

### **How to make the most of your college visit:**

- A. Prepare for your visit by learning as much as you can about the college. Read their catalog, visit their Web site, etc.
- B. Take a tour, noting the cleanliness, atmosphere, and size of the campus. Also note how the students look and act.
- C. Many colleges now offer group information sessions for parents and students. Attend one of these sessions if possible.
- D. Talk to someone in the department your son or daughter is considering as a major (e.g., business, education). Be sure to check out the labs, computers, and other facilities for that major. Also ask what kinds of jobs their graduates get, their average starting salary, etc.
- E. If your son or daughter is an outstanding student, check to see if the university has an Honors program. Honors programs offer a variety of unique opportunities for the students who qualify. These may include honors housing, access to low enrollment honors courses, and/or priority scheduling.
- F. Visit a dorm, and if possible, eat in one of the student cafeterias. Also, check out the freshman dorm options so that you'll know which dorm to request if your son or daughter decides to attend that college.
- G. Inquire about any special program or activity in which your son or daughter may be interested (band, co-op, L.D. tutoring, intramural sports, Greek life, etc.)
- H. Visit the student union and talk to students. Ask them what they think of the school, what they like and dislike about it, and what they do on weekends. Students are generally friendly, honest, and happy to give you their opinions.
- I. If you are concerned that your son or daughter may have difficulty being accepted, or if there are aspects of his/her academic record that you would like to explain (e.g., low grades due to an illness), make an appointment with an admissions counselor. Take an unofficial transcript with you.
- J. If you are interested in financial assistance, ask if you can make an appointment with a counselor in the financial aid and/or scholarship office. If you want to

discuss scholarship possibilities, take an unofficial transcript with you.

- K. Many parents and students have concerns that relate to 1) the safety of the campus, 2) the practice of having T.A.s (teaching assistants) teach classes and/or labs in place of professors, and 3) the ability of students to schedule the classes they need in order to graduate in four years. An admissions representative or tour guide should be able to address these issues, as well as answer any other questions or concerns that you may have.
- L. To find out how your son or daughter compares academically, ask what the average GPA and test scores are for incoming freshman.
- M. Ask what percentage of their students return after their first year and what percentage of their freshman graduate.
- N. Pick up a campus newspaper.

*Tip: Have your son or daughter write a thank you note if he/she had a personal interview or conference.*

*Tip: Once you start contacting colleges and making visits, start a filing system. In this filing system, keep notes on contacts made and subjects discussed.*

*Tip: If you can't visit a college, call the admissions office and request a video of their campus. Also visit their Web site. Often you can take a "virtual tour" and even "chat" with students a faculty.*

#### **Web Sites**

##### **College Information**

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

[www.CacollegeGuide.com](http://www.CacollegeGuide.com)

[www.ucop.edu/pathways](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways)

[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

##### **Financial Aid Information**

[www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com)

[www.edfund.org](http://www.edfund.org)

##### **Testing Tips & Information**

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[http://testprep.cavhs.org](http://http://testprep.cavhs.org)

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)

[www.ucgateways.org](http://www.ucgateways.org)

Roseville Joint Union  
High School District

## **Junior Pre-College Calendar and Checklist**

*Office of College & Career Center*

## August

- ❑ Review your high school coursework and activity plans.
- ❑ Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
  - challenging coursework
  - a strong GPA
  - involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work or church.
- ❑ Obtain a Social Security Number if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid.

## September

- ❑ Identify sources of college and career information at your school. Start looking through guidance publications, college catalogs and guidebooks.
- ❑ Put together a list of ten colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to at least three to five schools.
- ❑ Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school. See the College and Career Counselor on campus for more information.
- ❑ Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- ❑ Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your local area.
- ❑ Attend Military Academy Night if considering the military academies.

## October

- ❑ Take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST). Remember to take your calculator.
- ❑ Start learning about the colleges you're considering. The Internet is a good resource.
- ❑ Attend District College Fair.
- ❑

## November

- ❑ Start planning to take the SAT I and/SAT II exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the ACT. Check with the colleges you are applying to find out specific testing requirements. Find out registration deadlines at the College & Career Center.
- ❑ Register for SAT II subject tests if finishing that subject in January. The UC system requires 2 SAT II exams: each in a different subject area. Some colleges may require the math achievement test.

## December

- ❑ Your PSAT/NMQST score report should arrive.

## January

- ❑ Go to the websites of the three to five schools that interest you the most.
- ❑ During your college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a Financial Aid Officer to find out what types of aid are available.

## February

- ❑ Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. The [www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com) website is very helpful.
- ❑ Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams.
- ❑ Register for AP Exams if enrolled in the course.
- ❑ When registering for senior year classes, be sure to maintain a serious academic schedule.

## March

- ❑ Continue investigating sources of financial aid.
- ❑ Register and study for the SAT and/or the ACT exams, if you have not already done so.
- ❑ Prepare for SAT's. See the College & Career Center for more information.

## April

- ❑ Attend District's College Information Night
- ❑ Begin scheduling visits to each of the three to five schools that are on your final list. If appropriate, apply for an interview and/or an overnight stay.

## May

- ❑ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or the ACT exams.
- ❑ In early to mid-May, take Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
- ❑ Be aware of the test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT I and SAT II exams. You may take them during your senior year in high school.
- ❑ Continue compiling information to find out which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors. *(You may have to begin applying the Summer after your Junior year.)*

## June

- ❑ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams if you did not take them last month.
- ❑ Read a variety of books and magazines and review your verbal and math skills over the summer. This will help you to prepare for the SAT if you plan to take it in the fall.
- ❑ Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.
- ❑ If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs.
- ❑ If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit.
- ❑ If interested in competing in intercollegiate athletics fill out and send in NCAA Eligibility Form.

*When my older son was a junior, we visited a college over his spring break. Three weeks before we visited. I called the admissions office. They arranged for us to meet with an admissions counselor at 9:00am, take a walking tour at 10:00, meet with a scholarship advisor at 1:00pm and the coordinator of the pre-engineering programs at 3:00. In between and after these appointments, we ate in the student union, talked to students, looked at a dorm, and watched part of a baseball game. By the time we left, we felt like we had a good idea of what this particular college had to offer. On the way home, we processed what we had heard and seen, made notes on the college's positive aspects, negative aspects, and unique programs."*

