

12th Grade: College Application Timeline

August & September

- Be sure your senior schedule is appropriate to graduate and to meet college requirements.
- At this point, you should have taken at least one ACT and/or one SAT.
- Apply to In-State colleges. Know the deadlines for honor programs and merit scholarships.
- Attend Chaparral's In-State College Night, September 8th, 6:00—8:30 p.m., J-600.
- Make sure your prospective college list is complete on Naviance and that your email is correct.
- Check Naviance often for schedule of college admission counselors visiting Chaparral.

October

- Make an appointment to speak with your counselor in the Guidance Office.
- Print and complete the College Portfolio located on Naviance. Make an appointment with your counselor and bring your completed College Admission Portfolios (CAP). Parents are welcome to participate.
- Early Decision or Early Action candidates should see your counselor immediately. You have deadlines to meet!
- Ask 1-2 teachers for a formal letter of recommendation; preferably from your junior/senior year.
- Please give your teachers and counselor at least three weeks before your first deadline.
- New* 2016 FAFSA opens on October 1st. Complete the FAFSA using 2015 tax information.
www.FAFSA.ED.GOV
- Invite your parents to attend FAFSA Evening Presentation, Oct. 20th, 6:30-7:30 p.m., J-600
- Finalize your college essay. Ask your counselor, English teacher and parent read it for editing.
- Schedule college visits and interviews, if still needed. Remember to send a thank you note.
- Check Naviance for schedule of college admission counselors visiting Chaparral. Lots of visits in October.

November

- **PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES.**
- Narrow your list of college choices to about 3-8 schools.
- November 1-30 Application submission for University of California/Cal State schools (Firm deadline of 11/30)
- If necessary, schedule college interviews and visits. After the interview, write a thank you note.

December

- Finish your college applications and submit them. ***Be sure to proofread, proofread and proofread again!***
- Update Naviance and your counselor on the schools to which you have applied. This information is used to automatically send out mid-year transcripts that colleges require.
- At this point, If you add a new college application in which a letter of recommendation is required, you must let your counselor and teacher know—Naviance does not alert us of the added college.
- Remember to schedule college interviews and visits if you have not already done so.
- Communication with the colleges with whom you applied is on their student portals. Check your account often for important information and required action if necessary.

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January

- Finalize and submit the last of your applications that have February deadlines.
- Research national and state level scholarships. This is an on-going process all spring. Some websites that may be helpful are www.Fastweb.com, www.CollegeBoard.com, and Naviance for local scholarships.
- Become familiar with housing and housing deadlines.

February

- The Guidance Office automatically sends your Mid-Year Transcripts to all the colleges in which you have indicated you applied to on Naviance. Be sure your list is accurate.
- In-state Universities and Community Colleges are still visiting Chaparral. Sign-up on Naviance.

March

- Spring Break— review or revisit schools you have been admitted to before making a decision, if needed.
- Pick up local scholarship applications in the College and Career Center or download from Naviance.
- Update your Naviance with college decisions: admit, waitlist, denied.
- Pay attention to the materials your college or university sends. There may be deadlines if you want housing or if you plan to attend an orientation session. There may also be information to return regarding financial aid.

April

- 2017 Senior Survey is available on Naviance (“About Me” tab). Besides being required for sending your Final Transcript, it provides Chaparral and SUSD with statistical data that colleges require in evaluating students. Now it’s your turn to help future Firebirds.
- Colleges, if they have not already done so, will notify you of their decisions.
- Evaluate your Financial Aid package with the cost of attendance. Contact each college’s financial aid department if you have any questions or concerns. Financial Aid counselors at the schools to which you are accepted are great resources for information. Use them!
- Determine the college you plan to attend and send in a deposit. Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before May 1st. But by the May 1st postmarked date, you must inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid.

May

- Notify your counselor of your college decision.
- May 1st—Complete the **2017 Senior Survey** located in Naviance under the “About Me” tab. This is the **ONLY** way we will know where to send your Final Transcript, which is required by your new college.

End of May

- **GRADUATION!** You achieved it!

IMPORTANT: Final Transcripts will be sent automatically to the college you will be attending based on the information indicated from your *completed* Senior Survey in early May.