



# NACP Dolphin Alumni Network

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Check List

*You're almost there! These grades still count, so don't get lazy! Stay focused and end on a strong note. This is the BEST year for scholarships! You CAN do this!*

### *Fall (September – November)*

- Make sure you have your 'College Scholar' Folder organized!
- Complete the 'Free and Reduced Lunch form EVERY year.
- Update your profile on the [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) & add in your new grades
- Sign up for Hispanic Scholarship Fund ([www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)) if you qualify
- Sign up for scholarship search engines like:
  - Fastweb.com - [www.zinch.com](http://www.zinch.com) - [www.scholarships360.org](http://www.scholarships360.org)
  - Freetestprep.com (To prepare for the SAT's)
  
- Make an appointment to visit your **academic counselor** and introduce yourself:
  - Confirm that you satisfied your a-g UC/CSU requirements.
  - You can take general education (GE's) college courses at a community college WHILE in high school. This is called 'Concurrent' or 'Dual' enrollment. Ask if meet certain requirements (it's cheaper this way!).
  - **Sign up for the SAT and ACT.** Sign up for **FreeTestPrep.com** to practice vocabulary and math
  - Sign up for the fee waivers for the SAT/ACT
  - Sign up for the fee waivers for college applications through each college
  - Complete your 6 – 9 college applications; review personal statement
  - Choose 3 people whose judgment you trust to review your college applications.
  - Make sure your counselor sends your transcripts to colleges that require them
  - Apply to CSU & UC campuses between November 1 and November 30 and check the deadlines for private universities.
  - Check out [collegedata.com](http://collegedata.com) and [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) for college data
  
- Make an appointment to visit your **college/career counselor** and introduce yourself:
  - Have a College Office rep check your UC/CSU applications for accuracy. Print out and SAVE copies of ALL submitted applications.
  - **After** college apps are in, **APPLY** to as many scholarships as you can with GREAT essays! Don't get lazy! See it through to the finish!

- **Confirm** dates on college fairs, financial aid workshops, or college open houses.
- Be aware of all the extra expenses of senior year (prom, yearbook, senior photo, sports jackets, class rings etc). No need to get/do everything. You can wait till college for some of these things (like your class ring!).
- Do the 'pretend' FAFSA to see how much aid you would qualify for. This is the time to prepare financial questions for your college counselor.
- Complete EOP application (for minorities and low-income students) at [www.csumentor.com](http://www.csumentor.com). Deadlines vary by campus.

### ***Thanksgiving Break*** Thinking Session

- Register for Spring Community Courses (check deadlines in early November)
- Visit Taft High School's College Corner ([www.tafthigh.org](http://www.tafthigh.org)) and click through the valuable resources on the right hand side.
- Update your resume of activities and volunteer hours
- Use this time to apply for scholarships and/or get the essays or projects ready. Check deadlines and needed letters of recommendations.

### ***Winter (December)***

- Be aware that December is the last SAT/ACT testing date for the UC/CSU campuses (and in some cases it may be November for certain CSU's)
- Inform your parents that you will need a copy of their Income Tax Return to complete your FAFSA
- Get your 'pretend' FAFSA to see how much aid you would qualify for each school you applied to. The amount will change depending on the school and their financial aid layout.

### ***Winter Break***

- This is the final stretch of schooling and these months will fly by. Let 's get on those scholarships and apply to as many as possible. Be sure to meet with an advisor but also do essay drafts on your own time. At least 9-12 hours a week during this break! Stay focused!
- If you want to volunteer, do it! But writing scholarships should be a priority.
- Check out [secure.californiacolleges.edu](http://secure.californiacolleges.edu) and go to Financial Aid tab to compare awards and get more information

### ***Winter (January)***

- Register for a pin and submit your FAFSA shortly after January 1<sup>st</sup>, along with any other financial aid applications your school(s) of choice may require.
- Attend a FAFSA completion workshop if you need help filing. But DON'T delay! The longer you wait, the LESS money there is for YOU!
- Ensure that mid-year reports are completed by counselors for private schools
- Complete the CSS Profile for private universities (check websites for deadlines)

### ***Winter (February)***

- Submit your FAFSA shortly after January 1<sup>st</sup>, along with any other financial aid applications your school(s) of choice may require. Check on the CAL Grant form as well.
- Make necessary changes on the FAFSA by completing the Student Aid Report (SAR). If there are no changes, keep your SAR for your records.
- If you plan to attend Community College in the Fall, apply NOW and take the placement tests. See your college counselor for more information.

### ***Winter (March)***

- Last and FINAL due date for FAFSA and CAL Grant (NO exceptions!) is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Work hard all year on your academics! No Senioritis!! Second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility and admissions decisions.
- Email/Call all colleges you applied to before April 1 to make sure they have all financial data they need from you.
- If need be, update your FAFSA after taxes are filed (due by April 15) and resubmit it with your parent's tax info.

### ***Spring (April)***

- Review your college acceptances and compare the college financial aid packages. Turn in all forms requested by the college you plan to attend to ensure you are registered for classes, housing, financial aid and more!
- Submit an 'Intent to Register' to your chosen college by the deadline required (no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Check to see if your college has a pre-freshman summer program to help minorities get better acquainted with college life and classes!
- Submit housing forms. Be aware that if you are living in college housing (the dorms) you might need to submit money to hold your place (it could be \$400 or more or less). Be prepared for expenses like that.

- Visit the college campus where you have been accepted and plan to attend. Sign up for a tour and ask about looking at the dorms, if possible. It will help you know what to pack!
- Sign up for your college's orientation. Some take place late Spring/early summer and some right before classes start in the fall.
- Register for the ELM/EPT at a local CSU campus
- Register for the Entry Level Writing Requirement for UC's
- Register for the English and Math placement tests if you plan to attend Community College.
- Prepare for AP exams

### ***Spring (May)***

- Take AP exams and do your best. If your scores qualify, you can earn course credit at many colleges. Send your scores to the college you will attend in the fall.
- If you have been wait-listed for college entrance, contact the admissions director and express your continued interest in the school.
- Sign up for Summer Bridge Programs at CSU and community colleges
- Submit housing form for selected university
- Do a final review of financial aid reward letters
  
- ENJOY graduation, grad night and your last moments being a high school student. ☺

***YOU DID IT!***



### ***Summer (July – August)***

- Submit final transcripts to the college you will be attending
- Rest!
- There are many scholarships that you can still apply for throughout your undergraduate and graduate years. Just keep your fantastic essays and keep getting that free money for school!
- Let's graduate from college DEBT FREE!

***Updated 11/11/2014***