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**El Monte Union High School District**

**SENIOR HANDBOOK**

**Top Tips**

**1. Review your Academic Standing:**

* Are you on track to complete your A-G requirements?
* Determine if you will apply to either 4-year colleges and/or community colleges.
* Consider the career and major you are interested in pursuing and research the various schools that you are considering applying to.

**2. Create a Professional Email:**

* Only use this email for college applications, financial aid, and anything else college

related.

* Do not use it for your Face Book, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or Tumblr accounts!

**3.** **Pay Close Attention to All Correspondences from the Colleges You Apply To:**

* Once you’ve applied to yourcollege(s), **you must read your email**, regular mail, and college portals daily to ensure you do not miss important deadlines.
* **You miss a deadline, you miss out! When in doubt call, email, or visit the admissions office at the colleges you have applied to.**

**4. KNOW YOUR IDENTITY!**

* You must utilize your legal name as it appears on your Social Security Card. All of your applications and official documents (i.e. High School Transcripts) must utilize your complete and accurate legal name.
* Accurately input your Social Security Number and your Birthdate on an all college application and financial aid documents when requested.

**SAT and ACT Test Dates**

**If you plan to apply to a four-year college/university, you must take the SAT and/or ACT at least once. The deadline to take the SAT or ACT varies by school. Some schools will not accept tests taken after October 2017, whereas other schools will accept tests taken as late as December 2017.**

**-Upcoming SAT Test Dates (Fall 2017):** **Registration Deadlines:**

October 7………………………………………………………………September 8 (late registration 9/22)

November 4…………………………………………………………...October 6 (late registration 10/20)

December 2……………………………………………………………November 3 (late registration 11/17)

**\*Learn More and Sign Up At:** <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

**-Upcoming ACT Test Dates (Fall 2017):** **Registration Deadlines:**

September 9……………………………………………………………...August 4

October 28………………………………………………………………..September 22

December 9………………………………………………………………November 3

**\*Learn More and Sign Up At:** <http://www.act.org/>

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Visit the website of the Community College you would like to attend & apply:**

* Cerritos www.cerritos.edu
* Citrus College www.citruscollege.edu
* East Los Angeles College www.elac.edu
* Mt. San Antonio College www.mtsac.edu
* Pasadena City College www.pasadena.edu
* Rio Hondo College www.riohondo.edu

**STEPS TO APPLY & ENROLL**

**1.** What Community College do you plan to attend?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** When does the application for Summer 2018 open?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

When does the application for Fall 2018 open?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Most Community Colleges require that you take placement assessments in Math and English before enrolling in classes. It is recommended you complete these tests before the end of your senior year. When are the placement tests offered at your community college? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Complete your Community College’s Orientation. Most colleges conduct an online Orientation although a small number (like Mt. Sac) require that you complete the Orientation on campus.

**5.** Meet with a counselor from your college to review the appropriate classes to take to fulfill your post-secondary goals. This is called creating an *Education Plan*.

**6.** Make sure your community college(s) are listed on your FAFSA or Dream Application.

**7.** What day can you begin registering for classes?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**8.** What is your career goal?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**9**. What major do you plan to pursue?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**10.** Does your major require that you transfer to a 4-year university? What university do you plan to

transfer to?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4-YEAR COLLEGES**

* **CSU Applications:** **October 1st-November 30th** at:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

* **UC Applications:** **November 1st- November 30th** (Application Available in August) at: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/>

* **Independent/Private College Applications:** **Application deadlines vary**. Immediately check the application deadlines for the independent/private colleges you’re interested in applying to on their admissions websites. You can apply to most of these colleges through the *Common Application* at:

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

**GRADES**

***YOU MUST MAINTAIN GOOD GRADES THROUGHOUT YOUR SENIOR YEAR.*** *In most cases this means C’s and preferably better. Be aware some 4-year colleges want you to maintain a GPA close to what you applied with. Earning a D or lower (yes, even a D+ & in some cases a C-) in an A-G class or allowing your GPA to drop significantly below the average you maintained during grades 9-11 will likely forfeit your acceptance to your college. Colleges may rescind your admissions even after you are accepted if your grades drop significantly.*

**TESTING**

**A.** UC’s require that you take the *Analytical Writing Examination*. CSU’s no longer require the *EPT* and *ELM* placement tests. Some private colleges may require a placement test.

**B.** Make sure you have sent your colleges either your **SAT** and/or **ACT** scores by the end of December unless they are requested earlier.

**C.** There are various ways to validate placement tests. Some colleges may accept high achieving SAT, ACT, and/or AP scores. CSU campuses use your EAP scores from your junior year to determine course placement and college readiness.

**EOP**

For UC and CSU campuses, apply for **EOP** (Educational Opportunity Program). EOP can provide some students with valuable support throughout college. It is highly recommended that students apply for this program.

**4-YEAR COLLEGES (CONTINUED)**

**DEADLINES**

**A.** Make sure you have sent your colleges either your **SAT** and/or **ACT** scores by the end of December unless they are requested earlier.

**B.** Your college may require a mid-year transcript. Make sure you send the college a mid-year transcript if they request it, otherwise send your complete transcript by the end of June.

**C.** Although this checklist covers much of what you need to do your senior year **you must still pay close attention to** **ALL CORRESPONDENCES from your colleges**. Missing one deadline or letting one grade slip to a D+ could cost your spot at a four-year college. See a teacher, counselor, or someone in the College and Career Center if you have a question.

**HOUSING**

**A.** If you plan to live on campus, when is the deadline to request on-campus housing?

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**B.** When is the deposit for on-campus housing due?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**C.** How much is the deposit? $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Some campuses allow you to waive the housing deposit. Call your schools

housing department, well in advance of the deposit deadline, to request a “housing

deposit deferment/exemption”.

**INTENT TO REGISTER**

**A.** Submit your “Intent to Register” to the college you will attend next year. Most UC and CSU campuses require that you submit your intent by **MAY 1st.** When does your school require the intent be

submitted by?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Some schools require a monetary deposit with your intent to register. If need be, you can request that this deposit be waived, but you must call the admissions office well in advance of the deposit due date.

**SUMMER**

Some 4-year colleges/universities require that you attend an *Early Start*, *Summer Bridge*, or general orientation. Make sure to sign-up and attend these programs if your college instructs you to do so.

**Financial Aid**

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

Application Period: October 1, 2017 - March 2, 2018 at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

* Many students receive the majority of their financial aid through FAFSA.
* Apply early.
* In order to complete the FAFSA, students will need to utilize their parent’(s)/guardian’(s) **2016 income tax documents**.
* Most colleges request that you utilize the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** on the FAFSA. Make sure you use this option when inputting the 2016 income tax information. Come to the Career Center if the IRS Data Retrieval Tool doesn’t work for you.
* Make sure the college you plan to attend is listed in the top 3 on your FAFSA or Dream Application. List this college as #1 on you California Student Aid Commission (Webgrants 4 Students) account.

**California Dream Act Application**

Application Period: October 1, 2017 - March 2, 2018 at: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

* If you do not have a social security number, apply for this California Financial Aid instead of applying for the FAFSA.
* If you have a Deferred Action Social Security number you should still apply for the California Dream Act Application, not the FAFSA.

**Scholarships**

* Application deadlines vary depending on the scholarship.
* Go to either your school’s College and Career Center or the College and Career Center Website (on School Loop) for local scholarships or check out [www.**fastweb**.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>.

*\*****Always read your emails, mail, and portals carefully, from the colleges you applied to.***