



**Dear senior student and parent/s:**

I hope you had a restful and productive summer. You will be U-Prep's fifth graduating senior class and what an industrious group of young people you are! There is much to do during the senior year and multiple deadlines to meet. This letter is to provide you a preview of senior events/activities so you may begin preparing and planning your calendar. U-Prep has no preference whether you attend a community college, four-year university/college, vocational school, or armed services directly out of high school. U-Prep's goal for every senior is to be prepared academically and emotionally for the next stage in his/her life.

**The senior year** is the capstone of elementary, junior high, and high school and a time to continue meeting new academic challenge, while maintaining a strong work ethic. It's in the best interest for seniors to be enrolled in a Math class. Research indicates a higher percentage of students graduate from college on time if they are prepared for college level math. To meet graduation requirements, all seniors attend U-Prep's Senior Transition class. This class is designed to assist seniors with the college admissions process.

**One of our goals** at U-Prep is to provide seniors an engaging and meaningful year. We encourage seniors to continue to invest in the school community and culture because they are our leaders on campus and their presence is noticed and appreciated. Volunteering, community service, and working part-time are a few ways seniors may learn more about the world around them as they seek independence.

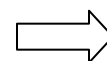
**Parents**, you are the best advocate for your son/daughter and the most important resource. Although the anticipation toward your student attending college is exciting, the college application process involves multiple deadlines and may be stressful and time-consuming so I strongly encourage working together. Hopefully you've had an opportunity to begin exploring college websites, schedule a college visit and talk with a college admissions counselor. Please attend Senior Information Night on September 28<sup>th</sup> and Financial Aid Night on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be held in the MARR Auditorium from 6-8 PM.

**There are differing** opinions about how many colleges/universities you should apply to. The competition for college admission is increasing due to the volume of young people seeking higher education. Four-year colleges/universities application fees usually range from \$55-75. I recommend students apply to 6-8 schools. Applying to several schools provides you more opportunities for admission and financial aid. The information below may help determine how many colleges you should apply to:

- **The dream schools.** This may be the long shot. You would love to attend this school. Make sure you meet the admissions requirements and if you don't mind the extra application fee, take a chance.
- **The possible schools.** These are the schools with real potential. There's a good chance you will get in, but no guarantee.
- **The safety schools.** This is the sure thing. You should choose a few schools you will have no trouble being accepted to, just in case the others do not work out.



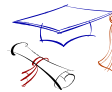
**Senior Dates**





## Important Dates to Remember:

- Date Formal Senior Portraits to be taken by: *August 15<sup>th</sup> 2011*
- College Quest at the Redding Convention Center *September 27<sup>th</sup> 4-7 PM*
  
- U-Prep's Senior Information Night (MARR) *September 28<sup>th</sup> 6-8 PM*
- Date Informal Senior Portraits must be taken by: *October 15<sup>th</sup> 2011*
  
- Scholarship Information Session for Parents (Rm 210) *October 27<sup>th</sup> 4-5 PM*
- Financial Aid/Scholarship Night at U-Prep  
Denny Diestler from College OPTIONS Presents *November 9<sup>th</sup> 6-8 PM*
  
- FAFSA Form Website Opens for Submission *January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012*
- Cash for College Workshop *January 2012 (TBA)*
  
- Deadline to Submit Cal Grant GPA Verification Form  
(U-Prep Counseling Center will submit) *March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012*
- AP Testing *May 9-17 2012*
  
- Senior Breakfast and Awards Ceremony *May 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 8-10 AM*
- Graduation Ceremony *May 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 8 PM*
- Sober Grad *(following graduation)* *May 25<sup>th</sup> 2012*



**Jostens will be in the lobby taking orders at U-Prep the evening of Senior Information Night on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. Please plan ahead and order your graduation announcements, cap, gown, tassel and more!**

**Below** are some helpful websites to assist you in the college admissions process. You may also find this information on our school website under *College Info* at <http://www.uprep.net>.

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office:**  
<http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/maps/alphaList.asp>

There are 112 community colleges throughout California. Due to economic times, many families are considering a community college in or outside Shasta County. Some community colleges have student housing available. Please see the above website for more information.

**Shasta College:** <http://www.shastacollege.edu/>

Shasta Community College (SCC) applications are available in January 2012. Students apply online and there is no application fee. SCC administers a Math and English assessment as part of the admissions process. After completing the assessments, student may schedule an orientation appointment beginning in February 2012. Orientation is required to receive a priority Freshman Fast Track registration time. **Remember, SCC does not require students to take the SAT or ACT as part of the application process.**

## **CSU System <http://www.csumentor.edu/>**

The California State University System has 23 campuses. CSU Mentor is an online resource designed to help students and families learn about the CSU system, research campuses, apply for admission, and inquire about financial aid information.

A CSU application is completed and submitted online. Each campus will charge a \$55 application fee and you may use one application to apply to as many CSU campuses of your choice. For fall 2012 admission, filing period is October 1 through November 30, 2011. It is important to save your work as you go and take your time completing the application. The CSU application does not require an essay component. There may be additional requirements for some colleges depending on the major. **Students must take the SAT or ACT and have a minimum GPA of a 2.0. Please read the CSU admission requirements at the above website.**

## **UC System <http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/>**

The University of California system has 10 campuses. UC Pathways is an online resource designed to help students and families learn about the UC system, research campuses, apply for admission, inquire about financial aid information, and learn how the UC evaluates applications. A UC application is completed and submitted online. Each campus will charge a \$70 application fee and you may use one application to apply to as many UC campuses of your choice. For fall 2012 admission, filing period is November 1 through November 30, 2011. It is important to save your work as you go and take your time completing the application.

There is a personal statement/essay that is required of all UC applicants. Students respond to two short-answer questions using no more than a thousand words. A rationale is provided with each question to help students understand what the University is looking for in a response. Stay within the 1,000-word-count limit as closely as you can. Students should type the personal statement in a WORD document then paste into the application. **Students must take the SAT or ACT and have a minimum GPA of a 3.0. Please read the UC admission requirements and personal statement questions at the above website.**

## **Common Application <https://www.commonapp.org>**

The Common Application is used for undergraduate admission and is used by most private colleges. A list of private schools using the Common Application is available on the above website. You may complete one application and each campus will charge an application fee.

## **SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>**

The College Board website provides comprehensive information and a helpful action plan for seniors and parents. The College Board website is where you register for the SAT. Students applying for admission at a four year university/college must take the SAT or ACT. SAT test scores are submitted online to the college/s of choice from the SAT registration website.

## **SAT Subject Tests <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>**

Most private colleges require at least two SAT Subject Tests. These are hour-long tests in specific subjects taken separately from the SAT (please check with the private school's admissions office). \*Change affect for the fall 2012 UC admissions applicants: SAT Subject Tests are no longer

required. There may be some competitive campuses that “prefer” students take the SAT Subject Tests in particular subjects. SAT Subject Tests provide additional information to determine acceptance. SAT Subject Test scores are submitted online to the college/s of choice from the SAT registration website.

### **ACT <http://www.actstudent.org>**

The ACT website provides helpful college exploration information and is where students register for the ACT. The ACT writing component is **optional**. I strongly recommend students take the writing component. One of the leading college acceptance indicators is how well a student writes. If you choose to take the writing component, you must **select** the optional writing test when you register. ACT test scores are submitted online to the college/s of choice from the ACT registration website.

\*A student account with username/password is required when registering for the ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests.

### **FAFSA Form <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is used to determine your eligibility for financial aid and is absolutely necessary should you be seeking financial aid to help fund college tuition. **Financial aid consists of four basic types: grants, employment programs (work study), loans, and scholarships.** The first three types are need-based financial aid; scholarships may or may not be need-based. To be eligible for federal student aid, a student must:

- Be a citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Be enrolled in a degree or certificated program at a college, occupational or career school or approved by the US Dept. of Ed.
- Have a high school diploma or GED.
- Have a valid social security number and register with the US Selective Service if required.

The FAFSA form is submitted online on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> for each school year beginning in the fall. I encourage students/parents to submit the FAFSA by January 30<sup>th</sup>. Aid is determined on a variety of factors including family income, size of family and date submitted. **The online FAFSA form is signed electronically so a parent and the student must register for a PIN number prior to completing the online FAFSA form.** The PIN serves as an electronic signature. You may apply for your PIN anytime at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> . Seniors will apply for their PIN in Senior Transition.

### **Cal Grant <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=20>**

Cal Grant awards are state funded monetary grants given to students to help pay for college expenses. The awards do not have to be paid back and are based on family size, income, GPA and other factors. To determine eligibility for Cal Grant, a GPA Verification Form must be submitted by March 2, 2012. **U-Prep’s Counseling Center will electronically submit students’ Cal Grant Verification Form with their GPA to the California Student Aid Commission.** Cal Grant uses student and parent information from the FAFSA form as part of the eligibility process so the FAFSA form must be completed and submitted online by March 2, 2012. Using the website above, you may select the link on parents’ income and asset ceilings to inquire about potential eligibility.

College OPTIONS [www.collegeoptions.org](http://www.collegeoptions.org)

College OPTIONS is a **free** local resource that helps students of all ages and their families in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama county make informed decisions about post-high school education by providing assistance with college applications, financial aid advising, free workshops, information on local and national scholarships, and up-to-date information. This is a **valuable** resource. Please call **245-1845**.

### Letters of Recommendation & Official Transcripts

Students requesting letters of recommendation, official transcripts, or common application counselor/teacher reports, must complete a Letter of Recommendation Form available in the Counseling Center or at [www.uprep.net](http://www.uprep.net) under *College Info*. **The request should be turned in to the Counseling Center or the teacher of choice at least two weeks in advance.**

Here's to a wonderful senior year! If you have questions, you may call me at 245-2713. We'll see you at U-Prep's Senior Information Night on September 28<sup>th</sup>!

Respectfully,



Mrs. Gatlin

### Reminder~

Please sign up for U-Prep's e-mail distribution program called Constant Contact to receive information about the senior year. To sign up go to [www.uprep.net](http://www.uprep.net) and select the Constant Contact logo on the left side of the home page. Once you enter your e-mail address, select the fields you are interested in receiving information about.