



Senior Letter 2022-2023

Dear Senior Student and Parent/s:

I hope you had a restful yet productive summer. As your high school counselor I am here to guide you through the numerous events and deadlines associated with the senior year. For your planning purposes, this letter provides you with college transition information, important dates and links to important websites and documents.

Parents, you are the best advocate for your student. The anticipation related to your student's attendance at college is both exciting and challenging. The college application process involves multiple key deadlines. If you haven't done so yet, please explore college options with your student; our online Naviance program is an excellent source for this purpose. It is recommended to plan college tours and establish communication with college admissions counselors throughout the application process.

How many colleges/universities should you apply to?

- Applying to several schools provides more opportunities for admission and financial aid considerations. The information below may help determine how many colleges you should apply to:
 - Dream Schools: May be qualified/highly competitive. Low acceptance rate. You would love to attend this school if admitted.
 - Possible Schools: These are the schools that you feel you have a good chance of getting accepted. There is real potential, but no guarantee. Willing to attend if admitted.
 - Safety Schools: Very qualified, confident of acceptance. You should choose a few schools where acceptance isn't a concern. Consider financially safe schools.

Below are helpful websites to assist you in the college admissions process:

Senior Transition Google Classroom:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NTQoODc3OTUwNzMw?cjc=ivnin7o>

Join code- **ivnin7o** (Seniors have access w/school email)

To meet high school graduation requirements, all seniors are required to attend Senior Transition. This program occurs during the regular school day. It is designed to assist seniors with college admissions processes, applications, financial aid, scholarships and completing the senior exit presentation. Senior Transition starts Monday, September 12, 2022. All seniors will join the "senior transition classroom"; this is where they will access important information throughout the year.

College Representative Visits: [College Representative Visits- 2022-2023](#)

Admissions representatives from various colleges/universities visit U-Prep students in-person or virtually. We continually add colleges/universities throughout the fall semester. See the list above.

Naviance <https://student.naviance.com/univprep> (seniors can access account through Clever)

Naviance Student allows your student to: Get involved in the planning and advising process – Build a resume, complete online surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers. Research hundreds of careers and career clusters, and take career assessments to create plans for the future.

College Options <https://collegeoptions.org/>

College Options is an excellent local resource for families. Their primary function is to support preparation for and access to post-secondary educational opportunities in the North State. They provide free programs and services to help families make informed decisions. They also provide assistance with college applications and – for interested families – the federal student aid application (FAFSA).

Shasta College <http://www.shastacollege.edu/>

The Shasta Community College (SCC) application is online and there is no application fee. SCC will visit U-Prep this fall during Senior Transition and again in early spring to meet with students individually. After completing the online orientation and an education plan with a counselor, seniors will receive a “Shasta/Northstate Promise” registration date.

Shasta College students will be eligible to receive their first two years of college tuition free! The Shasta College Promise Program allows for two years of free tuition for California Community College students. To qualify for the program, first-time Shasta College students who are California residents need to submit the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA), or the California Dream Act Application, register for 12 units or more, complete a new student orientation and education plan.

CSU System <http://www.calstate.edu/>

The California State University System has 23 campuses. A CSU application is completed and submitted online. Each campus will charge a \$70 application fee. Fee waiver: When you apply for admission to the CSU through Cal State Apply you are automatically considered for an application fee waiver based on the information requested in the application. Applicants who are eligible for the application fee waiver may apply to up to four CSU campuses. Students may use one application to apply to as many CSU campuses of their choice. The fall 2023 admission filing period is **October 1 through November 30, 2022**. [Cal State Application Check-List](#) & [Cal State Application Guide](#).

- Freshman Admission Requirements
 - Admission offices at the 23 campuses use three factors to determine eligibility.
 1. Specific high school courses (referred to as the “a-g” courses)
 2. Grades in “a-g” courses and test scores
 3. Graduation from high school
- Many CSU campuses have higher standards for particular majors or for students who live outside their local admission area. Because of the number of students who apply, several campuses have higher standards (supplementary admission criteria) for all applicants. See Impactation at the CSU to determine if the campus or major you are interested in applying is [impacted and may have higher or additional admission criteria](#).

UC System <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

The University of California system has 10 campuses. The UC application is completed and submitted online. Each campus will charge a \$70 application fee. Fee waivers: UC will waive application fees for up to four campuses for *qualified* students who would otherwise be unable to apply for admission. You may use one application to apply to as many UC campuses of your choice. The fall 2023 application is currently available for students to access and work on. The application submission period is **October 1 through November 30, 2022**.

- Freshman Admission Requirements

- Students must pass the A-G admission requirements and have a minimum GPA of a 3.0.
- The “personal insight” questions are required of all UC applicants. Students will have 8 questions to choose from. Students must respond to only 4 of the 8 questions. Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words. Which questions students choose to answer is entirely up to them: But, they should select questions that are most relevant to their experience and that best reflect their individual circumstances. Read more at [Personal insight questions | UC Admissions](#).
- The UC system spends time evaluating academic achievements in light of the opportunities available and demonstrated capacity to contribute to the intellectual life at UC. Read more at [How applications are reviewed | UC Admissions](#).

Common Application <https://www.commonapp.org>

The Common Application is used by most private colleges/universities for undergraduate admissions. With Common App students only need to use one system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. Students will need a copy of their high school transcript, a list of activities, work, and family responsibilities, test scores and dates from their college entrance exams (if required), parent/legal guardian information and academic honors and achievements. Each college can also determine their unique requirements for: deadlines, application fees, personal essays, courses & grades, test policy, portfolio, writing supplements, and recommendations. Each campus will charge an application fee. Some private schools waive the application fee if you apply online (please see their admissions website).

SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

The College Board website is where students register for the SAT. This website also provides comprehensive information and a helpful action plan for seniors and parents. SAT scores are submitted online from the SAT registration website to the college/s of choice. SAT fee waivers are available for income-eligible students.

ACT <http://www.actstudent.org>

The ACT website is where students register for the ACT. This website also provides helpful college exploration information. Important note: The ACT writing section is optional. Postsecondary institutions are making their own decisions about whether to require the results from the ACT writing test for admissions and/or course placement purposes. Students will decide whether to take the writing test based on the requirements of the institutions they are considering. If you choose to take the writing component, you must select the optional writing test when you register. ACT test scores are submitted online from the ACT registration website to the college/s of choice. ACT fee waivers are available for income-eligible students.

FAFSA <https://studentaid.gov/>

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) determines a pupil's eligibility for financial aid. Financial aid consists of four basic types: Grants, Employment Programs (work study), Loans, and Scholarships. The first three types are need-based financial aid; scholarships may or may not be need-based.

The FAFSA form is submitted online **on or after October 1st, 2022**. The online FAFSA form is signed electronically so a parent and the student must register for a FSA ID. This serves as an electronic signature. You may apply for your FSA ID at [Create Account | Federal Student Aid](#).

New this year - California Education Code (CEC) § 51225.7 requires a local educational agency to confirm each 12th grade pupil's completion and submission of a FAFSA or CADAA unless the pupil is determined to be exempt or an opt-out form is completed by a pupil who is a legally emancipated minor, a pupil who is 18 years or

older, a legal guardian, or parent, or a local educational agency on a pupil's behalf. Click here for: [Opt-out form & more information](#)

Cal Grant <http://www.csac.ca.gov>

Cal Grant awards are state funded monetary grants given to students to help pay for college expenses. Cal Grant applicants must apply using the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application by the deadline and meet all eligibility, financial, and minimum GPA requirements of either program. Using the website above, you may select the link on parents' income and asset ceilings to inquire about potential eligibility.

The WebGrants 4 Students (WG4S) portal is to provide students with the resources, information and tools needed to assist with the college financial aid process. (WG4S) will allow your student to manage their Cal Grant and/or Chafee account(s) online by letting them view updates, make school changes, make address changes, and post leave of absence requests. Students visit [WebGrants 4 Students](#) to create an account.

Scholarships

U-Prep Scholarship List [22-23 U-Prep Scholarship List](#)

Additional scholarship information: The McConnell Foundation & The Ford Family Foundation, Community Foundation of the North State, Reach Higher Shasta Scholarship Database, Local Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Civic Groups, etc. "Paying for College: Student Resource Guide", National Scholarships, (lots out there/lots of competition) thousands of scholarships identified by each search engine (Fastweb, Big Future, Myscholly), the College/University Admissions and/or Financial Aid Office.

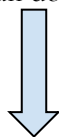
Letters of Recommendation & Official Transcripts

Students requesting letters of recommendation, official transcripts, and/or Common Application counselor and teacher reports, must complete a Letter of Recommendation Form available in the Counseling Center or [here](#). The request should be submitted at least **2-3 weeks in advance**.

Thank you for supporting your senior through this exciting and life-changing year!

Sincerely,
Kristen Mason
High School Counselor

Please review all documents below





Senior Dates to Remember

- Senior Information Night September 28, 2022
 - Marr Auditorium at 5:30 PM
 - Review college admissions/applications and important senior information

- Financial Aid Night hosted by College Options October 6, 2022
 - Marr Auditorium at 5:30 PM

- College Quest 2022 College Fair October 17, 2022
 - Simpson University from 5:00-7:30 PM

- CSU Admission Website Submission Oct. 1-Nov. 30, 2022
- UC Admission Website Submission Oct. 1-Nov. 30, 2022
 - August 1st: Application opens for applicants for Fall 2023
- FAFSA Open For Submission Opens October 1, 2022

- Yearbook Grad Ad Deadline February 3, 2023
 - Create ad online at www.jostensadservice.com/student
 - Choose your ad size and layout.
 - Enter your text and upload your photos.

- Senior Exit Presentations March 27, 2023

- AP Testing May 1-12, 2023
- Senior Awards Ceremony May 22, 2023
- Senior Graduation Ceremony June 2, 2023

Please plan ahead and order your graduation announcements, cap, gown, tassel and more with
Ultimate Graduation Company.

Orders may also be placed online at <https://www.ultimategrad.com/>

COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

Fall 2022



When & Where

October 5th
October 12th
October 19th
October 26th
November 2nd
November 9th
November 10th
November 16th
November 17th
November 29th
November 30th

During Lunch
1:09-1:39 PM
Room 299

Need help filling out college applications?
Attend one of these Drop-In Workshops!

SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

At any point - ask for help ———

- ☐ From your high school counselor
- ☐ From College OPTIONS (530) 244-4022 collegeoptions.org
- ☐ From the college you applied to; don't hesitate to call the Admissions, Financial Aid or Housing office—they want to help!

September ———

- ☐ Attend the Financial Aid Information Night at your school. (check with your counselor for your school's date)
- ☐ Estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) tinyurl.com/myefc
- ☐ U.S. Citizens and eligible non-citizens: Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet at studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out
- ☐ Check out CA Dream Act information and resources at dream.csac.ca.gov
- ☐ Create a personalized electronic or paper calendar of deadlines for college admission and financial aid applications.
- ☐ Start drafting essays for college applications and scholarship applications, including letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Check out SAT and/or ACT resources and information at sat.collegeboard.com or act.org.
- ☐ Memorize your Social Security number. If you do not have a Social Security number, talk to your counselor.
- ☐ Apply for a driver's license or state ID card if you don't already have one. You may need one for financial aid verification purposes.
- ☐ Obtain a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) for yourself and one parent at studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out
You will need this to file your FAFSA electronically.

- ☐ Research career options thoroughly; the better informed you are, the more effective your college search will be. onetonline.org
- ☐ Attend local college fairs and meet college representatives visiting your school.
- ☐ Your e-mail address should be appropriate for communicating with colleges, lenders & employers.

October ———

- ☐ **Oct 1:** FAFSA and CA Dream Act Applications are available online at studentaid.gov/fafsa or dream.csac.ca.gov. Submit the appropriate application as early as possible. We suggest you use the DRT (Data Retrieval Tool) from FAFSA to report your income from the IRS. Provide required e-signatures and email address for faster processing. **Due March 2** if you want to be considered for the priority Cal Grant.
- ☐ **Oct 1:** CSU & UC applications are available. Check other colleges for application availability.
- ☐ The College Board's CSS PROFILE is an additional financial aid application that some private colleges require. Research if you need to complete this application. cssprofile.collegeboard.org
- ☐ Attend the Financial Aid Information Night at your school. (check with your counselor for your school's date)
- ☐ Visit colleges or take a virtual tour online.
- ☐ Planning to live on-campus? Research your potential colleges' housing application processes. (some have application deadlines as early as October)

November ———

- ☐ Start researching and applying for scholarships. Some have early deadlines.
- ☐ Review your FAFSA Student Aid Report and make corrections at studentaid.gov/fafsa if necessary. If you don't receive your report within three weeks of submitting your FAFSA, call toll free at 800-433-3243.
- ☐ Nov 30 CSU & UC applications due. Check other colleges for deadlines. Priority application deadline for CSU campus Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

December ———

- ☐ Confirm official SAT/ACT scores were sent to colleges as needed.
- ☐ Apply for scholarships at the colleges you have applied to; some deadlines are as early as December.

January ———

- ☐ Watch for application confirmation emails from your college(s); create a "portal" for each college you applied to. Monitor each portal for admissions decisions.
- ☐ Check your online portal at each college you applied to and your email on a **weekly basis**. Respond to colleges' requests for information promptly.
- ☐ Keep a copy of everything you submit (paper or electronic copy).
- ☐ Apply for scholarships!

SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

February

- ☐ Manage your Cal Grant status online using WebGrants for Students at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov
- ☐ Math and English assessment tests: check each college you applied to. Do you need to take these tests? You may be able to waive these assessments through SAT, ACT or AP exam scores.
- ☐ Apply for scholarships!

March

- ☐ **March 2** is the Cal Grant priority deadline to submit the FAFSA or CA Dream Act application.
- ☐ Watch for college acceptance letters and financial aid offers via email and your college portal(s).
- ☐ Manage your Cal Grant. Look for email messages from the California Student Aid Commission and check your status. mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov
- ☐ Planning to attend a community college? Apply, take assessment tests, send in your high school transcripts, and sign up for an orientation. Apply for EOPS & SSS.
- ☐ Apply for scholarships!

April

- ☐ Watch for college acceptance letters and financial aid offers via email and your college portal(s).
- ☐ Evaluate all financial aid offers carefully. Ask questions!
- ☐ Utilize College OPTIONS Cost of Attendance Comparison Worksheet to determine your actual "net" cost at each college you are considering. Carefully examine your and your family's budget and "cash flow." Can you afford your intended college for the 4-5 years you will be attending? collegeoptions.org (look at the Financial Aid section)
- ☐ Consider grants, work-study and other aid (e.g., scholarships) you don't have to repay before accepting a student loan.

- ☐ Notify the financial aid offices at all your possible colleges of any scholarships received that are not on your award offer. Ask them how these changes will affect your award offer from them.

- ☐ If you are short of funds necessary to pay mandatory deposits to the college (e.g. tuition, dorms, meal plans, etc.), ask the college if you can defer deposits and/or make payments on an installment plan.

- ☐ Use your college portal to accept and/or decline your financial aid awards.

- ☐ Manage your Cal Grant status using WebGrants for Students at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov. If you do not have any information available on the "Award Detail" tab by mid-April, call toll free 888-224-7268 and ask them to help you determine your status.

- ☐ Make sure you have fulfilled any financial aid verification requests from your college's financial aid office. If you are unsure if you have any requirements, check your portal or contact the financial aid office.

- ☐ Apply for scholarships!

May

- ☐ **May 1** is the deadline to notify the four-year college that you plan to attend. Use your college portal to accept your offer of admission (you might have to make an enrollment deposit and/or register for orientation by May 1 as well).

- ☐ Look for a summer job, sign up for a summer class at the community college or volunteer with a business or organization to help investigate your career interests.

- ☐ Arrange your college housing plans.

- ☐ Missed the March 2 Cal Grant priority deadline? Complete the FAFSA to be considered for federal and institutional aid and to be considered for a Cal Grant at a California community college.

Summer

- ☐ Confirm your high school graduation and college of attendance. mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

- ☐ Keep checking your college portal. Follow through on any "to-do" items.

- ☐ If you have Special Circumstances due to job loss, death, hardship, divorce, large medical expenses, an unusual family/parental situation, etc., which were not reflected on your financial aid application, contact your college's financial aid office ASAP so they can determine if they can use Professional Judgment to make adjustments to your financial aid award.

- ☐ Make sure your "master promissory note" is signed for any Federal student loans. studentloans.gov

- ☐ Read the fine print on your student loan agreement, especially if the loan is a non-government (private) loan. Know your repayment obligations while you are in school as well as after you graduate.

- ☐ Financial aid "disbursements" (distribution of the funds) typically come after the semester/quarter starts. If you are unable to afford any costs that will come due before aid disbursements, communicate with your college's financial aid office.

- ☐ Four-year college-bound students: Attend your college's orientation.

- ☐ Register for classes.

- ☐ Claim scholarships you won. You may need to turn in copies of your fall class schedule (or some other proof of enrollment). Check with each scholarship provider.

Apply for financial aid and scholarships every year you plan to attend college.

Revised 8-1-2022

College Quest 2022 College Fair

A Free Event at Simpson University

October 17, 2022 5:00-7:30pm

40+ Colleges &
Universities

Career Pathway
Information

Military Service
Information

Financial Aid
Workshop

Workshop
Session
5:30 pm

Career
Exploration
Information



SAVE THE DATE