

MAYBECK'S COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

FRESHMAN YEAR

Welcome to high school!! It's time to check out your new campus, get comfortable with your new teachers & academic schedule, explore new interests/clubs, meet new people, and discover your high school niche. This is not a time for college planning. You need to focus on getting good grades, making friends and enjoying yourself!! Some colleges include freshman grades when computing GPAs and other do not; however, all colleges will see them on the transcript.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

UC's & California State Schools (CSUs) only calculate your grades from your sophomore and junior years (privates count all four). Colleges will be looking to make sure you are taking the most challenging course load possible. All students should be taking five core courses along with an elective when appropriate. Keep exploring your interests (dance, art, drama, music, sports, community service requirement, church, SAC, Yearbook, BSU etc.) and remember that depth wins over coverage with extracurriculars. Don't waste your time with tons of "resume building" activities. Focus on the activities you really enjoy. Start or join a club, and stick with them over the summer by doing camps, clinics, programs or volunteer to enhance your experience. The PSAT is offered on the second or third Saturday in October. While sophomores may take this practice SAT, the test is primarily designed for juniors who are solely eligible for the National Merit Scholar Programs.

Students enrolled in US History or Biology should consider taking the SAT Subject Test (some schools require two tests in two different subject areas) in June because the best time to take those tests is when the information is fresh in your mind. If you are truly passionate about a subject matter and committed to studying on your own, you should take an AP test. Maybeck will hold a College Night for sophomores and their parents in the spring. While it may be too early to visit colleges, if you're near one on vacation or at an event, take a walk around to get a feel for the campus.

JUNIOR YEAR

This is undoubtedly the most challenging year of high school!! First and foremost, no matter how busy you get with your college search and testing, colleges prefer students that are improving academically. So don't let that hard-earned GPA suffer!!!

EXPLORE: Now is the time to start exploring and researching colleges. Use your counselor, parents, guidebooks, websites, college fairs, and college visits to come up with a list of 20 or 30 schools that you find interesting. Visit campuses with your family or friends on your holidays or long weekends to get a feel of the campus and gather materials. Keep notes to remind you of the campus vibe so your head isn't spinning after a multi-college visit. Talk to older siblings, older friends, and others about their college and their search. Keep your parents and counselor in the loop because they will definitely have interesting opinions.

TO DO LIST:

- Attend College Night in February
- Meet with college counselor to discuss college plans.
- Take an interest inventory survey.
- Research & visit college campuses.
- Create a list of 20/30 schools.
- Attend visits by college representatives on the Maybeck campus.
- Discuss with your parents how you will finance your education and research scholarship opportunities together.
- Attend PSAT prep meeting.
- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Review your scores on-line and with the college counselor.
- Students on financial aid may qualify for fee waivers for standardized tests and college applications. See counselor for more information.
- Register, prep, and take the SAT or ACT in March, April or May. Two SAT & two Subject Test fee waivers are available for those who cannot afford test fees. Additionally, fee waivers may qualify a student for application fee waivers at many colleges. See the counselor for more information.
- Register/take SAT Subject Test and AP Tests in May and June. AP test are rigorous and require hours of preparation, but a good score impresses admissions officers and can earn college credit.
- Focus on your final exams by planning your test taking strategy in advance. If possible take the SAT first (April/May), then take SATII/AP Tests later when you've completed the curriculum (May/June), then take your finals (June). For your own sanity, avoid clumping them all together in one month!!
- Test prep will raise your scores (commercial, tutor, on-line or individual),
- Ask your favorite sophomore/junior teacher if they would write you a college recommendation next year.
- Register with NCAA Eligibility Center if you plan on playing DI/DII athletics.
- Plan a meaningful summer. Investigate one or two of your passions in depth (internship, travel, study, work, sports, theatre, art, dance, language, school leadership, community service).
- Attend an essay-writing workshop. Start crafting your essays.
- Research and refine your college list over the summer.

SENIOR YEAR

Consider this fall a sprint. Your goal is to have most of your "to do list" finished by December 1st. Then you can fully focus your attention on final exams and spend your holiday really relaxing. Balancing schoolwork with college applications is tricky but vital. Pare down your list to 10 schools that are **ALL FIRST CHOICES** (3/4 safeties, 4 targets, and 2/3 reaches). Try to visit the campuses that you've missed and show interest in your Top 10 by emailing, registering on their website, and introducing yourself at college fairs. Some schools track student interest. Parents should attend our Financial Aid Night and go to <http://www.finaid.org/calculators> to predict your family's expected financial contribution to college.

- Senioritis Beware...colleges do rescind acceptances based on poor academic performance in your senior year.
- Register and retake SAT/ACT/SATII by the November date to assure timely scores sent to colleges.
- Finalize your college list.
- Complete your student resume,
- Schedule a gush session with the college counselor to help with the recommendation.
- Attend college rep visits, college fairs, and receptions.
- Research, request application materials, and show interest in Top 10.
- Create a matrix/calendar with application deadlines for each school (required test scores, transcripts, essay, supplements, teacher rec., counselor rec., interview, AP tests, FAFSA/CSS Profile).
- Decide on Early Decision/Early Action plan and add to matrix/calendar. These applications are usually due in November and have specific restrictions that you need know (privates and impacted CSUs).
- Work on your personal statement and supplemental essays (not CSUs).
- Complete and submit applications (UCs & CSUs due Nov. 30th, privates and common application due dates vary). Apply for housing, if suggested.
- Complete and submit scholarship applications (FAFSA/CSS Profile/Cal Grant GPA Verification).
- Request transcripts to be sent to Top 10.
- Send all test scores reports to Top 10.
- Kindly request letter of recommendation from the teacher you already asked by including stamped, addressed envelope or information that will be sent via email.
- Complete SSR (Secondary School Report) form and request counselor recommendation well before deadline.
- Turn in two addressed envelopes for each college to send out mid year grades & transcripts.
- Schedule interviews if required or requested.

BREATHE...YOU HAVE SURVIVED THE SPRINT

- Try to patiently await decision letters (UCs & CSU in mid March/privates in March & April).
- Fight off senioritis, and finish strong in school. Do not let your grades slip as college can and will rescind offers.
- Mail deposit to one school and notify the others that you're not attending on or before May 1st.
- Take AP exams and finals, graduate, and ask your counselor to send final transcripts.
- Write thank you notes to your teacher and counselor.
- Get a summer job and start saving for college.
- Congrats & remember to send in housing fees, statement of intent to register, and ATTEND ORIENTATION!!!