcalifornia.edu)
- Private colleges have various deadlines you need to check websites. Watch DEADLINES!

Be Proactive -

- Narrow down your options to about 5 schools by visiting colleges, talking to college reps and attending college fairs.
- **Mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting** for students and parents on *September 19th* at 7pm in the MP Room
- **Riverside College & Career Fair** on *October 3rd* at the Riverside Convention Center from 5pm -8pm.
- **National Christian College Fair** on *October 5th* from 6pm- 8pm here at Woodcrest Christian's Pavilion.
- **College Financial Aid Information** (12th grade parent meeting) on *January 9th* at 7pm at WCHS' MPR.
- **Inland Empire National College Fair** on *April 24th* at the Ontario Convention Center from 6pm- 8pm.
- Submit the FAFSA and GPA verification form starting January 1st and no later then the deadline March 2nd.

College Testing -

- If you have not taken the SAT I/ACT test yet then sign-up for SAT (www.collegeboard.com) or ACT (www.actstudent.org) this week!
- You must have your SAT I/ACT tests taken by December of your senior year for UC/CSU schools.
- Colleges will take your best scores so when you take the test multiple times it can open up opportunities for college admittance and scholarships. Here are the 2011-2012 SAT and ACT dates:

<i>November 5th</i> - take SAT I - Registration deadline Oct. 7th	<i>October 22nd</i> - take ACT test - Registration deadline Sept. 16th
<i>December 3rd</i> - take SAT I - Registration deadline Nov. 8th	<i>December 10th</i> - take ACT test - Registration deadline Nov. 4th
<i>January 28th</i> - take SAT I - Registration deadline Dec. 30th	<i>February 11th</i> - take ACT test - Registration deadline Jan. 13th
<i>March 10th</i> - take SAT I - Registration deadline Feb. 10th	<i>April 14th</i> - take ACT test - Registration deadline March 9th
<i>May 5th</i> - take SAT I - Registration deadline April 6th	<i>June 9th</i> - take ACT test - Registration deadline May 4th
<i>June 2nd</i> - take SAT I - Registration deadline May 8th	

Study Hard-

- Colleges will be looking at GPA from your senior year. Your grades matter so make sure you are studying and working hard because most schools require at least a 'C' in each class and UC and Cal State schools won't allow 'D' grades unless you retake the classes.

Sell Yourself-

- Get involved in a non-teenage activity (volunteer in a community basketball camp for underprivileged kids)
- For CSU schools it helps to get a job and work at least one hour a week.

Homework

- If you HAVE taken the SAT I/ACT once then register to take them again. Colleges will take your highest score and some will mix and match. If you took the SAT try taking the ACT some students do better on the ACT and colleges treat them the same.
- Set-up a file with the following: awards, honors, and activities; volunteer hours by year in high school; and top five college and career options. Make sure to discuss with your parents college choices.
- Make sure you have an email address that's appropriate for college correspondence and keep a copy of everything you submit.
- Take a career test to determine what majors you are interested in. See Miss Bolling for a Career Direct test.

Helpful websites:

- www.fastweb.com (scholarships)
- www.californiacolleges.edu (college search)
- www.fafsa.ed.gov (Federal Aid) and www.calgrants.org (California Aid)
- <http://www.sss.gov/> (all senior males must register for the selective service when they turn 18)

Senior Timeline

September

- **MANDATORY Senior Graduation Meeting for students and parents on September 19th in the MPR at 7pm.**
- Must have SAT/ACT tests completed by December for UC or Cal State (see specific requirements for each school)
- Find your Social Security Number- you'll need it for the college applications.
- Check senior courses. Will you meet the college requirements? Work on your college essay- proof read!
- Start applying for scholarships: WCHS scholarship page: <http://hs.woodcrestchristian.org/guidance/financial-aid> and www.fastweb.com
- Check out colleges online, starting with www.californiacolleges.edu, www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator and www.collegeboard.com
- **For NCAA Div. I/II prospective athletes register for the Eligibility Center at <http://eligibilitycenter.org> (See Miss Bolling for details)**
- Register for the October 22nd ACT by September 16th (last day to register is September 30th with late fee)
- Fill out a gold brag sheet (in HS office) with all of your accomplishments and awards (this will be used to ask for letters of recommendation)

October

- **Attend the Riverside College & Career Fair on October 3rd at the Riverside Convention Center at 5pm**
- Narrow your list of colleges to about 5 and begin applying and visiting (CSU schools open applications on October 1st).
- Ask for letters of recommendations two weeks in advance (give them your gold brag sheet). Provide an addressed stamped envelope.
- **Attend the National Christian College Fair here at WCHS pavilion on October 5th at 6pm.**
- Take SAT I test on October 1st and/or take the ACT test on October 22nd.
- Register for the November 5th SAT I by October 7th (last day to register is October 21st with late fee)

November

- Register for the December 10th ACT by November 4th (last day to register is November 18th with late fee)-last ACT test if applying to UC/CSU
- Register for the December 3rd SAT I by November 8th (last day to register is November 20th with late fee)- last SAT tests if applying to UC/CSU
- Take SAT I test on November 5th
- UC applications open November 1st with both UC and CSU applications due by November 30th (try to apply by November 20th).
- If you are applying under an "early decision" program, you must submit the application by mid November (check with schools for details).
- Continue to apply for scholarships: <http://hs.woodcrestchristian.org/guidance/financial-aid> and www.fastweb.com
- Check with your references. Have they mailed your recommendation letters yet?

December

- Make sure your parents save year-end payroll stubs and complete taxes early. The FAFSA asks for information from parent's finances.
- Take SAT I test on December 3rd and/or the ACT test on December 10th (last tests if applying to UC or CSU)
- Register for the January 28th SAT I by December 30th (last day to register is January 13th with late fee)
- Apply for FAFSA pin number at www.pin.ed.gov. Remember you can begin applying to FAFSA on January 1st.

January

- Register for the February 11th ACT by January 13th (last day to register is January 20th with late fee)
- Take SAT I test on January 28th
- **Submit the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, starting January 1st. Use estimates if needed. Due by March 2nd.**
- Must submit two forms by the March 2nd deadline to apply for Cal Grant: the FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA (Mailed by student)
- Attend a California Cash for College workshop for help completing FAFSA. For dates and locations, go to www.calgrants.org.
- **Attend the College Financial Aid Information (12th grade parent meeting) on January 9th at 7:00pm at WCHS' MPR.**

February

- **For those interested in college athletics attend the Path to College Athletics on February 6th at 7pm in the MP Room at WCHS**
- Register for the March 10th SAT I by February 10th (last day to register is February 24th with late fee)
- Take the ACT test on February 11th
- Have you sent in all of your college applications? Your FAFSA? Have you mailed your GPA verification form?
- If necessary have your parents complete their tax returns so you can update your student aid report.

March

- **Must submit two forms by March 2nd deadline for Cal Grant: the FAFSA and your verified Cal Grant GPA. www.calgrants.org**
- Deadline to sign-up and pay for AP exams (\$87 each exam) is on March 9th (Registration forms and payments must be paid to Miss Bolling)
- Register for the April 14th ACT by March 9th (last day to register is March 23rd with late fee). Take SAT I test on March 10th
- Watch your mail from March 1st- April 1st for acceptance notifications from colleges. Work hard in your present classes.
- Register for the CSU's placement Exams (unless exempt). Required for all CSU students.

April

- **Attend the Inland Empire National College Fair on April 24th at the Ontario Convention Center from 6pm- 8pm.**
- Register for the May 5th SAT I by April 6th (last day to register is April 20th with late fee). Take the ACT test on April 14th
- Expect to receive college financial aid award letters and wait to hear from all colleges before final decision is made.

May

- Notify your intent to attend by May 1st. Don't miss this deadline!! Colleges may revoke your application if you don't notify by May 1st!
- Register for the June 2nd SAT I by May 8th (last day with late fee is May 22nd) or June 9th ACT by May 4th (last day with late fee is May 18th).
- Take SAT I test on May 5th
- Take AP tests (remember you can get college credit)
- Begin preparing for finals. Remember you must get a grade of 'C' or better for UC or Cal State schools.
- Keep in contact with the college you plan to attend. Is all of your paperwork completed?

June

- Request that Woodcrest Christian send a final transcript to your college in June. This won't happen automatically. Graduation, June 14th