PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR:

Senior year doesn't have to be stressful if you prepare early. In this edition, you will get many helpful tips you may use to navigate the college exploration and admissions process.

If you follow several simple steps you will be able to simplify the whole thing! Read this issue carefully and treat the tips that are mentioned seriously.

It may seem like there is a lot to do and you may not know where to start, but remember: Knowledge is Power. Just by being knowledgeable about the process, and knowing where to go for help—and there is lots out there, you will not only accomplish your goals, but be able to enjoy your senior year at the same time!

Take a long look at yourself and think about who you are, what you enjoy, and what career choice might make you the happiest.

Know what you want: big school, small school, in-state, out of state, sports, fraternities, majors rural, urban...the list goes on.

This is your life, so start exploring the schools that are the right fit for YOU!
Before School Gets Out….Take your SAT and ACT

Although junior year is almost over, there are still a few things you should do to get ready for college. Students who are planning to attend 4 year colleges and universities should register for the June SAT and/or ACT. This is the last test students may take before the fall—since there are no tests given during the summer months.

In addition, students will receive their test scores and be able to use the summer months to improve their results by doing test prep. Not to worry, there is lots of free test prep available! Go to the Career Center page on Schoolloop

SAT:
Test Date: June 7th
Registration Deadline: May 9th

ACT:
Test Date: June 14th
Registration Deadline: May 9th

UC and Common App will be available online in August!
CSU Mentor: Input your Course History Now!

For the first time ever both the UC and the Common Application will be accessible to students in August. Although students will not be able to submit their applications until the filing period opens—Nov 1st for UC’s- at least students can take advantage of having their applications ready to go earlier than ever!

Students can become familiar with the applications, the personal statements, and other supplemental information that may be required.

IMPORTANT TIPS:
1. READ ALL YOUR EMAILS REGULARLY... INCLUDING SCHOOLLOOP!!
2. KEEP A LOG OF USERNAMES AND PASSWORDS
3. LEARN YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

1. Applying to college? There will be a lot of information coming your way. E-mail is the most common form of communication that will be used by the colleges, the SAT/ACT testing programs, the financial aid programs, AND your counselors, teachers, and the Career Center. Students...you need to get in the habit of checking your emails regularly—that means at least once a day. Here is the best tip you can get. Set up a unique email that you will only use for college, financial aid, and testing. Do not give this address to friends, relatives, or anyone else. When you open this email, you will know that everything in the inbox is IMPORTANT and should be read from beginning to end!! Your counselors and the Career Center send most of the info you need to know to Schoolloop, so check EVERYDAY!

2. Keep a detailed list of usernames and passwords and their associated sites and keep it handy in case you need to access it while away from home.

3. Memorize your social security number. You will be using this more and more to access your information or to create some accounts, so don’t be left out in the cold by not having this info at your fingertips.
UC Personal statement

Your personal statement should be exactly that — personal. This is your opportunity to tell us about yourself — your hopes, ambitions, life experiences, inspirations. We encourage you to take your time on this assignment. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it honestly.

As you respond to the essay prompts, think about the admissions and scholarship officers who will read your statement and what you want them to understand about you. While your personal statement is only one of many factors we consider when making our admission decision, it helps provide context for the rest of your application.

Directions

All applicants must respond to two essay prompts — the general prompt and either the freshman or transfer prompt, depending on your status.

- Responses to your two prompts must be a maximum of 1,000 words total.

Allocate the word count as you wish. If you choose to respond to one prompt at greater length, we suggest your shorter answer be no less than 250 words.

The essay prompts

Freshman applicant prompts

Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school — and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Tips and techniques

Start early. Allow time for reflection, thoughtful preparation and revision.

Choose a topic for both essays. Look critically at the information in your application: your grades, awards, activities and work experience, family and income. Anticipate questions an admissions evaluator will have after reading your application. The personal statement is your opportunity to answer those questions.

Compose your personal statement in a word-processing program. Don't type it directly into the application. This way, you will have the opportunity to print copies for review.

Write persuasively. Present your information and ideas in a focused, deliberate and meaningful manner. Provide specific, concrete examples to support your point. A personal statement that is simply a list of qualities or accomplishments usually is not persuasive.

Proofread. In addition to checking your spelling, be sure your grammar is correct and your essays flow smoothly.

Solicit feedback. Your personal statement should reflect your own ideas and be written by you alone, but others — family, teachers and friends — can offer valuable suggestions. Ask advice of whomever you like, but do not plagiarize from sources in print or online and do not use anyone's published words but your own.
Your Counselors...They are here to help!

- Banks, Heather Counselor (Grades 9th and 10th Last Name H-O)
- Gorman, Maureen Counselor (Grades 11th and 12th Last Name H-O)
- Hilliard, Debra Counselor (Grades 11th and A-G)
- Johnson, Kimberly Counselor (Grades 9th and 10th Last Name A-G)
- Mast, Lucinda Counselor (Grades 9th and 10th Last Name P-Z)
- Nye, Marcia Counselor Distinguished Scholar (Grades 9th-12th)
- Wong, John Counselor (Grades 11th and 12th Last Name P-Z)
- Saldivar, Rolando Head Counselor
- Sroka, Robin Career and College Center
- Jelinowicz, Macy: Gear Up/ Room 206

Wilson College and Career Center

Mission Statement

To provide equal access to all students' pursuit of career/college exploration and postsecondary options to ensure that all students are career and college ready citizens.