

COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT

September 2018

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE PLANNING PROCESS (What to do and when)

1. Prepare (throughout high school)

Take classes and participate in activities that will prepare you for college.

- Take challenging, college preparatory classes
- Participate in extracurricular activities that fit interests, abilities, goals, etc.

2. Explore (throughout high school, especially junior year)

Use available resources to find out about schools that might be a good fit.

- Websites
- Books, catalogs, mailings, etc.
- People (College reps, teachers, recent graduates, youth pastors, etc.)
- Visit colleges
- College Fairs
 - o College & Career Fair (Orange Glen High School): Sat., Sept. 20, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
www.escondido.org/college-and-career-fair.aspx
 - o Christian College Fair (*<http://myblueprintstory.com/christian-college-fairs>*)
 - Vista (Tri-City Christian School): Tues., Oct. 9, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - Temecula (Linfield Christian School): Wed., Oct. 10, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - San Diego (The Rock Academy): Thur., Oct. 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - o Poway College Fair – Rancho Bernardo HS (Wed., Oct. 17, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.)
www.powayusd.com/en-US/Communications/College-Fair/PUSD-HS-College-Fair

3. Testing (Spring/Summer of junior year)

Take tests that are required or recommended for college.

- ACT/SAT
- AP Exams

4. Narrow choices (Fall of senior year)

Choose 2 – 9 colleges to apply to.

5. Apply (Senior year – Fall and Winter for 4-year colleges; Spring for 2-year colleges)

*Complete and submit all application materials **on time**.*

6. Financial Aid (Winter of senior year)

Apply for financial aid.

- Financial Aid Seminar (October)
- Starts with FAFSA (after October 1 of senior year)
- Types of Aid
 - i. Grants
 - ii. Scholarships
 - iii. Work Study
 - iv. Loans

** Throughout high school, but especially beginning of senior year, search for scholarship opportunities (web sites, employers, clubs, organizations). Beware of scholarship search services that charge money.*

7. Decide (Spring of senior year)

Make your final decision by May 1.