CSU Assessment Testing

California State Universities require you to take the **English Placement Test** (EPT) and the **Entry-Level Mathematics Test** (ELM) before you enroll, unless you are exempt. Your test scores will determine which math and English courses you should take to begin your career at CSU. The EPT and ELM are **not admission tests**; they simply help determine which courses best match your level of performance in math and English. **Come see me in the CCC if you have questions regarding whether you are required to take the EPT or ELM and do so ASAP to ensure your ability to register for classes.**

State College Admissions

If you missed the November priority filing, you may still submit applications to some of the California State Universities on a “space available” basis only. **As of December 18, 2015**, those schools which had majors currently open for Fall 2016 are: Cal Maritime, Bakersfield, and Channel Islands. Don’t wait any longer. Check it out at [CSU Filing Status](http://www.CSUFilingStatus.org).

**Some independent/private schools** are still accepting applications. These institutions are not affected by the state budget uncertainties. Check out their website at [Independent College App Deadlines](http://www.IndependentCollegeAppDeadlines.org) and apply.

Folsom Lake College/Los Rios Community College District

If you are planning on attending Folsom Lake College or any of the Los Rios Community Colleges, you MUST complete an application for Fall 2016. The Fall application should open online February 1. Mark your calendar for the dates listed below.

* **Feb 4th @ 12:30pm**: Folsom Lake College Application Workshop in N4 computer lab
* **Feb 8th @ 6:30pm**: Folsom Lake College Information Session in PHS Theater
* **Mar 5th**: Folsom Lake College Falcon Day @ FLC Campus

Scholarship Information

* Local scholarships are being offered through the community website [www.CALocalScholarships.org](http://www.CALocalScholarships.org). Complete your user profile on-line and scholarships will be listed matching your profile with the scholarship criteria. Most scholarships require a statement of your educational and career goals, a student resume as well as letters of recommendation. Applications must be submitted by the March 1, 2016 deadline. **Some scholarships are due prior to March 1—watch the deadlines!**

* Many scholarship applications are available in the College & Career Center or can be found online at the PHS website under College & Career Center and then College Information. Local organizations will be offering scholarships during the early spring months. Be sure to stop by and check the scholarship drawers frequently. Select scholarships that you meet the criteria for and complete the applications by the due date.
Check Out the Scholarships Available in the CCC:

January
* Democrats of El Dorado County Essay Contest (CALocalScholarship)
* California Association of Collectors Scholarship (CALocalScholarship)
* Sierra College Scholarship (CALocalScholarship)

February
* El Dorado High School Alumni Association (CALocalScholarship)
* Schwab-Rosenhouse Scholarship (their website)
* CTA-Dependent Scholarship CTA Scholarships
* PG&E’s Employee Resource Groups Scholarships (their website)
* El Dorado County Student Map Drawing Contest (in the CCC)
* Lions Club Student Speakers Contest (in the CCC)
* Buckeye Teachers Association Scholarship (CALocalScholarship)

March (Most local scholarships are due March 1, 2016!)
* CALocalScholarship Applications with the March 1st deadline must be submitted to the Mrs. Escobar in the College & Career Center by 2:00 p.m. March 1, 2016—No Exceptions!!!
* Check “Scholarships for the week” posted on the PHS website and come into the College & Career Center and look through the “Other” drawer.

Need help on scholarships? Come to the College & Career Center

Semester Class Changes
If you have applied to any competitive four-year colleges and have made significant changes to your class schedule for the spring semester, you should notify the college(s) as soon as possible to determine if it will affect your chances of admission.

Federal Student Aid FAFSA
January 1 is more than just the start of the new year for college-bound seniors—it’s the first day they can submit the FAFSA. Although its length can be intimidating, it’s a good idea to file the form as early as possible. Completing the FAFSA enables students to start the financial aid process and tap into the many federal and state resources that make college affordable. These resources include student grants, work-study, and loans.

Parents should complete their income tax returns ASAP. Students need this tax information to answer many of the questions. After submitting the FAFSA, you have the opportunity to review the information to make sure it is correct. At the same time, you'll learn the preliminary estimate of the amount your family is expected to contribute to your education. It is known as the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and helps to determine any aid awards you might receive.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Will you be attending Sierra College in the Fall 2016?
* Complete the application Sierra College Application beginning NOW!
* Complete the online orientation (thru MySierra) once you have received your MySierra user name and password.
* Complete assessments in Feb/March/April and call for a counseling appointment in Feb to see a counselor in March/April.
* Incoming freshman register for classes beginning in April 2016.
* RSVP for the Spring Parent Information nights (to be posted on the PHS College & Career Center page).

Letters of Recommendation
REMINDER: Do not wait until the last minute to request a letter of recommendation. When you ask someone to write a letter, give them your resume or a personal data form and allow 3 weeks to complete. Follow up with a written thank you note! Letters of recommendation are often difficult to write and require a great deal of time, please show your appreciation!