Preparing to Apply to College

Bishop O’Dowd High School Counseling
February 6, 2020
College Eligibility

- BOD graduation requirements align with minimum requirements for 4-year college admission
- Students select appropriate courses each year with counselor guidance
- Counselors partner with parents/guardians on course selection and balance
Junior Year College Process

○ FALL SEMESTER:
  ◦ PSAT taken in October, results released in December

○ SPRING SEMESTER:
  ◦ Confirm SAT/ACT testing plan with counselor
  ◦ Counselors will visit US History classes-- introducing Schoology course and preferences survey
  ◦ Sign up to take SAT and/or ACT, SAT Subject Tests (if needed)
  ◦ Meet with counselor to discuss college preferences and develop college list
  ◦ Research and visit colleges
SAT vs. ACT: What’s the difference?

**SAT**

- **3 sections**
  - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
  - Math
  - Writing (optional)

3 hours, 50 minutes

Scoring: 400-1600

**ACT**

- **5 sections**
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science
  - Writing (optional)

3 hours, 35 minutes

Scoring: 1 – 36
Suggested Testing Schedule

- SAT with writing – March/May/June of Junior year (register at www.collegeboard.org)
- ACT with writing – Feb/ April/June/July of Junior year (register at www.actstudent.org)
- SAT Subject Tests (if needed) – May/June
- Possible retake in fall of Senior year
- Test Prep Options:
  - Classes
  - Private tutoring
  - Khan Academy (SAT)
  - Study guide books
Developing a College List

- Location
- Interests/Majors
- Type of College
- Urban vs. Rural
- Weather
- Size
- Cost of attendance

Apply to a broad range of schools:
- Reach
- 50-50
- Strong Possibility
How to Research Colleges

College websites

Campus visits
- Start at local schools
- Long weekend/Easter break
- Sign up online for tour
- Record impressions

- Books (Fiske Guide, etc.)
- Online tools (Unigo, etc.)
- Naviance!
- O’Dowd Alums (Ask your counselor!)
Four-Year Colleges/Universities

- Over 3000+ Schools Nationwide
- University of California (UC) System
  - 9 campuses
- Cal State University (CSU) System
  - 23 campuses
- Private (including Catholic) Schools
  - Generally smaller, more personal
- Out-of-State Public Universities
- U.S. Military Academies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early Action</th>
<th>Early Decision</th>
<th>Regular Decision</th>
<th>Rolling</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application Deadline</strong></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Spring, or until class is filled</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decision Notification</strong></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>February - April</td>
<td>2-8 weeks</td>
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<td><strong>Flexibility</strong></td>
<td>Non-Binding</td>
<td>Binding</td>
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<td>Non-Binding</td>
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Community College

Advantages:

- Significant cost savings
- Improve academic performance
- SAT/ACT not a factor if transfer after 2 years
- Additional athletic experience/exposure

- Register spring of senior year
- Some community colleges have college-related housing available
- Transfer agreements with UC and CSU campuses
- Learn more at Community College Info Session
## Sample College Cost Comparison (Annual)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UC</th>
<th>CSU</th>
<th>Private College</th>
<th>Community College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>$ 7,000</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Meals</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books, Supplies &amp; Transportation</td>
<td>$ 2,500</td>
<td>$ 2,500</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>**$32,500 ***</td>
<td>**$24,000 ***</td>
<td>**$76,500 ***</td>
<td>**$10,500 ***</td>
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*Amounts do not take into account financial aid and scholarships*
U.S. Military Academies

- West Point, Annapolis, Coast Guard Academy and Air Force Academy have unique application procedures
- Free college education in exchange for military service (5 years generally required)
- Requires nomination from your Congressional district office
- Leadership experience during high school an important criterion
- Apply for summer programs
Trade School & Vocational Programs

- Designed to prepare students for a specific occupation
- Typically range from 8 months to 2 years
- Receive certificate or Associate’s degree

Examples:
- Construction Manager
- Medical Assistant
- Mechanic
- Electrician
- Paralegal
- Dental Hygienist
- Graphic Designer
- Pharmacy Tech
Gap / Bridge Year

- **Opportunities include:**
  - Travel
  - Volunteer or paid work
  - Internships
  - Structured programs (Global Citizen Year, Dynamy, Where There Be Dragons)

- Can enhance subsequent college application
- Can help students mature and develop their interests
Summer After Junior Year “To-Do” List

- Continue to research colleges & refine college list
- Check O’Dowd email often!
- Complete Senior Questionnaire and Parent/Guardian survey
- Complete Junior Preferences Survey and Parent Survey
- Begin brainstorming/drafting personal statements/essays
  - UC & Common Application essay prompts
- Visit colleges
Senior Year “To Do” List

- Individual college meetings with counselor
- Write personal statements/essays
- Line up letters of recommendation
- Retake SAT/ACT (if needed)
- Send official SAT/ACT score reports to colleges
- Finish college applications
- Keep Naviance account updated
Looking Forward to Senior Year

- BOD College Fair (Sept.)
- Senior & Family College Night (Sept.)
- College Financial Aid Night (Oct.)
- Community College Info Session (Spring)
  - Healthy Transitions to College Presentation (Spring)
  - College Discernment Night (Spring)
College Application Support for Seniors

● **Application Kickstart during Flex (Sep)**
  ○ Begin applications for UC, Common App, CSU. Coalition
  ○ College Essay Workshop

● **Individual Meetings with Counselor (Sep-Oct)**
  ○ Evaluate and finalize college list in Naviance
  ○ Letter of recommendation protocol
  ○ Review essays

● **Drop-in College Application Flex Support (Oct-Dec)**
# Q&A with your counselor!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Number</th>
<th>Counselor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Ms. Warmerdam</td>
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<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Ms. Parry</td>
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<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Ms. Jeanty</td>
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<tr>
<td>121</td>
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<td>122</td>
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<td>126</td>
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<td>128</td>
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<td>130</td>
<td>Ms. Lau</td>
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