

## Diamond Bar High School

# SENIOR BULLETIN #2

## Scholarship and College Information

October, 2022

### UC/CSU

- **CSU and UC Applications** are available online right now. Applications for UC and CSU have been available since August 1<sup>st</sup> and can be worked on now and then submitted between **October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>**. Many CSU campuses have rolling admissions, which means the earlier you submit, the earlier the CSU can let you know you've been admitted. The UC will notify students about admission decisions between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The CSU notification period varies, and some students will find out about CSU much earlier, but all students will be notified at the latest by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- **DBHS will host CSU and UC workshops on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>!** Take advantage of this great opportunity to get free expert advice from CSU and UC admission representatives!
  - The CSU workshop will take place in the Library from 6:00-7:00 pm.
  - The UC workshop will take place in the Theater from 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **The UC and CSU will NOT be using SAT or ACT scores for this year's admission cycle.** If you've already sent scores, don't worry about it, the scores won't hurt or help you in any way. They will not use the tests for admission purposes.
- **If you do choose to send SAT Scores to a university,** the scores need to be sent directly to all schools to which you are applying through [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). DBHS does NOT send any SAT or ACT scores. To send your ACT scores to schools, log onto [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).
- **Online applications** are convenient and available at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply> for the CSU and <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/> for the UC.

- Applying online helps you to fill out your application accurately because the program takes you through the application step by step and often won't let you go on if you're missing information or have done something incorrectly. For example, Health doesn't appear as a drop-down option because it isn't a course used for CSU/UC admissions and doesn't belong in your application.
- Save your application often while working on it, and prepare your personal insight responses (more on that in the next Senior Bulletin) as a word document and then cut and paste to make sure they come out just the way you want and the program doesn't time out while you're composing.
- Be very accurate when self-reporting grades, classes and extracurricular activities to the UC. Self-report all A-G courses taken, including all repeated courses/grades. They will compare your application to your final transcript and everything must match so you should use a transcript when reporting grades.
  - If you repeated a class after earning a D or F, the UC wants you to include the D or F grade along with the make-up grade.
- There is a section of the UC application that asks for classes like Algebra, Geometry, or the first year of a foreign language taken in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Don't worry about these grades negatively impacting your application – the UC just wants to see that you actually took these classes so be sure to list them in this section.
- Fee waivers will automatically be awarded to those who need one based on the information you provide regarding your parents' adjusted gross income from last year's taxes.
- Be very accurate when self-reporting grades to CSU as well. Again, everything must match what they will eventually see on your transcript; however, if you made-up a D or F grade, the CSU only wants the make-up grade reported on your application, not the D or F.
- On the CSU "High Schools Attended" page, be sure to label our school as "semester" based. If you say "year long," you won't be able to put in both of your semester grades per year.
- On the CSU "Coursework Completed" page, be sure to include the classes you're taking in senior year ("**In progress**" for first semester, "**Planned**" for second semester). It is possible to submit your application without this information, and you can't revise it after submission so it will automatically look like you're missing a year of English (that's not good). Also, enter summer school classes twice (once for each semester).

- On the CSU “A-G” page, Change Civics from area A to area G when you update, and it’ll show a year of G. Look at this page carefully to ensure that you’ve input all of your courses. Again, it’s possible to submit an incomplete application so you want to make sure this page looks complete.
- If you have questions about the CSU Application, check here for the answer - [https://help.liaisonedu.com/Cal State Apply Applicant Help Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/Cal%20State%20Apply%20Applicant%20Help%20Center).
- **The UC campuses will continue hosting in-person and/or virtual events.** Here is a breakdown of how to find more information for each campus:
  - UC Berkeley - [https://admissions.berkeley.edu/discover-berkeley?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.berkeley.edu/discover-berkeley?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
  - UC Davis - <https://www.ucdavis.edu/about/visit>
  - UC Irvine - [https://admissions.uci.edu/discover/visit/events.php?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.uci.edu/discover/visit/events.php?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
  - UCLA - <https://connect.admission.ucla.edu/portal/virtualpresentations>
  - UC Merced - [https://admissions.ucmerced.edu/admissions-events?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.ucmerced.edu/admissions-events?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
  - UC Riverside - [https://admissions.ucr.edu/events?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.ucr.edu/events?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
  - UC San Diego - [https://admissions.ucsd.edu/visit/events/index.html?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.ucsd.edu/visit/events/index.html?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
  - UC Santa Barbara - [https://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/virtual-admissions-events?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/virtual-admissions-events?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
  - UC Santa Cruz - [https://admissions.ucsc.edu/resources-support/events?mc\\_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admissions.ucsc.edu/resources-support/events?mc_cid=b610eb6b1c&mc_eid=e20391315e)
- **UC Application Videos** created by UCSB are on Youtube and provide step by step support for the UC application. These 9 tutorial videos are excellent and go over every detail you’d ever have questions with for the UC application. Access them here - <https://www.youtube.com/ucsb4me>. The UC also has a help line at 800-207-1710 or email support at [ucinfo@applyucsupport.net](mailto:ucinfo@applyucsupport.net).

## FINANCIAL AID

- **The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** is the key to receiving any kind of financial aid when you go to school. Regardless of whether or not you think you will receive any financial aid, you and your parents should fill this form out. The FAFSA is required to apply for federal and state student aid, as well as some college and private aid, and even if you don't qualify for need-based aid, your FAFSA information reminds colleges that you're interested in merit-based aid. If you don't fill the FAFSA out, you are essentially guaranteeing that no one can help you pay for college. **WARNING:** There are several look-alike websites out there that have "fafsa" in the name and they'll try to get you to pay for help in filling out the FAFSA, but the first F stands for FREE. If you go to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>, you'll find all the information and instructions and be able to apply for financial aid without paying anyone a dime.
- **You can submit the FAFSA beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at** <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Unlike college applications which have no advantage for early submission, the sooner you submit the FAFSA, the better your chances of receiving financial aid. Every college's financial aid office has a set amount of money they can offer to prospective students in the form of grants, scholarships, etc., and once they give it away, it's gone. You want them to have your FAFSA information when they're beginning to make financial aid offers so they can give you the best possible package. **The deadline for filing the FAFSA is March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.**
- **You will need several things to fill out the FAFSA.** You must have a social security number and your parents' financial information (the 2021 federal income tax return, assets such as savings and stocks). In fact, you'll need Mom or Dad there with you to help fill all of the FAFSA out - it's fairly detailed and asks all sorts of questions about things you've probably never discussed with your folks.
- **The FAFSA is NOT OPTIONAL.** California Assembly Bill 132 was signed into law this year and requires school districts to confirm seniors have completed the FAFSA or California Dream Act application before graduating. There is a way to opt-out of completing the FAFSA, and if that's what you and your parents want to do, you'll have to pick up that opt-out form from your GLC and return it in order to qualify for graduation.
- **Always use the same name that is on your transcript for ALL applications to universities and all registrations for SAT, ACT, and the FAFSA.** Every year we have mix-ups with students not being matched up with the right information because they've

provided different names or addresses on different forms! If you need to adjust your name or address with our registrar, fall is the ideal time to make sure everything is consistent.

- **Several universities offer free Financial Aid Calculators** – While these tools are by no means guaranteed to be accurate, they normally come pretty close and give students and parents a good idea of the potential aid that might be coming their way. The Financial Aid Calculator for each UC is available here (they say you'll need info from your parents' 2020 tax return) - [https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/estimate-your-aid.html?mc\\_cid=de3de0d40d&mc\\_eid=e20391315e](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/estimate-your-aid.html?mc_cid=de3de0d40d&mc_eid=e20391315e).
- **Cash for College event at Mt. SAC on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.** This is a FREE financial aid workshop sponsored by the California Student Aid Commission's Cash for College program. You will receive help in completing the FAFSA and learn more about the financial aid process. For more information, go to <https://www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov/Home/showWorkshopDetail?id=14300>. If you can't make it to that one, you can find other workshops at [www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov/](http://www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov/). Workshops take place from October through June, but sign up quickly – these workshops do fill up!
- **Speaking of money, *Money* magazine's 2019-20 Best Colleges list** focuses on finding the schools that “successfully combine quality and affordability,” and features 10 California schools in the Top 25, including our very own Cal State Fullerton!

### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- **Letters of Recommendation** – As you were told several times, letter requests are due to your GLC's by October 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the very latest. If you are reading this after 10/5/2022 and have not turned in your request, that ship has sailed and you need to focus your energies on colleges that do not require a letter of recommendation.
- **The October 5<sup>th</sup> Deadline** was for you to have your request and supporting documents to your GLC. It is NOT the due date for you to submit supplemental documents and essays to your prospective universities. Adhere to the universities' deadlines for those documents.
- **The Common Application** – You must invite your GLC on your Common Application. Prior to inviting your GLC, you must complete the “Education” and “Academics” sections of your application. Be sure these sections are completed, and then proceed to the “School

Forms” section to invite your GLC. Be sure to get the email addresses right or you won’t appear in your GLC’s queue – [sburns@wvusd.org](mailto:sburns@wvusd.org), [rgonzales@wvusd.org](mailto:rgonzales@wvusd.org), [jsalas@wvusd.org](mailto:jsalas@wvusd.org).

- **Pay attention to your settings on the Common Application-** Once you have selected your colleges under MY COLLEGE, you must designate a Preferred Start Term (Fall 2023) AND designate a Preferred Admission Plan (Regular Decision/Early Action/Etc.) Many of you have not done this, and thus your application has no deadlines set.
- **Pause before sending reminders** to your GLC’s or teachers about deadlines for letters of recommendation (and then really, really think about whether or not this is a good idea). Your focus should be on your own deadlines and making sure your pieces to your applications are turned in on time. Trust your GLC’s and teachers to take care of their respective parts, but if it’s two days before a deadline and you see something is missing, a reminder *might* be OK. And one more word of warning - don’t ever give your own personal deadline that’s sooner than the university’s actual deadline. That’s the opposite of OK.
- **SAT** – If a private university still wants the SAT or ACT, many will accept the December SAT or ACT, but some private schools may not. Check on private college websites to be sure, and sign up for the November SAT just to be safe. Reminder, CSU and UC don’t use the SAT or ACT.
- **Private School Research** – If you haven’t done so already, you should really research the schools you’re considering. Research allows you to weigh all the factors involved with this major decision – distance from home, area surrounding the college, size of the school population, campus atmosphere, specifics about the major you’re interested in, opportunities available, etc. Some of you don’t even know the state in which some of your prospective colleges are located, and that’s just silly when you think about it.
- **You should be researching potential universities online RIGHT NOW!** Due to the pandemic and inability to visit schools, many universities have really improved their virtual tours. Here’s just one cool example at Duke - <https://www.youvisit.com/tour/duke/133627> (and no, you don’t have to fill out the registration form, just close it and you can go on the virtual tour). Some other great places to start looking at which schools might be right for you are:
  - [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
  - [www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com)
  - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

- **Parchment is another great research tool!** Parchment is the company you'll use if you ever need to send your official transcript to a school, but don't wait until then to log on and create an account. If you create an account now, you can use their handy "My Admissions Chances" feature. You make a profile with your unweighted and weighted GPA, your test scores, and a few other items, and then for every potential university you plug in, you'll get a rough estimate of your statistical chance of admission. It's not a perfect tool of course, but it sure helps with determining which schools are a reach, a good chance, or a safety. It will also generate a few "College Matches" based on your list and profile. To log in, go to <https://www.parchment.com/u/auth/login>.
- **Don't put too much emphasis on rankings.** Many parents and students emphasize internet and magazine rankings too much, thinking a school in some guy's list is #19 so it has to be better than his #32 ranked school. The problem is, the factors he's using for his ranking methodology might not be the same you would use. An article in *Philadelphia* magazine put it well: "College rankings are ... really reflections of their creators, not unbiased scientific observations." In other words, it's a mistake to view rankings as completely accurate, and you would be much better served doing your own research based on factors that matter most to you. Now is also the time to look beyond the schools everyone has heard of. Those schools are great, but there are many, many wonderful schools, and some you haven't heard of yet might be a perfect fit for you. The key word in that last sentence is "you" – listen to the opinions of family and friends, especially your parents, but you're the one going there so you need to pick a school that suits you.
- **Another thought about rankings:** Lots of people find great success from many different places. The CEO of Costco went to San Diego State, a currently active NASA astronaut went to Cal State Fullerton, and my nephew has what many would consider a dream job at YouTube, and I can't even name the university he attended – something online. The point is that you - your work ethic, your determination, your passion – can make yourself successful wherever (and whenever for that matter) you go to school.
- **One final thought about rankings:** Did you know that Columbia University, one of the most prestigious, competitive, and sought-after Ivy League universities in the world, is NOT ranked at all by U.S. News and World Report for 2023? This article explains why (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/08/us/us-news-rankings-columbia.html>), but basically a Columbia math professor called much of the data that Columbia reported to U.S. News & World Report into question as inaccurate or misleading and caused a major hullabaloo. Now Columbia says it is withdrawing from the rankings and US News is saying they've removed Columbia from its #2 in the world ranking because

they can't "verify the underlying data submitted by the university." This situation has reminded the world of the many flaws with any sort of ranking system, including the "list of several dozen schools that had admitted to misreporting data since 2019" in attempts to improve their ranking. So... what on earth are we doing here, everybody? Stop letting this obviously flawed and manipulated system run your life and do some research to find a university that suits you, regardless of that precious ranking!

- **Don't stress about your rank or the fact that DBHS does not weight our GPA.** We know that much of the information online refers to rank or weighted GPA, but universities know DBHS doesn't provide a weighted GPA and that won't hurt you at all. Universities understand which classes are harder and more rigorous, and each school will give you the credit you deserve for challenging yourself. You have to trust that admissions officers are smart people looking for other smart people. Representatives from elite schools like Harvard and Princeton have said the following to us: "We know that #80 at a competitive high school could be a great fit for our schools, but #1 at a less competitive school might not make the cut. Rank is all relative." "We prefer unweighted GPA's because many schools calculate them differently. Our computer re-calculates the GPA on the transcript anyway."
- **CSS (College Scholarship Service) Profile** – This is a form provided by College Board for high school seniors who are looking for financial aid, and it's required by many private colleges and universities. The UC and CSU systems use only the FAFSA and don't need it, but several private schools want this form prior to the FAFSA to determine the level of financial aid they will offer you. The CSS Profile is available beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>, and the sooner you fill it out the better. Unlike the FAFSA, which is entirely free, College Board does charge a fee for the CSS Profile (\$25 for the first college and \$16 each for any more colleges) so be sure this is something a university to which you're applying really wants before you fork out the money. The following link will take you to a list of schools that College Board says want the CSS Profile, but verify with each school - <https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>.

## NATIONAL MERIT

- The following students took the PSAT last year and their scores placed them in the top 1% out of about 1.6 million juniors who took the test. This places them in the nation's elite group of **National Merit Scholar Semifinalists**, one of the most prestigious honors a senior can receive. This year's Semifinalists are:
  - Jeffrey Chen
  - Ryan Chung
  - Jeffrey Gong
  - Marcus Hsieh
  - Andrew Huang
  - Edward Kim
  - Jason Kim
  - Jenna Kim
  - William Li
  - Chloe Lim
  - Ryan Shin
  - Angie Sun
  - Angelina Young
  - Max Zhu

## COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

- **Continue to check out the CCC Calendar** to see when schools are visiting DBHS! Go here to view the calendar - [https://dbhs.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=58834&type=d&pREC\\_ID=calendar](https://dbhs.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=58834&type=d&pREC_ID=calendar).
- **Follow the College and Career Center on Instagram at @brahmacc.**
- **For those interested in applying to Military Academies**, you'll need a nomination from one of the two U.S. Senators from California: Diane Feinstein - <https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/service-academy-nominations> (no later than **October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**) and Alex Padilla - <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/services/academies/> (no later than **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**) or a member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides. For Diamond Bar, our Representative is Young Kim, and you can find information about her Military Academy nomination process at <https://youngkim.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations/military-academy-nominations-faq>.

## BLACK COLLEGE SUMMIT

- **The Annual Black College Summit** will take place in Los Angeles on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 from 5-7 pm. “Learn more about the benefits to attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Meet with Admissions Directors and Recruiters. Opportunity to get accepted on the spot!” For more information and to register, go to <https://hbcusummitla.com/>.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Free Scholarship Search Engines:**
  - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
  - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>
  - <https://findaid.org/>
  - <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
- **Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund** – This scholarship is for any U.S. citizen of “Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity as defined by the U.S. Census” with a minimum GPA of 2.7. Awards range from \$2,500 to multi-year \$20,000 awards, and their focus is on underserved APIA students who live at or below the poverty level, are the first in their families to attend college, and have done well in community service, leadership, and academics. Visit <https://apiascholars.org/> for more information. **Deadline for applications is January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
- **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest** – The John F. Kennedy Library invites high school students to write an essay inspired by JFK’s *Profiles in Courage*. They are asking students to “describe an act of political courage by a U.S. elected official who served during or after 1917, the year John F. Kennedy was born. Include an analysis of the obstacles, risks, and consequences associated with the act.” For information, registration and to submit your essay go to <https://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Profile-in-Courage-Essay-Contest.aspx>. **Essays due January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Cash prizes for the Top 25, and first place gets \$10,000! Also in the past, the winner and her family were flown to Boston and provided lodging in order to attend an awards Ceremony at the JFK Presidential Library.**

- **NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing** – “Aspirations Award recipients are chosen for their outstanding aptitude and interest in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post-secondary education.” Each national winner receives various prizes (in the past it’s included \$500 and a laptop), and possibly a trip to the National Award Celebration in March, 2021. We’ve had students win this award in the past! **Apply at <https://www.aspirations.org/award-programs/apply-for-the-award-for-aic> by October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**
- **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation** – This foundation will provide up to \$40,000 a year for as many as 40 low-income students each year. To be eligible, students must have achieved at least a 3.5 and scored a 1200 or above on the SAT math and reading sections or a 26 on the ACT, and they must “demonstrate significant unmet financial need.” They also like to see “determination and perseverance in the face of challenges...ability to organize and positively influence others... and purposeful and meaningful commitment to others.” The **application closes November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022** so go to <https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/college-scholarship-program/> if interested. We’ve had a few win this one as well!
- **Ron Brown Scholarship** - Named for the late secretary of commerce and inspired by his dedication to public service, the Ron Brown Scholar Program offers a \$40,000 scholarship to up to 30 African American high school seniors each year based on academic excellence and commitment to public service. Recipients are young African Americans of outstanding promise who are offered intensive mentorship, service opportunities, leadership experiences, and extensive professional development throughout all stages of their careers. Apply by **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. For more information, go to <https://ronbrown.org/apply/ron-brown-scholarship/>.
- **Jefferson Scholars Foundation Scholarship** – This is for students hoping to attend the University of Virginia – go Cavaliers! The award is “intended to cover the entire cost of attendance for four years at the University of Virginia plus coverage of the supplemental enrichment experiences.” That’s valued at over \$333,000 for us Californians! They say they’re looking for “individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest concomitant qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.” If you know the definition of “concomitant” already, you probably have a leg up on much of the competition! For more information, go to <http://www.jeffersonscholars.org/scholarship>. If you are applying to University of

Virginia and would like to be the ONE student our school nominates, please notify Mr. Gonzales or Mrs. Burns or Mrs. Salas by 10/15/2022.

- **Washington University in St. Louis** – If you are planning on applying to Washington University in St. Louis, they are looking for nominees for the Danforth Scholars Program. They’re looking for students “who exhibit qualities that embody the essence of the Danforths – maturity, strong moral character, selflessness, a passion for helping others, and a commitment to the community.” Danforth Scholars receive full or partial-tuition scholarships. This scholarship used to require a nomination, but now you just have to apply to Washington University and then submit a second application for the Danforth Scholarship. For more information go to <https://admissions.wustl.edu/cost-aid/scholarships/signature-scholar-programs/danforth-scholars-program/arships/Pages/Danforth-Scholars-Program.aspx>. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm central time on **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.
- **UOP Powell Scholarship** – If you’re applying to the University of the Pacific, you should definitely apply for this \$42,000 scholarship that’s renewed annually! Can you believe someone is going to get \$168,000 over four years to go to school? To apply, you need to apply to UOP, have at least an unweighted 3.7 GPA, a rigorous academic program, and “demonstrated superior leadership skills in two or more areas.” If that’s you, go to <https://www.pacific.edu/academics/powell-scholars-program> for more information and apply by **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to be considered for Early Action or **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023** for Regular Action.
- **Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship** – The Elks National Foundation will be awarding 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$12,500 a year! Applicants need not be related to a member of the Elks and will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. For more information and an application, go to <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm>. Applications due **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.
- **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** – “Do you have a vision to transform your community – and the world – for the better? Where others see problems, do you see potential?” If that’s you, go online to <http://spirit.prudential.com> for more information and to submit an application by **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**.