

Senior Calendar for College/University Application Process

This is a general outline of the steps for applying to colleges during your senior year. Please note that some of the dates and deadlines may vary, please double check with the colleges you will be applying. This is meant as an outline and a guide and it is not set in stone.

September:

- ✓ Register for October, November, and/or December Test Dates (SAT, SAT Subject Area Tests & ACT). It is very important when you register for the tests that you put down our school code so the scores are sent to us. West Ranch's School Code is 053-864.
- ✓ Be sure you have sent for all your college applications (if needed) unless you are planning on applying online.
- ✓ Make yourself a timeline of when your applications are due and everything you need to get done for each application. Check lists are great and a folder to keep all your application materials together is always helpful.
- ✓ Make sure you have a place where you can work on your applications and stay organized.
- ✓ Attend any Senior College Workshops that are being offered at WR.
- ✓ Make sure you fill out the "Etiquette for Letters of Recommendation" if you are applying to a school that requires letters. There is a form for you and your parents to fill out as well as the steps for requesting letters. It will help ensure that you have a strong letter of rec.
- ✓ Decide which teacher you are going to ask to write your Teacher Recommendation.
- ✓ If you are applying Early Decision or Early Action you must make sure you have recorded the dates and gathered the information.
- ✓ Make sure and take advantage of any college reps that visit campus.
- ✓ Work hard!!! Don't forget your fall semester grades do count in college admissions.
- ✓ Attend the COC College Fair!!!

October

- ✓ Continue to visit college campuses. It is very important to see and experience a campus before you make a final decision to attend the school
- ✓ Take SAT, SAT Subject Area Tests or ACT. Make sure you send scores to the campus you are applying to, this will help ensure that they receive your scores in time.
- ✓ File Early Decision or Early Action applications (double check dates).
- ✓ Attend the Personal Statement Workshop.
- ✓ Work on your college essay. If you need help see your Counselor.
- ✓ If you will be applying for Financial Aid you may want to register for the Profile Form. This form is used by some private schools for their financial aid. You can get the form and apply online at www.collegeboard.com.
- ✓ Attend the UC Application Workshop.

- ✓ Continue to narrow down your college selections.
- ✓ Investigate scholarships (see Wildcat Senior Webpage) for updates on scholarships and other searches.
- ✓ You should still be visiting colleges on the weekends.
- ✓ Save copies of all your completed applications and important information.
- ✓ Attend CSU College Application Q&A Workshop

November

- ✓ File your UC and CSU applications (Deadline November 30th)
- ✓ Retake the SAT, SAT Subject Tests and/or ACT. Send scores to schools.
- ✓ You will need to request transcripts to be sent to most private schools and some CSUs (read the application carefully). The UC Schools do not need transcripts when you apply.
- ✓ Confirm final list of colleges.
- ✓ Make sure that when you mail your applications you get a “Certificate of Mailing” at the Post Office. If you apply online make sure you get a receipt from the college that they have received your application.
- ✓ Mail applications as early as possible for colleges with rolling deadlines (admission decisions are made as applications are received).

December

- ✓ Early Action and Early Decision letters usually arrive a little before Winter Break.
- ✓ Make sure you have turned in to the counselors (regardless of deadline) your request for Letters of Recommendation and the Secondary School Reports.
- ✓ Last chance to take the SAT, Subject Tests, and/or ACT. Make sure you send your scores directly to the school you are applying to.
- ✓ It is best that you finish all your applications before finals so that you can enjoy your holiday.
- ✓ Attend Financial Aid Night with your Parents.

January

- ✓ Make sure you have filed both the FAFSA and Profile for Financial Aid.
- ✓ Complete the Cal-Grant Form and return them to the registrar’s office.
- ✓ Early Decision and Early Application responses arrive this month.
- ✓ Some colleges include your first-semester grades as part of your application folder. This is called the mid-year grade report.
- ✓ Respond to missing credentials and letters from colleges.

February:

- ✓ Thank you notes should be sent to anyone who wrote you a letter of recommendation.
- ✓ Respond to missing credential letters
- ✓ If you applied to CSU system and have not received a decision letter call the campus you applied to see if they need any additional items.
- ✓ Study!!! Second semester grades are evaluated, students have lost their admissions to the school of their choice because of their second semester grades.

- ✓ Have you turned in all your financial aid forms? Deadlines are very important when dealing with financial aid offices.
- ✓ WAIT!!!

March

- ✓ Cal Grant form deadline March 2nd.
- ✓ Wait, Watch the Mail, Wait
- ✓ Admissions' decisions start to arrive.
- ✓ Pay attention to grades.

April

- ✓ Congratulations!! Time to make your decision. Most admissions decisions and financial aid award letters arrive this month Read everything you receive carefully, as some of it may require action on your part.
- ✓ You need to make a decision by the end of April. The national deadline is May 1st. Make sure if your decision needs to be postmarked by May 1st or arrived by May 1st.
- ✓ Notify colleges you are not attending that you have chosen another school.
- ✓ Sign the College Admissions Book in the 500 Building Counseling Office. Tell your counselors where you decided to attend.
- ✓ On the waiting list? Contact the admissions office and let them know of your continued interest in the college and update them on your spring semester grades and activities.

May

- ✓ May 1st is the absolute deadline to notify all colleges you were Admitted to of your decision. Check housing Deadlines!!!!!!
- ✓ AP Exams
- ✓ Study !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Final Grades Do Count!!!
- ✓ Graduation ☺
- ✓ Freshman Orientation over summer!!

June

- ✓ Request to have your final transcript sent to the college of your choice (registrar's office).
- ✓ If you plan on competing on Division I or Division II college sports, have the registrar send your final transcript to NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse.

Summer

- ✓ Make travel plans. Book early for best prices
- ✓ Finalize housing plans.
- ✓ Shop for items you will need in college.
- ✓ Make sure to sign up for Freshman Orientation.
- ✓ Plan your first semester courses with an eye towards eventually selecting your college major.