

NOTES ON THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

General Tips

- Save copies of **EVERYTHING**. Print hard copies of applications.
- **DEADLINES are absolute! You must stay on track with due dates for college, scholarship, financial aid, and housing applications.**
- Have a “good” e-mail address and read all messages carefully!
- Send important forms with a **Certificate of Mailing** *only* from the US Post Office.
- Have a backup plan and “safety school”.
- **Come to counselor college application workshop Tuesday, September 18th at Lunch. in the presentation room.**

Naviance

Use your Naviance account at <http://connection.naviance.com/davinci> to keep up with steps, get information and sign up for college visits.

- Search careers and sort colleges by sports, majors, location.
- Add colleges of interest to your list. Compare yourself with previous attendees from Da Vinci.
- Get information about local scholarships and college visits. If you select colleges in your list you will automatically get notified if there is a college visit. Sign up for college visits on DHS campus.
- If you need to reset your password contact Ms. Curinga.

Community Colleges: www.cccco.edu/

- Time to apply: February – March for best course selection.
- Fee to apply: none.
- Local community college district: Los Rios, www.losrios.edu/
- Testing: not required for admission
Placement tests in Math and English are required after registration
- No letters of recommendation. No essays.
- Must be 18 or have a high school diploma to enroll
- Some Community Colleges have residence halls
- 93% of students eligible to transfer to University of California are admitted

University of California: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/

- Time to apply: November 1 – 30 only
- Fee: \$70 per campus.
- Testing required: SAT or ACT with writing December is latest test date accepted.
- Students must satisfy a-g course requirements.
- Minimum GPA to apply: 3.0
- No letters of recommendation
- Use transcript to self-report courses. In lieu of Harper, Emerson or Holmes JHS use DaVinci High School list to report 9th grade courses.
- Essays (personal statements) required: 2 questions to respond to with 1000 word max.

Workshop explaining online UC application DSHS Thursday, October 4th 7:00PM

California State University: www.csumentor.edu/

- Time to apply: October 1 – November 30.
- Fee: approximately \$55 per campus
- Testing required: SAT Reasoning or ACT. November is latest test date for Cal Poly and San Diego, and scores should be rushed. **Placement tests in English and Math required before attending/may be waived with high SAT scores.**
- Students must satisfy a-g course requirements
- Use transcript to self-report courses. In lieu of Harper, Emerson or Holmes JHS use DaVinci High School list to report 9th grade courses
- No letters of recommendation or essays
- Apply for EOP program if you are low income and get additional support
- Some campuses have Priority Days for “on the spot” admission – watch bulletin and check Career Center for details

Workshop on CSU at DSHS theater, Thursday, September 13th 7:00PM

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): <http://wue.wiche.edu/sep/wue>

WUE is a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Students who are residents of WICHE states may enroll at participating two and four year college programs outside of their home state at a reduced tuition rate. Over 140 colleges participate.

U.S. Military Academies

Information on the academies is in the DHS Career Center, N-17. These are selective public, national institutions. Nomination forms go through a US Representative or Senator and are due by December 1.

Testing Information: see requirements under each type of college

- SAT: www.collegeboard.com
- ACT: www.act.org
- Scores must be sent directly from ACT or College Board to colleges or universities. (For California State University use CSU mentor and it will go to all CSU campuses. For University of California, report to one campus and all will get it)
- All testing should be completed by December and some schools require November testing.
- Request score reports.
- Scores are *not* on your transcripts.

Scholarships and Financial Aid –

Financial Aid Workshop in November 29th 7PM – DHS theater

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available in December; apply January – March 2.
- Everyone should do this: www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- Access the Scholarship Bulletin every two weeks.
- Check out www.fastweb.com for additional scholarships.
- Get Cal Grant info at www.calgrants.org. To qualify, Make sure you have a social security number on file in the office.
- Ask private colleges for specific financial aid and scholarship information.

Scholarships and Financial Aid –continued

- Check the financial aid websites of individual schools where you are applying; departments too.
- Some private colleges require the CSS Profile: www.profileonline.collegeboard.com/
- Review and apply for the local scholarships posted on Naviance.

Fee Waivers for Testing and College Applications

- Apply for the Free/Reduced National School Lunch Program: this determines your eligibility for waivers. You are not required to participate in the lunch program, just to qualify by completing the forms. Students in foster home placements may also qualify. You may apply for a waiver to UC and CSU campuses when you apply online.

Letters of Recommendation

For private colleges *only* when required, most schools will accept the *Common Application* - commonapp.org

- Completely fill out the information on the online application, including your current courses.
- Sign your release to not view the letters of recommendation. This has colleges take your letters more seriously. Be assured that counselors and teachers will not write a negative letter. This is called the FERPA waiver
- Go to school forms and request your counselor by email address AFTER you have listed your current classes. ccuringa@djUSD.net
- Request no more than two teachers to write a letter of recommendation, ask the teacher ahead of time.
- Get a Student Information Packet for Letters of Recommendation: www.davincihigh.net
- Fill out the letter of recommendation packet completely and email or bring to each recommender including Ms. Curinga.
- If schools require a different application, include it and an addressed stamped envelope with the information.
- Make a half hour appointment with Ms. Curinga. Take or email a completed packet with your appointment with Ms. Curinga.
- Allow enough time for counselor and teachers to complete letters. Allow 3 weeks minimum, excluding vacations.

Transcripts

If needed, fill out a transcript request card in the office and follow the directions at Marguerite Fleming's desk. Each senior will have a card.

- For private schools transcripts are sent electronically with the common application, when you request your counselor, Ms. Curinga and you do not need to complete a card.
- UCs do not want a transcript when you apply.
- Some CSUs want a transcript when you apply, read website and pay attention to e-mails.
- Community colleges want a transcript after you enroll.
- Final transcripts are requested in June and students provide us with a stamped addressed envelope for their final choice college or to themselves.

Athletes: NCAA/NAIA

Register on the web at www.NCAA.org to qualify for competing in Division I or II sports in college. NAIA is at www.naia.org. There is a Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at www.ncaa.org

Private and Out of State Public Colleges & Universities

- Time to apply: varies
- Where to get applications: check websites
- Common Application available at <https://www.commonapp.org>
- Many campuses have individual websites.
- Register at www.collegeweeklive.com for a variety of webinars
- Fee for applying: varies.
- Testing required: usually SAT Reasoning /ACT (with writing ?), possibly two SAT Subject tests. Check with colleges.
- Recommendation required: varies, usually required for competitive private colleges. You *must* allow time and fill out the recommendation information packet. More about recommendations below.
- Essays often required.

College Visits

Frequently it is impossible or impractical for students to visit college campuses before they apply. It is strongly recommended that students attend college visits at Davis High School, local events hosted by colleges and request interviews for private colleges where they are interested in applying. Our Da Vinci students are stellar at interviews!

In addition to college visits at the Davis High School campus, some colleges host evening or weekend events for students.

Upcoming events:

College Week Live—Register at collegeweeklive.com

University of California day is October 4th

100's of universities offer live events, virtual tours and ability to speak to admissions offices

Emory University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame and University of Virginia have a special meeting for perspective students. RSVP at

<http://tinyurl.com/eveningprogram>

Monday, September 10th 7:00 PM - Sheraton Grand Sacramento-
1230 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Dartmouth, Northwestern University, Vanderbilt and Princeton University have a special meeting for perspective students. Register online at: <http://ugadm.northwestern.edu/dnpv/>

Monday October 1st - Sacramento Marriott-Rancho Cordova (Free Parking)

1211 Point East Drive

Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

St Mary's College, Moraga, California

Stmarys-ca.edu/preview

Preview Days October 6 and November 12 9Am to 1:30 PM

Check UC and CSU websites for preview days