

CLASS OF 2011 COLLEGE INFORMATION

1. **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) AND CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)** applications must be submitted by November 30, 2010, for Fall 2011 admission. Paper applications are no longer printed; on-line application is the norm. You will receive an unofficial transcript of your grades at Senior Parent Night in September. You will need this transcript to complete your UC and CSU applications.

2. **PRIVATE COLLEGES** and out-of-state public colleges have many different deadlines. Consult admissions information at college web sites to verify application deadlines and testing requirements. Use the college search at *My Road* to research and compare colleges. Instructions for registering are on your PSAT Score Report. Most college web sites allow you to print out or electronically submit applications. If you plan to apply *Early Decision* or *Early Action*, review applications at college web sites this summer, and get started on the essays!

Northgate requires all Seniors applying to Common Application colleges to submit the on-line Common Application, not the paper version of the Common Application or a paper application provided by the college or university.

3. **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES (DVC/LMC)** offer vocational, college transfer, and personal interest courses. You may work towards an *Associate of Arts or Science* degree, or take a two-year program of study that will fulfill general education requirements at the four-year college you plan to transfer to. Shorter programs of study in vocational areas are also offered. Applications to California community colleges are submitted in the *spring of the Senior year*.

4. **TESTS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION BY CALIFORNIA COLLEGES:**

a) **University of California** - **SAT or ACT**, and two **SAT Subject Tests**. Subject tests are available in Math, Literature, Foreign Language, History, and Science. You may take more than two subject tests; UC will use the highest scores in two *different* subject areas. The Math 1 test is not accepted by UC.

Juniors enrolled in Pre-calculus or Advanced Math Topics should take Math 2 in June. Other options are Chemistry, Physics, US History, Biology/Ecological (if enrolled in Zoology), Biology/Molecular (if enrolled in Physiology or AP Biology) and Foreign Language *if you do not plan to continue in the language in the fall*. In the fall of the Senior year take Math 2, if you hope to improve your score, Literature, and/or Foreign Language. You may take three SAT Subject tests on an SAT Saturday. See the *SAT Practice Booklet*, available free of charge in the *College and Career Center*, and at www.collegeboard.com, for sample questions and the testing schedule. Not all SAT subject tests are offered on all SAT Saturdays. Foreign Language with Listening tests are only offered in November.

b) **California State University** - **SAT or ACT** only. Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo prefers the ACT.

c) **Community Colleges** - none required except for some vocational programs. However, *placement tests* in math, English and writing are required, and are taken during the spring of the Senior year.

d) **Private Colleges** - most require **SAT or ACT**. Consult the admissions information on the college's web site. Brigham Young University prefers the ACT. Some highly competitive private colleges also require two or three **SAT Subject Tests**, which may include the Math 2 test.

IMPORTANT!! All college testing must be completed by the **December** test dates for UC admission. **Several popular Cal State campuses** encourage applicants to complete testing in **October**.

Test information and registration is online at www.collegeboard.com (SAT) and www.actstudent.org (ACT). The Northgate High School code is **050-666**. Submit your registration form *at least* six weeks before the test date to assure that you are assigned to a test center of your choice. NHS is not an ACT or SAT test center.

5. **SAT I, ACT, AND SAT Subject Test DATES:** Spring test dates and registration deadlines are as follows:

<u><i>SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests</i></u>	<u><i>TESTS OFFERED</i></u>	<u><i>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</i></u>	<u><i>LATE REGISTRATION</i></u>
<i>March 13, 2010</i>	SAT Only	<i>February 4</i>	<i>February 18</i>
<i>May 1, 2010</i>	SAT, Subject Tests	<i>March 25</i>	<i>April 8</i>
<i>June 5, 2010</i>	SAT, Subject Tests	<i>April 29</i>	<i>May 13</i>
<i>Registration for Fall 2010 test dates will be available in mid- to late-May.</i>			

<u><i>American College Test - ACT</i></u>	<u><i>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</i></u>	<u><i>LATE REGISTRATION</i></u>
<i>February 6, 2010</i>	<i>January 5</i>	<i>January 15</i>
<i>April 10, 2010</i>	<i>March 5</i>	<i>March 19</i>
<i>June 12, 2010</i>	<i>May 7</i>	<i>May 21</i>

*There is an additional fee for *late registration*.

In the fall, you will have the opportunity to test or retest in September (ACT only), October, November (SAT tests only), and December. The registration deadline for the September ACT is in mid-August, and the deadline for the October SAT tests will be in early September. Register on-line for fall tests *after May 15th* at: www.actstudent.org or www.collegeboard.com.

TEST FEES:

SAT	\$45.00
Late Fee	\$23.00 + regular fees (Total \$68.00 for SAT)
Standby *	\$38.00 + regular fees (Total \$83.00 for SAT)
SAT Subject Tests	\$20 registration fee + \$20 .00 for Foreign Language with Listening tests, \$9.00 each for all other SAT Subject Tests.
ACT	\$32.00; late fee is an additional \$21.00 (\$53.00 total)
ACT plus Writing	\$47.00; late fee is an additional \$21.00 (\$68.00 total)
Standby *	\$41.00 + regular fees

**** Walk-in registration** on the day of the test. Clayton Valley High School is your best bet for **Standby SAT** testing. This test center can generally accommodate additional test takers. Obtain a *paper* SAT or ACT registration bulletin for stand-by instructions, and plan to arrive at the test center by 7:20 AM.

If you register on-line for the SAT or ACT, you will need to print out an admission ticket - it will not be mailed to you.

6. **SAT AND ACT SCORE REPORTS:** **must be official.** If you list a college as a “score recipient” when you register for the SAT or ACT, that college will receive an official score report about the same time that you receive your score report. After the test date, official score reports can be ordered at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org for about \$10 per report. NHS no longer includes test score reports on official transcripts, due to “Score Choice.” Send ALL scores to UC and CSU campuses; do not use Score Choice.

7. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**: are *NOT* submitted for admission to the University of California or California State University campuses; however, they may be required by private or out-of-state colleges, or for appeals (of rejections), supplementary applications, and scholarship applications.

Students who anticipate needing recommendations should complete a *Personal Data Form*. Obtain this form from the College & Career Center page of the **Northgate PFC** web site: www.northgatehs-pfc.com . Type in your personal information and print out several copies. *Seniors applying to private colleges will be required to attend an Application Workshop in the fall. Procedures for obtaining the school or “counselor” recommendation, and sending an official transcript, will be addressed at this workshop.*

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8. **TRANSCRIPTS** : may be required when applying to college, and are mailed directly to the college or scholarship agency by our Registrar. Submit a *Transcript Request Form* a minimum of **three weeks prior to the application deadline**. You will receive an **unofficial transcript** in the fall, which you will need to complete your University of California and California State University applications. *Do not send transcripts to UC or CSU campuses unless a transcript is requested by a specific campus after you have submitted your application.* “Final” transcripts are sent in June after graduation, and include 7th and 8th semester grades.

Seniors applying to private colleges, and to out-of-state public universities that require school or “counselor” recommendations, will submit **Transcript Request Forms** to the College & Career Center, rather than to the NHS Registrar. Obtain this form from the College & Career Center page at: www.northgatehs-pfc.com . **We require students applying to Common Application schools to utilize the on-line Common Application, so that we can submit recommendations and transcripts on-line, too.**

**If there have been mistakes on any of your report cards, there may also be mistakes on your transcript. See the NHS Registrar to correct them NOW, but remember, although the Registrar can fix some mistakes, only the teacher can change a grade! See the Registrar at brunch, lunch, or after school only.*

9. **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS**: If you do not have a Social Security card, you should apply for one **NOW**. You will need the number for job and college applications, military registration, and financial aid. Applications are available at the Social Security Office, 1111 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek.

10. **FINANCIAL AID**: Juniors may want to pick-up a copy of this year's *Financial Aid Workbook* as a source of information about financial aid and how it works. Mandatory workshops will be scheduled in December for Seniors. Required forms will be distributed at Study Session workshops. **A financial aid workshop will also be presented at the East Bay College Fair on May 8, 2010 at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga.**

A *Scholarship List* is posted in English and social studies classes, and is updated once a month. Winning scholarship money requires considerable research and effort. Use the summer between your Junior and Senior year to research scholarships. Search for scholarships at www.fastweb.com or www.brokescholar.com and attend **part I** of the **Scholarship Search Orientation** in the NHS *College and Career Center*. Sign-up on the bright green clipboard. **Scholarship Search, part II**, will be scheduled in the fall. The Scholarship List is also posted as a PDF on the College & Career Center page of the PFC website: www.northgatehs-pfc.com .

11. **CHOOSING A COLLEGE**: Think about what you want in a college and what you hope to accomplish during - not after - college. A former Dean of Admissions at Princeton says “...the better the handle you...get now on at least some of the ways in which you hope to change and grow as a result of your college experience, the better you will be able to identify those colleges that appear most likely to meet your needs.” Consider also the size of the school, its location in terms of weather and amenities, and the majors and programs available. By fall, try to pare your list down to fewer than 10 colleges.

12. **COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY**: Probably the most agonizing part of the college application process is your personal statement, required by UC's and many private colleges (but not CSU). This is your chance to tell the college officials who the "real" you is beyond grades and test scores and laundry lists of activities. What are your goals in life? Your special academic interests? What qualities or talents will you bring to a college that will enhance the college community? Do a rough draft and **rewrite, rewrite, rewrite**. Have someone with good writing skills critique it for you. Use spell-check and grammar check!

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

The *College & Career Center* is open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The following resources are available to help you identify and narrow down your post-high school options:

a. Many excellent college search engines are available on the Internet. If you took the PSAT, register to use **MyRoad**, a comprehensive web site for college search plus career and college major exploration. See your PSAT Score Report for registration instructions (find *My College Quick Start*). If you did not take the PSAT, e-mail Pat Brands (brandsp@mdusd.k12.ca.us) to obtain the NHS access code and instructions.

b. **College Directories**, ranging from the dry and statistical (*Barron's* and *Petersen's*) to the anecdotal (*Insider's Guide*). Don't take the editorial comments in guides written from the student's point of view too seriously. Read them to get a feel for the personality of a college too far away to visit, no more. The opinions offered are just opinions, and may be misleading. I recommend *The Fiske Guide to Colleges* for more objective assessments of colleges and their programs.

c. **Specialized Directories**, including top colleges for science, performing arts, for students with learning differences, etc. There are also directories of schools in the West, two-year colleges, women's colleges, competitive colleges, etc. Many general directories have lists of colleges offering various majors in the front. There is a separate directory of college majors and special programs (such as combined degrees, cooperative education, study abroad, etc.) called *The College Board Book of Majors*.

d. **Ratings of Programs of Study**. *Ruggs Recommendations* is a directory of popular college majors. It's a good place to start if you are reasonably sure of your intended major, and are trying to identify colleges with well regarded programs that you might want to learn more about. Professional organizations can also help you identify accredited and/or recommended programs of study. Consult the Career Briefs (orange file boxes) in the *College & Career Center* for contact information, or visit organization web sites.

e. **College Catalogs** are a source of detailed information about each college's graduation requirements and programs of study, including course descriptions and academic policies. This is where you find out what that college's math or foreign language requirement is, for example, or whether the architecture major has an engineering or aesthetic orientation. Extra and year-old college catalogs are available for students to "adopt." Many college catalogs can now be accessed on-line at college web sites, usually located under "academic" information, or "publications." Catalogs from many UC and CSU campuses are available in the *College & Career Center* and can be checked out overnight.

f. **Miscellaneous** materials, such as "viewbooks," will provide you with a better "feel" for a college than the course catalog, and often contain valuable information, such as scholarship criteria and application procedures, plus an admissions "profile." Be aware that viewbooks are marketing tools, and portray the college at its very best (spring or fall - usually not the dead of winter!). ***Plan to visit as many colleges as you can before applying.*** There is no substitute for taking a campus tour, and talking with enrolled students. Try to visit when school is in session: Tuesday through Friday of our spring break, for example.

h. **Mrs. Brands** is a certificated school counselor with more than twenty-five years of experience at the high school and community college levels. She has a limited amount of time to work with students individually, but will be glad to make an appointment with a student at lunch, during a free or T.A. period, or after school. She is certified to interpret the *Career Assessment Inventory*, which is available to Seniors for a \$10 scoring fee. A similar inventory with a vocational orientation is also available, for the same fee.

SPRING CALENDAR, CLASS OF 2010

- Mid-February **Scholarship Search Orientation**, Study Session. Sign-up in the *College & Career Center*.
- February 16 **Registration deadline** for **Advanced Placement** tests. Obtain a registration form from the *College & Career Center* or from the NHS Treasurer's Office. Cost: \$92 per test.
- February 20 **Practice SAT or ACT**, 8:30 AM at Las Lomas High School. Pay \$20 at the door, or pre-register at the NHS Career Center for \$10. Make checks payable to Las Lomas High School, and include your full name and e-mail address on the check.
- February 26 **Late Registration deadline** for **Advanced Placement** tests. Cost for late registration: \$132 per test.
- March 1 Deadline to cancel an AP test and receive a refund (minus a \$25 handling fee).
- Mid-March **Verification of AP registration**. Make any corrections to your test registration by March 25th, at the latest, and return a copy to the College & Career Center.
- March 25 **MDUSD College Night**, 7:00 PM at Clayton Valley High School, Multi-Purpose Room. Representative from UC, CSU, DVC, a private college, and Arizona State University (representing Western Undergraduate Exchange members) will discuss admission to their sectors. Break-out sessions follow a short panel presentation.
- April 17 **NACAC College Fair** at the Concourse Exhibition Center, West Hall, 635 Eighth Street, San Francisco, 1:30 - 4:30 PM. Pre-register at: www.gotomyncf.com.
- April 20 **Northgate High School Career Day**. If a family member would be interested in being a speaker, contact the Career Center, Patty Proctor, or Ann Sussman.
- May 8 **East Bay College Fair***** at **Saint Mary's College** in Moraga, 1:00 - 4:30 PM. Workshops for parents are scheduled at 1:15, 2:15 and 3:15.
- May 3 - 14 **Advanced Placement** testing at Willow Creek Center in Concord.

*****Other College Fairs this spring will be at University of the Pacific in Stockton (May 2), Santa Clara (May 6), and Cal State East Bay in Hayward (May 7). Visit www.wacac.org for more information.**