

## **Petaluma High School Senior Calendar (4 Year College Info)**

### **GET ORGANIZED!**

- Create a separate, professional (yourname@domain.com) email to use for all applications.
- When sending applications and scholarship information through the Post Office, purchase a 'proof of mailing' certificate.
- Keep a copy of every college and application that you submit, and keep them organized!
- Gather all important materials - transcripts, resume/list of activities including all community service, start thinking about who will write your letters of recommendation (private schools only)
- **Plan a visit to the [College and Career Center](#)!**
- **Visit <https://www.californiacolleges.edu/#/> & <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>** for helpful planning tools, testing information, researching college, application calendars and much more!

### **UC & CSU Application Filing Periods:**

- California State University: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
  - **October 1 – November 30, 2023** for Fall 2024 Admissions
- University of California: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions>
  - **October 1 – November 30, 2023** for Fall 2024 Admissions
- For private universities: check the individual application dates, deadlines and enrollment requirements
  - Early Decision/Early Action - usually Nov 1st or 15th
  - Regular Admission - will vary by school

### **SAT & ACT: PHS SCHOOL CODE: 052460**

- Most schools have gone to test optional/blind, if you are able to take the test one time, do it!
- Not required for UC or CSU schools or community colleges
- **Private Universities:** check the individual testing requirements that are recommended for each school/major.
- You are in charge of sending your test scores directly to the schools you apply to!
- **SAT Reasoning & SAT Subject Area:** <http://collegeboard.com>
- **ACT Examination:** [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### **Write your personal essay EARLY!**

- Students applying to the University of California system and most private colleges and universities will be required to submit a personal essay. Take your time to do this well! Write your first draft, have someone whose writing ability you admire review your work ... then update and re-write!
- UCs require you to respond to 4 of the 8 [personal insight questions](#)
- CSUs do not require essays

### **Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)**

- Get discounted tuition out of state (certain majors)
- Learn more here: <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/>

### **FAFSA & California Dream Act (AB 130 & AB131) **December 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024****

- Online application should be completed for the 2023-2024 freshman college year. FAFSA is the umbrella application required for almost all federal, state, institutional and private grants/scholarships. We recommend that you fill out this application regardless of your financial need.
- Students who don't qualify for financial aid under FAFSA may qualify under the California Dream Act. Qualifications to apply are: 1. a student must have attended a CA high school for a minimum of 3 years, 2. graduate from a CA high school, pass the CAHSEE or receive a GED, 3. enroll in an accredited and qualified CA college or university and 4. if applicable, fill out an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as eligible.

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### **AUGUST**

- ☐ Finalize your college lists (visit schools online or in person if possible), somewhere between 5-10 schools (likely, target, reach)
- ☐ Brainstorm college essay ideas
- ☐ Create a UC account if applying to UC schools -  
<https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>
  - ☐ Attend a UC Webinar!
  - ☐ Personal insight questions, 350 words max, work on rough draft
  - ☐ There are a lot of resources available on the website
  - ☐ Must meet A-G requirements
- ☐ Create Common App account if applying to private/common app schools
  - ☐ <https://www.commonapp.org/>
  - ☐ Review the first time applicant guide
  - ☐ Review the first year essay prompts and get started on rough drafts
  - ☐ Complete the profile - family, education, activities, etc.
- ☐ Make an appointment with your counselor and the College & Career Center Specialist (counselors will be pulling seniors out individually throughout September - October)
- ☐ Start researching scholarships

### **SEPTEMBER**

- ☐ Attend College Rep visits held @ PHS in the career center. Listen for announcements in the school bulletin and check [Petaluma High Career Center website](#).
- ☐ Prep ahead of time regarding college and scholarship **recommendations**. Decide who you want to ask and then provide them with the PHS Letter of Recommendation Packet. Please, give them **3 weeks' notice**; the deadline is November 19th for regular admission, October 1st for Early Decision/Action.
- ☐ Begin to survey **scholarship opportunities** and check the College Career Center Scholarship Website page, including non-college bound students. Have your parents check their credit union & place of employment to see what scholarships may exist through their work.
- ☐ If interested in any vocational trades, please make sure to take a vocational interest survey in the Career Center. One option for an inventory is [www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org).
- ☐ Student **athletes** planning to play Division I or Division II college level sports, file the NCAA Initial Eligibility Application through the clearinghouse: [http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\\_EMS/NCAA.jsp](http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp) Arrange to have your SAT or ACT scores & transcript sent to the clearinghouse. You can also view [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for further information.

### **OCTOBER**

- ☐ **October 1st** : California State Universities accept online applications at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
- ☐ **October 1st**: Apply online to UC campuses: <https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>
- ☐ **Thursday, October 5th at 6pm**: 4 Year College Night
- ☐ **Thursday, October 12th at 6pm**: SRJC College Night
- ☐ For out-of-state and private colleges; check their individual websites for application information.
- ☐ Many private/independent universities use the Common Application: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) they require a Secondary School Report which is filled out by the counselor.
- ☐ If possible attend Open House & Preview Days offered by the universities and colleges.
- ☐ Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. This determines your eligibility for private school aid.

### **NOVEMBER**

- ☐ **November 30th**: Deadline for CSU & UC campuses
- ☐ Set a goal to have all your college applications completed by Turkey day for UC and CSU schools!
- ☐ Request transcripts from the registrar using [PARCHMENT](#) (UC & CSU do **NOT** require them.)
- ☐ Investigate the housing opportunities available at your campus.
- ☐ Check to see that your test scores are sent to the college of your choice by the testing service.

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### **DECEMBER**

- ☐ **December 1st:** Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) or CA Dream Act (<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>) form to apply for all financial aid including Cal Grants A, B, and C.
- ☐ **December 1st:** PEF Scholarships open PHS Scholarships open
- ☐ December is the last month to take the SAT, ACT for schools that require them.
- ☐ No Ds or Fs - 4 year colleges do NOT accept these!
- ☐ **December 19th-21st:** Fall Finals

### **JANUARY**

- ☐ **January 25th:** PEF Scholarship Applications due
- ☐ **January 31st:** PHS Scholarship Applications due
- ☐ Some private college financial aid applications are due this month. Check PROFILE deadlines for private schools. Contact the college you have chosen.
- ☐ Check the scholarship board in the Career Center for available scholarships.
- ☐ Check your **Student Portal** to do lists for colleges that you have applied to.

### **FEBRUARY**

- ☐ Send mid-year reports to private colleges (counselors help for schools via Common App)
- ☐ Check the deadlines that private and out-of-state colleges require for your FAFSA &/or PROFILE.
- ☐ Be sure to follow specific campus guidelines regarding **housing applications**.

### **MARCH**

- ☐ **March 2nd:** 10,000 Degrees Scholarship Due
- ☐ College acceptance notifications should come in by the end of March.

### **APRIL**

- ☐ Review college acceptances and financial aid awards
- ☐ Attend college open houses for accepted students

### **MAY**

- ☐ **June 5th-7th:** Finals
- ☐ **May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Deadline to notify colleges of acceptance (SIR = Student Intent to Register.)
- ☐ Sign up on Parchment to have your final transcript sent to your chosen college.
- ☐ **May 6th-17th:** AP exams

### **JUNE**

- ☐ **June 1st:** FAFSA Due
- ☐ **June 7th:** Last Day of School/Graduation Practice
- ☐ **June 8th:** GRADUATION-CONGRATULATIONS!! Ellison Field 10 AM