

Diamond Bar High School

SENIOR BULLETIN #5

Scholarship and College Information

January, 2019

THE END OF FIRST SEMESTER

- **If you have dropped a class for second semester**, you must notify all of the schools to which you have applied so they know there is a change in the original information on your application. Remember: the university or college that you finally commit to will require a final transcript, and if the final transcript does not have a class they were expecting to see, they may rescind the offer of admission. Don't run the risk of surprising a university with your transcript.
- **Colleges also notice a drop-off in performance** so you need to maintain the types of grades you have earned in the past. If you earned a D+ or lower in any class, you obviously need to notify the schools to which you have applied so they aren't surprised by what they see on the final transcript. You never want to surprise a school with a D or F, and if you don't tell them, they may rescind the offer of admission when they discover the poor grade. If you have always earned A's and B's, you want to keep it that way. This is a very competitive time to be applying to college, and drifting down to C's is the type of thing that might make a school reconsider its offer of admission. Why slack off and risk problems?
- **To tell the UC about a drop or a grade below C**, you must notify the UC Application Center - ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net . Your email must include your name, UC Application ID number and your signature, and it will be shared with all the campuses to which you applied. For Cal States and private schools, you'll have to notify each individual school. Send an email so you have proof you notified them (For Cal State Fullerton use admission@fullerton.edu, for Cal Poly Pomona use admissions@cpp.edu,

for all other schools, look it up on your own). Don't worry about phrasing – just keep it short and sweet and to the point.

- **Midyear Reports are due for several private colleges.** Your GLC's are fully aware that midyear reports are due as soon as possible, and they will process those reports as soon as possible. While some universities have already told students that they want mid-year reports, they do also understand that those reports can only be sent after 7th semester grades have been finalized, and your application will not be delayed at all. Please keep in mind that UC and CSU campuses do NOT have a mid-year report. It is not necessary to send your grades to a UC or CSU unless you have received a request from a specific campus to do so. The request often shows up as something for your to-do list. If a UC or CSU does request a 7th semester transcript, it is your responsibility to send a transcript through Parchment via our website at http://dbhs.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=167814&type=d&pREC_ID=345011.
- **Different names on official documents** will cause all sorts of problems for you. The name on your DBHS transcript, the name on your college applications, and the name for your SAT/ACT accounts all need to match. If you have legal names in one place and nicknames in another, colleges will be confused and that's never good. See your GLC as soon as possible if you have any questions.
- **If you have been randomly selected for an audit by the UC or another institution, don't panic.** The key word is random – they really do select random applications and ask students to verify information. Of course, this is the reason it's very important to just tell the truth when reporting grades and extracurricular activities, but as long as you were honest, you have nothing to worry about. Just follow their instructions and make sure you respond to the UC by January 31st, as failure to do so “will result in cancellation of the application.” And of course if you weren't honest in your application, you're toast, and that's the way it should be.
- **If a university to which you have applied tells you to create an account with their portal or system, uh....** create an account with their portal or system! Every year, several seniors fail to sign up for the portal accounts universities have instructed them to create, and then they wonder why they aren't getting a lot of information from the schools! These accounts are how schools plan on communicating with you as far as application problems, updates, financial aid information, and miscellaneous announcements. If you don't sign up, who knows what you'll be missing! Do you see a recurring theme here? Don't surprise, confuse, or ignore a college you're trying to get into! And make sure you review the “To-Do List” for anything you're missing.

- **Early Decision and Early Action mean early results**, but unfortunately, it's not always the news you want to hear. For those of you who got into the school of your dreams, congratulations! For those of you who were denied, that's definitely a bummer, BUT don't get too down and please be realistic about the many other wonderful opportunities still available to you at other incredible institutions. For those of you who were deferred, remember that this means you are still in the running and still may get in!

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **The Mt. SAC Honors Program** provides a great opportunity to have smaller class sizes, work more closely with faculty and many of the most motivated students on campus, and strengthen your transfer application with a rigorous curriculum. All of these benefits improve your chances of transferring to the four-year school of your dreams. For more information, go to <https://www.mtsac.edu/honors/>.
- **The Fullerton College Honors Program** is another great opportunity and more information is available at <http://honors.fullcoll.edu/>. If attending Fullerton College (the community college, not CSU Fullerton) is even a possibility, you should consider provisionally applying. Being in the Honors Program provides registration benefits and a much higher transfer rate to the four-year school of your choice than non-honors students, and applying does NOT mean you are committed to attend.
- **Both programs, like honors programs at any school, come with many benefits**, but of course, you need to work very hard to earn these benefits. It's very difficult to give a minimal effort in senior year of high school and then flip a switch and act like an honors student the next year. This would be a good time to begin acting like an honors student.
- **January is the time MT.SAC will be visiting DBHS. On January 16th, MT. SAC will meet with all senior English classes to discuss the Connect 4 program.** All interested seniors will have the opportunity to sign up to be part of the Connect 4 program at that time. Listen for announcements and stop by the Career Center ASAP to see Ms. Romero for additional information. She can help you learn the steps for signing up and help you stay on track with upcoming workshops and assessment testing.
- **East San Gabriel Regional Occupation Program** is a good option for anyone A) interested in technical training for a career or B) trying to get more of their general education classes out of the way. Several of their classes transfer to the community college so if you're having trouble getting all of your breadth requirements taken care of

at Mt. SAC or Fullerton College, this might be another option. Look at www.esgvrop.org for more information.

FINANCIAL AID

- **FAFSA is open and has been since October 1st!** Go online as soon as possible to fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Don't wait until your parents' tax return is ready – you'll use the information from their 2017 tax return. Again, it's best to get your FAFSA filled out as early as possible, and the F in FAFSA stands for free, and if you're ever on a website that asks for you to pay them money, you're in the wrong place.
- **The financial aid package** each school offers you will vary, as discussed in the last bulletin, so you need to know the different types of aid available.
 - **Grants** – This is basically a gift from the school, money you don't have to pay back, which makes it the best available obviously. This is what we all hope for.
 - **Work Study** – This usually comes in the form of an on campus job. I still remember the good ol' days of driving the campus shuttle. My wife was an official note-taker for her classes. There are all sorts of way to help pay for school.
 - **Loans** – This is often the bulk of your financial aid package, and while it does help cover the cost, you will have to pay this money back. These loans are usually through private banks but at a relatively low rate. The government sometimes pays interest on the loan while the student is in school, and payments usually don't begin until 6 months after the student graduates. WARNING: These loans will be in the student's name and will be his or her responsibility, not their parents, when they graduate. Be careful about taking a loan, especially through a private company, and incurring more debt than you can handle upon graduation. *TIME* magazine recently referenced a student who graduated from NYU with \$169,934 worth of debt that will equal \$350,000 with the interest added in over the next 26 years – that's no way to get started.
- **Everyone should fill out the FAFSA, just in case.** I often hear parents and students say they don't plan on filling out the FAFSA because their families make too much money and won't qualify for financial aid. That could definitely be true, but situations change (e.g. having two kids in college at the same time vs. only one) and financial aid offers can as well. Additionally, filling out the FAFSA at the very least puts you in the

conversation for financial aid, and if someone has even a tiny chance of offering me money, I want them to know I'm interested. As the UC states, "Almost two-thirds of UC students qualify for some type of financial assistance."

- **Cal Grant GPA Verification Forms are now sent automatically!** The Cal Grant is "free money" to help you pay tuition and school fees for schools in California. We used to require students to fill out a form in the Guidance Office (I only bring this up in case parents or older siblings tell you to do this), but now DBHS does a mass load so all seniors automatically have already had their GPA information sent to Cal Grant. **Just make sure you fill out the FAFSA by 03/02/2019**, and if you qualify for a Cal Grant, colleges will include it in the financial aid package they offer you.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **CSU Fullerton President's Scholars Program** - As they say on their website, this is "much more than a scholarship." Participants in this program receive full tuition and fees, stipend for books and supplies, a laptop computer, priority registration for classes and housing, complimentary parking, and a variety of work, service, and leadership opportunities. Applicants must receive acceptance to CSUF, have a minimum weighted GPA of at least 3.75, "above average scores" on all sections of the SAT or ACT, and evidence of significant contributions to school and community service activities during high school. Apply for this and other CSUF scholarships at www.fullerton.edu/scholars - the application is open now and **closes February 22nd, 2019.**
- **Asian Pacific Fund Scholarship** – This foundation facilitates 13 scholarship programs ranging from \$1,000-\$20,000. For information about the different scholarships and how to apply, go to <http://asianpacificfund.org/what-we-do/scholarships/apply-for-scholarship/>. Application deadline is **February 26th, 2019.**
- **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** – This is open to African-American female students who will be attending a four-year institution in the fall, and because it's sponsored by the Pomona Valley chapter, it's only available for students living in certain cities, including Diamond Bar and Walnut. For more information and an application, go to <http://www.pvacdst.org/scholarships>. Applications must be RECEIVED by mail no later than **March 15th, 2019.**
- **Italian Catholic Federation** – \$400 awards for winners. Applicants must be Roman Catholic seniors of Italian descent with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2. This one is kind of cool because if you get it the first year, you're eligible to earn \$500 for your second year, \$600 for

your third year, and \$1000 for your fourth year of college – the gift that keeps on giving! For more information, visit their website at www.icf.org. Application deadline is **March 15th, 2019**.

- **Feliz Dia! Scholarship** – This \$500 scholarship is dedicated in loving memory to Ernesto Aparicio, “Hero and Dad” of Ms. Aparicio, one of our teachers here at DBHS. His kind, intelligent, loving example taught her many lessons and she has created this scholarship in his honor to help others achieve their dreams. For an application (which includes an essay about your personal hero) and more information, go to Ms. McCurry in the Guidance Office or Mr. Desmond’s office. Applications due to **Room 404 by 3:00 pm, February 1st, 2019**.
- **Los Angeles Black College Expo** – This scholarship is for juniors or seniors, but “Winners must attend the Black College Expo to receive their scholarship.” Speaking of which, the Black College Expo “highlights historically black colleges and universities plus other colleges/universities from across the country” and takes place at L.A. Convention Center on February 2nd, 2019. The due date for the scholarship hasn’t been updated, but last year it was due **Wednesday, January 17th, 2018**, a few weeks before the Expo, so you need to get moving. For more information about either the scholarship or the Expo, go to <https://www.thecollegeexpo.org/events/los-angeles>.
- **Ron Brown Scholars** – This is a huge \$40,000 scholarship (\$10,000 per year) for “young African Americans of outstanding promise.” In addition to the financial help, “scholars are also provided with the nurturing and mentorship to succeed and flourish in college and beyond.” For more information, go to <https://www.ronbrown.org/section/apply/program-description>. Applications are due **January 9th, 2019**.

