



THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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Parents and College Essays: Be Afraid

(www.collegewise.com)

Fear almost never belongs in the college admissions process. But there is one instance where I intentionally instill fear because it's both legitimate and necessary—when parents over-involve themselves in their student's college essays.

What does "over-involvement" look like? Insisting (over the student's objections) that they write what you want them to write. Rewriting portions in the way you think they should be written. Flat out writing the essay for your student. They're all different versions of the same behavior—taking away the thoughts, words, and ensuing stories of a 17-year-old and replacing them with your own.

So, why should you be afraid to do it? Because when you over-involve yourself, admissions officers know it.

Admissions officers have read enough essays to know how students (and unfortunately, how over-involved parents) think and write. That sixth essay sense comes with experience. If you put 20 essays in front of me and asked me to pick out the one that was the product of an over-involved parent, I'll bat 1000 on that exercise, every time. And I've read a fraction of the essays most admissions officers read. Once the reader recognizes that an essay is not entirely the student's, it triggers a cascade of negative application effects.

Now the reader is forced to question the integrity of the rest of the application. How much did Mom or Dad do? How much of what's presented is unvarnished truth from a teen, and how much is overpolished (at best) or fiction (at worst) from the parent?

How often does this behavior repeat itself in the student's academic work?

Will this parent take over the work once the student is admitted to college (no college professor wants to

teach a student whose parents do some or all the work for them)?

Some parents might cry foul and claim this treatment isn't fair. But the question of fairness isn't the issue. It's reality, and an entirely avoidable one.

And consider the effect this over-involvement has on your student. When you take over their essay, you're telling them their stories aren't good enough, that their writing isn't good enough, and that they aren't good enough. You're telling them that they can't get into college without you doing the work for them. And worst of all, you're telling them that it's OK to misrepresent themselves in the hopes that the end will justify the means.

Parents can absolutely suggest stories and approaches. You can correct grammar and spelling if you have that skill set. And you certainly know your student well enough to share feedback around questions like these.

But there's just no nice way to say this. Parents, if you think your essay over-involvement is the exception, if you think you're improving their essay and improving their chances of admission, you are kidding yourself. You're making the essay worse. You're making your student's chances of admission worse. I know your intentions are good, but you're making things worse.

If this sounds surprisingly critical or alarmist, that's intentional. These risks are real. And if parents are going to take them, you deserve to know what you're risking.

So if you're afraid, listen to those fears. Step back and let your student get back to writing their own essays.

And if you're looking for another voice to add to this chorus, please see this recent NY Times piece, "How I Know you Wrote your Kid's College Essay."

A Guide to Being Politically Engaged in High School

(www.collegevine.com," By Monikah Schuschu)

Many high school students find themselves with a budding interest in politics. As you learn more about the world around you, it's only natural that you form opinions about important issues in the world and start thinking about how you can actively get involved with them. When contemplating your career ambitions, you may conclude that your future lies in the field of political science, or in related fields like law and history. You might even hope to someday hold an important governmental office.

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A Guide to Being Politically Engaged in High School

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Whatever your eventual plans, you may be wondering how you can get involved in politics while you're in high school, particularly if you're not yet old enough to vote. While your age and lack of experience may bar you from certain positions and activities in the political sphere, there are plenty of other ways that you can formally and informally develop your political knowledge, gain valuable experience, and have an impact on your community—or the world.

Here is some guidance on how you can get politically involved during high school and what you need to know to prepare for greater political involvement in the future.

The benefits of political engagement:

First of all, being politically active carries many of the same benefits as other extracurricular activities.

Like other extracurriculars, being politically involved enriches your high school experience and provides you with opportunities to demonstrate your dedication, special interests, and ability to engage with a long-term project. It can be an excellent learning experience and look great on your resume, particularly in the context of supporting your specialized interests. Political engagement also has its own special features that make it worth your consideration. You can use it as a way to develop your communication and leadership skills, as well as your comfort in front of an audience. In addition, it's a chance to put in effort to shape and improve your community, and to see that effort translated into visible real-world effects.

As noted above, your political involvement can help you to prepare for careers in fields like law, political science, and history. Even if you're not interested in becoming a politician, politics is an important force in these fields and many others. It's always a good idea to have a strong understanding of how the political process works.

Most importantly, perhaps, political engagement shows that you've taken an interest in the world be-

yond yourself. Colleges like to see that applicants are projecting past their college years and considering how they might eventually have an effect on the world at large. Whether or not you become a politician, your precocious interest in politics indicates that you're already thinking about what issues are of importance to you.

What can I actually do as a high schooler?

Here are a few ways to pursue your interest in politics while you're in high school. Join extracurriculars that incorporate political issues.

Explicitly political groups may already exist at your high school, whether they're party-specific, issue-specific, or designed to provide space for discussion and debate. Many other extracurriculars are or can be related to politics, such as debate team or the student newspaper.

Start small with your local government. There's no better place to start than where you are. Local politics has its quirks, but it's far more accessible than national-level politics. The competition to be an intern in your town's mayoral office or a youth representative to the City Council is likely less intense than, for instance, a place in the Senate Page program.

Look for opportunities in your city or town as well as your county or state. Your neighborhood, borough, or other geographical area may also have its own political scene, even if it's part of a larger city, so make sure to look into these options as well.

Get involved in the voting process. Voter registration drives and informational campaigns about voting dates and procedures provide a valuable service by encouraging involvement in the democratic process. Just because you can't vote yourself doesn't mean that you can't help to inform others and facilitate the process.

Recruiting voters and signing them in at the polls on Election Day are tasks that always require volunteers. Some high school students might also like that these positions are totally non-partisan—in fact, you're expressly not allowed to take a visible political stance while you're acting as a poll worker.

\$2.6B in Free College Money Went Unclaimed by 2018 Grads

(“www.nerdwallet.com,” By Anna Helhoski)

High school graduates who didn't complete a federal financial aid application missed their opportunity for part of \$2.6 billion in free money for college, according to NerdWallet's annual analysis of federal financial aid data. The money went unclaimed by 661,000 members of the Class of 2018 who were eligible for a federal Pell Grant but didn't complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Why students don't apply – The biggest misconception is families think they won't get any financial aid, says student loan expert Kevin Fudge. In reality, all families qualify for federal student loans and most will qualify for some other kind of aid.

Other students may start the FAFSA, but don't finish it or make a mistake that eliminates them from receiving aid. For example, in Alabama, students submitted 33,266 applications, but 30,379 were approved.

How to make sure you don't miss out – To complete the FAFSA, go to the federal student aid website at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/> In addition, this year the Federal Student Aid Office launched a new mobile app, myStudentAid, to encourage higher rates of completion.

How to Ask for a Letter of Recommendation for College

(*www.usnews.com*, by Kelly Mae Ross)

Letters of recommendation from teachers, school counselors and other sources can help college admissions officers get a more complete picture of applicants.

"We get much more of a real feeling for the student and the type of person they are and the type of student they are," said Bobbie Jean S. Huerth, assistant director of application evaluation and training at the university. "That helps us picture who they might be on our campus."

Obtaining high-quality letters of recommendation usually can't happen overnight – it's a process that takes time and advance planning. Here's everything high school students need to know about asking for letters of recommendation for college applications.

How Many Letters of Recommendation for College Do I Need?

The number varies among colleges. Some schools don't ask for any letters of recommendation, while others may require several. Students can go online to find the exact number a college requires. In addition to the one or more required recommendations, some colleges give applicants the option to submit supplemental letters.

But admissions officers aren't necessarily going to be impressed by a higher number of recommendations. "We really emphasize that one quality letter of recommendation is more important than multiple, just average letters of recommendation," Huerth says.

Whom Should I Ask to Write My Letters of Recommendation?

Admissions officers generally want to see letters of recommendation from high school teachers and counselors. But some colleges have more specific requirements than others, says Adam Sapp, director of admissions at Pomona College in California.

A college's website will usually spell out the exact requirements for letters of recommendation, but Sapp says students shouldn't be afraid to reach out to the admissions office if they have questions.

When it comes to letters of recommendation from teachers, students should approach the instructors with whom they have the best relationships, experts say. Ideally, this is someone who knows them well and can speak to both their academic and personal strengths. Students should also make sure they're

asking recent teachers for recommendations, meaning someone who taught them during the second half of high school, college admissions experts say. This is important because students change and grow a lot during their high school years, and admissions offices want the most current insights available, experts say.

Diversity is an additional key consideration for students requesting multiple letters of recommendation, says Cassie Poncelow, a school counselor at Poudre High School in Fort Collins, Colorado, and a finalist for the American School Counselor Association's 2018 School Counselor of the Year award. When students gather recommendations from teachers and others who know them in different capacities, they paint a fuller picture for admissions officers.

When Should I Ask for Letters of Recommendation?

Students should request letters of recommendation well in advance of an application deadline. Giving teachers, counselors and others ample time to write will usually result in stronger recommendations because the writers won't have to rush.

What Information Should I Provide to My Recommenders?

If a teacher or other adult agrees to write a recommendation, students should provide certain types of information that will aid both the recommender's memory and writing process. Some high school teachers and counselors write many recommendations each year – like Poncelow, who says she pens around 60 recommendations annually – so any help a student can give them will be appreciated. For starters, students should share information about their academic history. Poncelow says it's helpful when students mention specific experiences and achievements, such as a particular project or paper, because they give the recommender more direction.

One other key piece of information to share: application deadlines.

How Do I Submit My Letters of Recommendation?

Students generally don't submit their own letters of recommendation. Teachers, counselors and other recommenders usually send them in electronically via whichever application platform a student is using, such as the Common App.

If it's getting close to the deadline and a recommender hasn't submitted a letter yet, Goodman says students should ask if the person needs anything else to complete the recommendation. This approach is more polite than saying, "I asked you three weeks ago and you haven't done it yet and the deadlines are coming up," Goodman says.

6 Sneaky Ways to Find Out What Students at a College are Really Like

(“www.hercampus.com,” By Shereen Jeyakumar)

All too often, orientation groups and college brochures brush over less-than-optimal aspects of student life on campus, only focusing on the positive to draw you in. Here’s advice from collegiettes on how to sneakily uncover what college life is really like.

Most colleges have **Facebook groups** for each class. You’ll only have to type in the college name into the Facebook search bar and add “Class of 20XX” to find a group. From there, you can look through posts and pictures that might give you a little more insight into what student life is really like. If the group is private, don’t worry. Most of the time, if you send a request to join and explain that you’re an interested student, a group admin will let you in.

It might seem silly, but a **meme page** can tell you more about a college than you’d think. Inside jokes between students can be about anything—fights with rival schools, the gross dining hall food and super strict professors. If you can learn about the things students usually make fun of or complain about on campus, you’ll have a much better idea of what student life is like. Just don’t take everything at face value—it’s a meme page, after all.

Instagram is a great way to find out about student lifestyle at a university. You can look through public pictures and comments posted by students there, and even reach out to someone if you’re interested. Most likely, they’d be willing to speak with you. Just make sure it’s not the school’s official Instagram—it probably won’t be any more insightful than a brochure.

Don’t limit yourself to Instagram, either. Pinterest boards and Twitter posts by students are fair game,

as well. You can even find Snap Stories of the university you’re interested in by searching them on Snapchat. Especially if you’re interested in journalism or literature, **college newspapers** can hold a treasure trove of information for you. From opinion pieces to campus news, you’ll find all the details on student ideologies and the latest changes on campus. It’ll take a bit of reading, but you’ll definitely come out with a better idea of what the university you’re interested in is like.

Believe it or not, reading student responses on a site like **Rate My Professors** can tell you a lot about student life. Whether they’re angry or happy with their professors, you’ll be able to see if students are petty about their grades or have actual,

intelligible responses. Not to mention, if you do end up going to the school, Shirley tells us the site can be insanely helpful for building your schedule. “While I was registering for classes, my orientation roommate suggested that I use the website <https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/> to find out more about the professors—their teaching style, feedback from students in the past and the overall rating,” she says. “Not going to lie, it was really helpful; my first class schedule, I picked all of my professors using Rate My Professors—I still use it to this day to plan my senior year schedule.”

Let’s face it—forums on **College Confidential** are addicting to look at when you’re applying to college. It’s easy to check there for students’ thoughts on everything from your SAT scores to your dorm packing list. In addition to all of that, it can also give you connections to students at the specific college you’re applying to.

Make sure you check your school’s <https://www.collegeconfidential.com/> forum for anything you want to find out about student life—from academics to intramural sports. It’s a great resource that you should check out at least once.

College News

Saint Louis University received a \$50 million donation, its largest in the Roman Catholic institution’s 200-year history. The generous gift came with questionable and, to many, troubling strings attached: specific stipulations about faculty hiring and research funding that faculty leaders say violate university policies and academic integrity and freedom.

Northwest Indian College began offering its tribal governance and business management bachelor’s degree five years ago. It has since become the most popular four-year degree program on campus. This unique degree is being offered at the only college of its kind in the Northwest.

Florida State University will reopen its main campus in Tallahassee after closing for five days. Dozens of colleges in Florida and Georgia closed or canceled classes to wait out Hurricane Michael, the category-four hurricane that made landfall in the Florida panhandle. Florida State’s Panama City campus sustained water and roof damage, as well as multiple broken windows, and will remain closed until further notice while repair crews work to clean up the campus.

University of Delaware is changing its policies after a student was able to fool career-services platform Handshake and the institution with a blatantly fraudulent job posting. The university will now check the businesses licenses for every employer that wants to use Handshake. Jennifer West, a senior at Delaware, wanted to test the system after earlier this fall she said she was duped into a sham internship that was posted on Handshake, which has spread to at least 700 campuses.

SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST PROGRAMS

AXA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP - The AXA Achievement Scholarship offers college scholarships of outstanding achievement in their activities in school, the community or the workplace. Scholarship winners are known as AXA Achievers. They are ethnically and economically diverse, but they share these qualities: ambition and drive; determination to set and reach goals; respect for self, family and community; ability to succeed in college. Deadline is December 14, 2018 or until 10,000 applicants are submitted. <https://www.scholarsapply.org/axa-achievement/>

COMCAST LEADERS AND ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIPS - Offers one-time \$1,000 awards not based on financial need. Must be a high school senior, demonstrate a strong commitment to community service and display leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience. All nominations must be made by the Principal or Guidance Counselor. One student per school may be nominated. Applications for scholarships in support of the 2018-19 academic year will be accepted between October 1 - December 1, 2018. <https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/leadersandachievers/>

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SCHOLARSHIPS - Each year, the DAR awards more than \$150,000 through more than 25 different scholarships. Application deadline is February 15, 2019. <https://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships>

12th ANNUAL CREATE A GREETING CARD SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST - Design a greeting card and win a one-time \$10,000 scholarship. Contest is open to all students 14 years of age and older. A panel will select 100 designs per month that will be posted to The Gallery Collection's Facebook page for voting. Top 10 designs will move to the finalist round. Deadline to enter: March 1, 2019. <https://www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm>

JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP - For high achieving high school seniors with financial need who intend to attend the nation's best four-year colleges and universities. Apply through The Common Application. Deadline is November 20, 2018 <https://www.jkcf.org/>

BURGER KING SCHOLARS PROGRAM - Open to high school seniors, Burger King employees and their families who want to attend a two or four year college or university. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Application opens October 15, 2018. <https://bkmclamorefoundation.org/who-we-are/programs/burger-king-scholars-program/application-information/>

MENSA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS - \$70,000 of scholarships awarded based solely on a 550 word essay explaining career, academic and/or vocational goals and how you plan to achieve those goals. Deadline January 15, 2019. <https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>

SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG HISPANIC LEADERS - Open to Hispanic students attending or accepted to an accredited undergraduate two or four-year college or university. Recipients receive two scholarships, one for academics and one to attend the 37th annual USHLI conference. Deadline is November 30, 2018. <https://www.ushli.org/2018/08/20/scholarship-for-young-hispanic-leaders-now-available-for-2019-2020/>

DECA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - \$300,000 in scholarships from Deca's corporate partners like Marriott, Napa Autoparts and Publix. Scholarships are merit based. You must be a DECA member to apply. Deadline January 18, 2019 <https://www.deca.org/high-school-programs/scholarships/>

ELKS MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP - Open to any high school senior who is a US citizen. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need. 500 renewable scholarships ranging from \$1,000 per year to \$12,500 per year will be awarded. Deadline is November 15, 2018. <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm>

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP - Need based scholarships for eligible children of veterans. Provides up to \$20,000 in aid for undergraduate or post graduate college. Deadline is April 20, 2019. <https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/248ACY0416%20Legacy%20Scholarship%20Pamphlet.pdf>

UNIGO 10K SCHOLARSHIP - Imagine a historical figure is brought back to life. Who is it? What's their favorite mobile app? Applicants must be at least 13 years old, be a legal US resident and must be planning to enroll in college by fall 2024. Deadline to apply December 31, 2019. <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship>

Regeneron Science Talent Search Award - open to high school seniors interested in pursuing a career in engineering, science, math and medicine. 300 scholarships available. Semi finalists will receive \$2000 each and an all expense paid trip to Washington DC, winner will receive \$250,000. This is a research based scholarship. Deadline to apply November 15, 2018. <https://sciencetalentsearch.fluidreview.com/>

How to Find the Right College for LGBTQ Students

(www.teenvogue.com," By Charlotte West)

While LGBTQ+ students face many of the same issues as any applicant, they must often also wrestle with a number of unique challenges ranging from whether or not to share their sexual orientation and gender identity with admissions officials to where they are going to live once on campus.

How do I decide if a campus is right for me?

Kaelie Lund, an admissions officer at Carleton College who identifies as queer, recognizes the pressure that many that LGBTQ+ students are under. "Not only are LGBTQIA+ students trying to decide which colleges are the right size for them with the right kind of majors in their ideal city and state, they also have to gauge how schools—and their students—feel about their sexuality," she says. She notes that different students will have different questions depending on how they identify. "Each letter of the LGBTQ+ acronym is going to face different challenges... Transgender and gender nonbinary/ non-conforming students may have different or specific questions when visiting prospective schools, including gender neutral restrooms, the ability to change names on internal school documents such as an ID, and support from residence life offices to find housing options," Lund explains.

The good news that there are a number of resources available to students and their families to help identify institutions that embrace the queer community, as well as those that do not. Campus Pride, an organization dedicated to creating safer campuses for LGBTQ+, publishes a database of LGBTQ+-friendly colleges and universities. Institutions that have sought religious exemptions from federal anti-discrimination laws or that have hostile campus climates might also find themselves on Campus Pride's Shame List.

Wes Waggoner, associate vice president for enrollment management at Southern Methodist University, suggests reviewing prospective colleges' anti-discrimination policies. "Does the school's nondiscrimination policy include sexual orientation and gender identity? This is a good first check," he says.

How am I going to pay for college?

Some LGBTQ+ students might also be concerned about how to pay for college if their parents or family are unsupportive of their sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ youth and LGBTQ people of all ages are particularly economically vulnerable. Applying to college can be especially challenging for anyone under the age of 24 as they are still considered a dependent for financial aid purposes. Many institutions are willing to work with students in this situation.

Organizations such as the Point Foundation offer scholarships for students who identify as LGBTQ+

who attend both two-year and four-year institutions. Campus Pride also maintains a database of independent and institutional scholarships for LGBTQ+ students.

Should I come out to admissions officers?

"Let's be real—being queer and on a college visit can feel incredibly intimidating. Not only are you trying to assess if you're a good fit for the institution—and the other way around—but you're also trying to assess if your voice and self would be valued and supported," says Lund. Sharing sexual orientation or gender identity with admissions officers can be helpful, but it depends on the student's comfort level. "Most colleges welcome LGBTQ+ students and are happy to help students discover whether their campus is a good fit for any student. The more open you can be in your college search, the more successful that search is likely to be," explains Waggoner, who himself identifies as gay.

Students who are visiting colleges with people they might not be out to or feel uncomfortable around should feel free to follow up with admissions officers. "That's our job—to answer questions of prospective students and families, so use us as a resource," says Moe.

Where am I going to live?

Campus visits also give students a chance to check out the housing options for queer students, such as gender-neutral dorms at University of Southern California (USC) and trans-inclusive housing at University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC). Your best resource is to find LGBTQ+ people already at that school. Try reaching out to LGBTQ+ student organizations on prospective campuses.

Should I come out in my college essay?

Students also sometimes grapple with whether or not to write about their sexual orientation and gender identity in their college essays. Lund advises students who want to write about their identity to avoid trying to fit their entire coming out story into 600 words. "Instead, focus on one or two moments that were formative throughout that journey. Give yourself permission to cut out other important and valid moments by recognizing that you have a word limit and you are not going to be able to fully tell your story to the justice it deserves in that limited amount," she says. who want to write about their identity to avoid trying to fit their entire coming out story into 600 words. "Instead, focus on one or two moments that were formative throughout that journey. Give yourself permission to cut out other important and valid moments by recognizing that you have a word limit and you are not going to be able to fully tell your story to the justice it deserves in that limited amount," she says.

Junior Spotlight

Dual Enrollment Programs: The Pros and Cons

(<https://www.studypoint.com>)

As juniors across the country begin planning for next year's courses, many are considering a dual-enrollment or concurrent enrollment class. Dual-enrollment classes enable high school students to take classes at a local college-and potentially earn college credit. There are a number of benefits to dual-enrollment programs. Earning college credit while still in high school sounds like a dream for many students. In addition, these programs introduce students to the rigors of college coursework early, and studies have shown that students who participate in dual enrollment programs are more likely go on to get a college degree. But is dual enrollment right for you?

Why Should I Consider a Dual-Enrollment Program?

- Dual enrollment gives students an idea of what full-time college coursework will be like. By trying out a few classes while still in high school, you can get used to the academic environment before you leave the comfort and support of home.
- You may be able to take classes that aren't offered at your high school.
- College courses can give you a closer look at your area of academic interest. If you're currently loving AP history, a college course next year on the Civil War or the Great Depression will help you explore that period in greater depth and precision.
- According to collegeboard.com, most students change their majors at least once. Taking a college class as a high school senior can help you find your area of interest before the pressure is on to declare a major.
- If you didn't qualify to take AP courses, or if those courses weren't available at your high school, taking a college-level class will help you demonstrate the ability to handle more difficult coursework. This ability is something every college admissions officer wants to see.
- Due to the large number of online and virtual classes offered by many schools, dual-enrollment courses may be conducted right at your high school. Ask your guidance counselor about dual enrollment options in your area.
- Perhaps the biggest benefit of dual enrollment is that you may start accumulating college credits, helping you graduate on time or even early.

Dual Enrollment Sounds Great! Is There Any Reason I Shouldn't Participate?

- If a course is already available at your school, it might be best to take it there. Colleges may wonder why a student has chosen to take an intro class at a community college if there's an AP class in the same subject available at the high school level. (High school AP classes may well prove more challenging than an intro-level college course.) If the college course won't give you something above and beyond what's available at your high school, take a pass.
- If a college class will interfere with your regular coursework or extracurriculars, it may not be a good idea. A college course should enhance a student's resume, but not at the expense of other resume-enhancing activities. When considering scheduling, be sure to take into account not just the normal class schedule but breaks as well. Your high school and local community college may not operate on the same academic calendar. A different holiday schedule could cause conflicts with class trips, family vacations, or out-of-town athletic commitments.
- A college course in music appreciation is a great resume booster-as long as you plan to go into music. If you are planning a career in chemistry, the music class won't help, and could raise questions about the academic rigor of your senior year courses. Carefully consider the academic value of any class you are considering.
- your permanent record. Before enrolling, make sure you're ready for the demanding work a college class will require, or it could hurt your chances at college acceptance down the line. Furthermore, if a student fails a dual-enrollment course, it could mean he or she won't graduate high school on time.
- If you're considering a dual-enrollment program for the purpose of earning college credits, be sure of the value of the credits. For each college where you may apply next year, check to see how many credits (if any) a dual-enrollment class would earn you. The credit policy will depend on the school.

Where Should I Start?

- Rules for dual-enrollment eligibility vary from state to state, so you should check with your high school guidance counselors to find out if they qualify. Usually, students must be at least 16 years old and have a GPA of at least 2.5; they may also have to take placement tests. Students will also need permission from parents/guardians and a guidance counselor or principal.
- Your guidance counselor will also be able to provide information about financial obligations. Many states pay for dual enrollment; in other states, students must pay.

The College Connection Newsletter

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- University of Oregon early action deadline Nov. 1
- University of Washington application deadline Nov. 15
- University of California application deadline Nov. 30
- California State University application deadline Nov. 30
- File FAFSA - priority deadline Nov. 30
- Get Federal Student Aid ID# <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaidt>
- Submit Social Security # for Cal Grant consideration
- For Dream Act Students aid is available <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>
- Review Academic History section
- Review Personal Insight Questions
- Common Application - review deadlines
- Review college supplemental
- Create FAFSA account

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- SAT Test Day - December 1, 2018 <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>
- Subject Tests Offered December 1, 2018 : <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/register/test-dates-deadlines>
- Visit more college campuses, ask lots of questions
- Attend college fairs in your area

THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

CREATE HEALTHY FAMILIES
P.O. Box 90414
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