



November 2016 Important Dates:

CA Localscholarships.org website opened—create your profile	NOW
California State University Applications Due	Oct 1- Nov 30
University of California Applications Due	Nov 1-30
ASVAB Testing at PHS 1-4 p.m.	Nov. 7
Thanksgiving holiday	Nov 21-25
Military Academies Night	Nov. 16
ASVAB Interpretation 1-2 p.m.	Nov. 28
SAT Tests (Register online by Nov 3 at www.collegeboard.com)	Dec. 3
ACT Test (Register online before Nov 4 at www.actstudent.org)	Dec 10
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.fafsa.ed.gov)	Oct1- Mar 2

Important Websites: For on-line FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov

For info on California Dream Act and Cal Grants/
Cal Grant GPA Verification
www.csac.ca.gov, and

For general info on how to
"Fund Your Future"
www.fundyourfuture.ca



Senior Newsletter

Ponderosa Class of 2017

November 1st is the first day you can submit your **University of California** College Applications! Be sure to submit early and don't wait until the November 30th deadline!

What's Next?

College bound students...there's no time to waste, you have things to do and decisions to make (file those applications on time)!! You may need help in narrowing your choices; investigate all of your options.

Step 1: Identify your priorities.

Know what is important to you and consider the following when making your choices: Curriculum—does the school offer the majors/courses you want? Admission requirements—what are your chances of being accepted? Check out www.assist.org.

Step 2: Narrow the list of potential colleges.

Compare the likes and dislikes of each school on your list. Rank your schools by preference and then obtain all required forms and deadlines

for admissions.

Step 3: Visit the schools. Campus visits give you a close-up look and the chance to actually get the feel for the college before making a commitment. Plan your visits carefully and do some prep work before the actual visit. Stop by the Career Center and pick up a list of questions to ask while on a college visit. Stop and reflect on final thoughts before leaving a campus. Can you imagine attending this college? If you can't get to a campus now, sign up for online college fairs at CollegeWeek-Live.com.

If you're applying to Community College, see the Community College section on the reverse.

If you're not applying to college, see "Options for Your Next Step" on the reverse.

Once your college applications are complete, determine if you have sent your SAT and/or ACT scores. If you have applied to more than one CSU, and need to send SAT scores, use **CSUMentor Code 3594**—which sends it to all 23 campuses for the price of 1.

If you are applying to more than one UC, send your scores to your first choice UC campus and then all campuses will "share" the information.

Not receiving Bruin Texts

from the College & Career Center yet?

- ◆ Class of 2017 Information text this number 81010 with this message @phsclass17
- ◆ Scholarship Information text this number 81010 with this message @scholarp



"IT TAKES TWO"

1. **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) OR California Dream Act (for qualified AB 540 students) and
2. **Cal Grant GPA Verification** form (automatically submitted for you by PHS).

Basic Steps to Apply for Aid:

- Submit your FAFSA as soon as possible but at the latest by the March 2nd deadline.
- Submit any required documents your college may request.
- Review your financial aid award offers **AND** accept or decline your award offers.

WebGrants for Students

*Once you have submitted your FAFSA, log on-line to the **WebGrants for Students** and create an account at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov>. This secure site will let you view the status of your Cal Grant or Chafee application, update your address, view payment history or change your school.



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.....

Create your User Profile on the CALocalscholarships.org website!

Due 12/1/16: Fleet Reserve Assn. American Essay Contest. Applications available in the College & Career Center.

Due 1/27/17: Democrats of El Dorado County essay. Applications available in the College & Career Center.

Due 3/1/17: Most local scholarships due Apply online at:

www.CaLocalScholarships.org

NAVIANCE COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING TOOL:

- Click on PHS Home Page
- Click on Students tab
- Click on Naviance link

USERNAME: Last 4 letters of last name & last 4 numbers of your student ID

PASSWORD: First name initial, last name initial & last 4 numbers of your permanent ID

TIP: Look at your email address. Is it appropriate for corresponding with colleges, lenders, employers and others? If not, consider getting one that is more professional!

Applying to Community

College:

- ◆ Start researching which campus and program you want to apply to.
- ◆ Research the different certificate and degree programs each campus offers, as well as the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program and the IGETC Certificate
- ◆ Familiarize yourself with the enrollment process for the Los Rios Community College District:
 1. Apply
 2. Orientation
 3. Assessment
 4. Counseling
 5. Register for classes
- ◆ Apply early!!! The application is available February 1, 2017 for the Fall term.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR NEXT STEP

If college isn't your next step after high school, what ARE your plans for YOUR future?

1. Consider a technical school or Vocational program

Technical and vocational schools are a place for students who want to train for a specific career in just a few years. These programs help prepare students and adults for high skill, high demand careers by providing a dynamic learning experience resulting in mastery of career technical and academic knowledge and skills.

2. Consider a gap year

If you aren't sure what you want to do in life or if you should go to college at all...explore other options like working, traveling or studying abroad. Options to consider: volunteer with AmeriCorps, Peace Corps or Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). Maybe a formal educational setting isn't for you and you would rather go straight to work. If so, be ready to take advantage of all the on-the-job training you can get. "College" isn't for everyone, but education is. Take some time to learn about your own skills and strengths.

3. Consider enlisting in the military



SOBER GRAD NIGHT



Sober Grad Night is an all-night after-graduation party at Scandia in Fairfield. Ponderosa High School graduates have exclusive and unlimited use of everything Scandia has to offer and more! Sign-ups for Sober Grad Night will begin this month through their website. Help support Sober Grad Night by checking their calendar for Dine Out events.

<http://www.phssobergradnight.org/>