

Senior Update

January 4, 2016

To access the Senior/Scholarship Update, go to the FUHS counseling blog at: <http://fuhscounseling.blogspot.com> and look for the Senior/Scholarship Update link.

The Senior/Scholarship Update is also posted on the counseling office bulletin board, in senior English and History Classes and in the Library

IT'S TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA ONLINE. DON'T WAIT!! DO IT NOW. GO TO WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV.

WEBSITES FOR JANUARY:

www.fafsa.ed.gov - FAFSA online

www.caldreamact.org– Online financial aid application for Dream Act (undocumented students)

Credits for Graduation: Keep passing classes and everything should be fine - hopefully no (more) outbreaks of senioritis this year. **Remember, that you must pass required senior courses (English and Economics/Government). Also remember that the Senior Activities Policy goes into effect at the semester. That means your attendance, tardies and behavior can determine whether or not you are able to participate in the graduation ceremony in June.**

Class changes for 4-year college-bound students: If you have changed your schedule, and didn't put your new schedule on your college application, you will need to notify the college admissions office of the new schedule.

MidYear Reports: Some private colleges require a midyear report. If you are applying to a school that requires a midyear report, please give it to Mrs. Austin as soon as possible.

Credit Recovery/East High: If you happen to fail a required course, you'll need to make it up in credit recovery or go to East High. See Mrs. Austin asap to get a referral.

College Applications: Some private colleges are still taking applications. To apply, go to the school website and follow the instructions to apply online.

College of the Redwoods: On Tuesday, Jan. 12 we will have a CR application workshop in the B Labs during periods 2, 3, 4 & 6. Anyone applying to CR should plan to attend. We will have sign ups in the office and/or pull you out of some govt. classes with teacher consent. This is just the first step in the CR registration process. More steps to follow.

College Application Status: If you've applied to a four-year college, have you checked to verify that they have everything they need (such as transcripts, test scores, etc.)? It's always a good idea to be sure that all is in order. It's usually best to log in to your college portal and check your "To Do List".

Transcript Requests: In order to get a copy of your transcript or have it sent, please fill out a transcript request form with Rebecca Wilkinson in the office.

FINANCIAL AID MONTH

January is the month to submit your financial aid application (FAFSA) online. FAFSA stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. With financial aid its always best to send in your application as early as possible - if you wait too long, the money may be gone. Everyone should apply for financial aid no matter what program you plan to attend after high school.

Website: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Beware of phony FAFSA sites that will charge you money. Be sure to avoid websites like FAFSA.com - they will charge you money for something that should be free!!!

Financial Aid & Scholarships: FAFSA worksheet forms are available in the hallway by the counseling offices. FAFSAs are the free federal financial aid application forms that most of you need to fill out in order to apply for financial aid. Even if you think you may not qualify, it's a good idea to fill it out and send it in anyway. Title 4 codes are available as well. These are used to help fill out the section where you list your schools.

Completing the FAFSA Online:

Use the FAFSA worksheet, which is available in the counseling office. This worksheet is NOT an official FAFSA. Instead it is a tool used to help you fill out the online website. The worksheet info will correspond to the online site.

Step One: If you haven't done so, get a FSA ID number for yourself and a parent, so you'll be able to sign your online FAFSA electronically. Go to fafsa.ed.gov, click on FSA ID at the top of the page and follow the instructions.

Step Two: fill out the FAFSA worksheet (you'll need your parents estimated parent's income information for 2015)

Step Three: Transfer the data from the FAFSA worksheet to the online site at <http://fafsa.ed.gov> and sign with your FSA ID and your parent's FSA ID.

Step Four: Be sure to print out a copy for your records and make sure you get a confirmation number with an "EFC" at the end of your session. If you don't see an EFC, it means your FAFSA wasn't done correctly and you'll need to go back in and fix the problem.

After submitting your FAFSA online and receiving your confirmation, you will notice "EFC" with a number following it. This is the amount of money the federal government figures your family can afford to pay for your education for one year. "EFC" stands for "Estimated Family Contribution". The lower the number, the more cash aid you will qualify for.

If you need help filling out your FAFSA, be sure to make an appointment with Mrs. Austin.

******* On Thursday, January 7th we will be holding a "Cash for College" FAFSA online workshop.***

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: B Labs

Everyone is invited to come and get help with completing FAFSAs online. If you've already submitted your FAFSA, come anyway and sign up. One lucky person who attends this workshop will be a winner of a scholarship for \$250!!!! Bring your parents, or come yourself. You may be a winner just for stopping by and filling out an exit survey form!

California Dream Act Application for Undocumented Students: If you are an undocumented student who has attended a California high school for three years, then you will be eligible to apply for state financial aid including grants for tuition and other forms of state money. For information and to apply, go to www.caldreamact.org. Need help, see Mrs. Austin.

Cal Grants: Cal Grants will pay the cost of your tuition if you attend a school in California, providing you qualify - which is a very good deal! FUHS already uploaded your GPAs, so all you will need to do to apply is submit your FAFSA. There are different types of Cal Grants - some for 4 year colleges, two year colleges and trade/technical programs. Amounts will vary depending on your grades and income. After you complete your FAFSA, be on the lookout for a Cal Grant Report (CAR). This will be sent to your email on file with FAFSA and will include the amount you will be receiving (if any) from the college you listed first. It will give you instructions on how to set up your webgrants account so you can sign in and monitor your award. If your colleges listed are the correct ones, then don't do anything and file your CAR in your records. Use the CAR to change any school information to reflect where you plan to attend, so your Cal Grant award will be sent to the correct school.

CSS Profile: This is an additional financial aid form for certain select private colleges, such as Harvard, Stanford, Brown and Princeton. If you haven't done so yet, be sure to

register online at www.collegeboard.com. If you aren't sure if your school requires this form, see Mrs. Austin.

ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 2 YR. COLLEGES AND 4-YR. COLLEGES SHOULD BE APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID USING THE FAFSA!!!!

SAR (Student Aid Reports): After submitting your FAFSA online, you will get a notification via email about your Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR is actually a confirmation of what you wrote on the FAFSA. Read your SAR instructions carefully. If you need to change any information, or add colleges to your list, this is the time to do it. Be sure to look for your EFC (estimated family contribution), which is on your SAR. This is the amount of money that the government expects your family is able to pay for your education for the year. The lower the EFC, the higher your cash aid package will be.