

PACIFIC GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS of 2027



SENIOR
SUCCESS
GUIDE

CONGRATS!

YOU'VE *(almost)* MADE IT!

This is the big year, Seniors.

College applications. Career decisions. Scholarships. Scouts.

You're going to be making bigger commitments than ever before.

You're going to be feeling more stressed than ever before.

You're going to be celebrated like never before.

And you shouldn't do **ANY** of it alone.

Seriously, don't.

You'll get calendars. You'll get guidelines. You'll get emails. You'll get resources.

USE THEM. USE US. ASK QUESTIONS. TAKE NOTES.
SET REMINDERS. PLAN YOUR DEADLINES IN ADVANCE.

We will give you everything you need to succeed. We're here to help.

Because it is definitely possible to achieve your dreams!

Last year, members of the PGHS Class of '26 committed to colleges like Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Cal Poly SLO, Brown, Georgia Tech, and over 25 other esteemed schools. They also received over \$150,000 in local scholarships, plus at least one full-ride tuition award and over 50 free 2-year awards to community colleges. They got internships and apprenticeships. They paved their paths forward, and it was our honor to help them succeed.

On the other hand, the most common cause of failure isn't your skills or abilities. It's simply missing deadlines or failing to take advantage of resources and opportunities.

Don't wait too late, because your future started yesterday.

This is your moment: **SHOW US HOW BRIGHTLY P.G. WILL SHINE!**

Proudly,

Your Senior Success Team

Got Questions? We've Got Answers!

Senior Class Advisors:

- Mrs. Gaona (lgaona@pgusd.org)
- Mrs. Selfridge (kselfridge@pgusd.org)

Senior Counselor:

- Mrs. Rice (mrice@pgusd.org)

Outreach Counselor:

- Ms. Cadigan (mcadigan@pgusd.org)

College, Career, Scholarships, & Community Service Support:

- Mr. Leatham (kleatham@pgusd.org)

Registrar: Grades & Transcripts:

- Ms. Biondi (jbiondi@pgusd.org)

ASB Student Store & Athletics:

- Mrs. Afifi (fafifi@pgusd.org)

Yearbook:

- Mrs. Selfridge (kselfridge@pgusd.org)

Senior Trip (Disneyland):

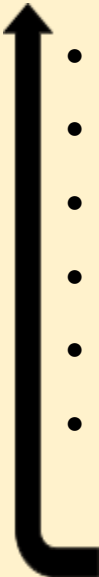
- Ms. Lukefahr (klukefahr@pgusd.org)

Digital Resources for Seniors

PGHS Website

- [Course Catalog](#) (includes college entrance requirements, A-G & NCAA course lists, Dual Enrollment + CTE requirements, & PGHS course descriptions)
- [College & Career Center](#) (includes dozens of resources for college, career, financial aid, AP/SAT/ACT testing, & so much more)
- [12th Grade Counseling Presentations \("Senior Shorts"\)](#)
- [Brag Sheet](#) (required for all letters of recommendation)
- [Parchment Transcript](#)
- [Scholarship Calendar](#) + Local Scholarship Application
- [Senior Class Information](#) (PGHS event-specific reminders & resources)
- [Class of '27](#) (Google Classroom, join-code: **sc6lexa**)
- [We Are PG](#) (Google Classroom, join-code: **hbyftie**)

CaliforniaColleges.edu (sign in with your PGHS Google account)

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- Search for schools
 - Search for majors
 - Search for careers
 - Assess yourself (skills, interests, values, personality)
 - Check your A-G completion status
 - Check your UC + CSU GPA status

LAUNCH ALL OF YOUR APPLICATIONS FROM THIS ACCOUNT: UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, & FINANCIAL AID!!!

Senior-Year Timeline Planning

FIRST QUARTER *(August 5 - October 9)*

- Begin applications for UC, CSU, & Common App
- Prepare FAFSA / CADAA information, request FSA ID, begin application
- Confirm Parchment transcript account
- Prepare Brag Sheet & request references/recommendation letters
- Submit cap-and-gown order for graduation
- Take final SAT or ACT exams

SECOND QUARTER *(October 12 - December 18)*

- CSU + UC application deadlines: November 30
- PGHS College Fair: October 27 (also Carmel HS College Fair in evening)
- Confirm any SAT / ACT superscores
- Complete full Community Service hours for Senior Trip registration

THIRD QUARTER *(January 5 - March 12)*

- Submit Local Scholarship application
- PGHS Service & Career Fair
- Attend Financial Aid + Cash 4 College workshops
- FAFSA / CADAA priority application deadlines: March 2
- Submit all graduation cord/stole applications

FOURTH QUARTER *(March 15 - May 28)*

- Confirm 4-year college commitment (SIR: Statement of Intent to Register) + pay all registration deposit fees
- Confirm Cal-Grant account/acceptance ([WebGrants4Students](#))
- Complete MPC application + education-plan workshops + submit Join the Pack permission form
- Senior Awards Night: May 18
- Complete any remaining Community Service hours
- Return or pay for all due/overdue/missing/damaged library materials
- Confirm all final transcripts, including Dual Enrollment transcripts shared with PGHS Registrar ([Ms. Biondi](#))
- Confirm all AP scores are sent to future college

Essential Application Dates & Deadlines

UC Application:

- <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/dates-and-deadlines.html>
- Application opens: **August 1, 2026**
- Submission deadline: **November 30, 2026**

CSU Application:

- <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/pages/application-dates-deadlines.aspx>
- Application opens: **August 1, 2026**
- Submission deadline: **November 30, 2026**

Common App:

- <https://membersupport.commonapp.org/s/article/Application-Deadlines-8730>
- <https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/article/When-is-the-deadline-for-my-application-submission>
- Application opens: **August 1, 2026**
- Submission deadlines vary by college

MPC Application:

- <https://www.mpc.edu/admissions-financial-aid/dates-and-deadlines.html>
- Application opens: March/April (TBD)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):

- <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/fafsa-deadlines>
- Submissions open: **October 1, 2026**
- Priority application deadline: **March 2, 2027**

CADAA (California Dream Act Application):

- <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/important-dates-and-deadlines>
- Submissions open: **October 1, 2026**
- Priority application deadline: **March 2, 2027**

Senior Checklist: Preparing for Graduation

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Community Service

1. To start your Senior Year with full privileges (open periods / off-campus access), you need at least **36 hours** of service confirmed by **August 7**.
2. To register (pre-pay) for the Senior Disneyland Trip, you must have at least **48 hours** completed.
3. To participate in the mandatory graduation rehearsals, you must have at least **48 hours** completed by **May 21**.
4. To graduate, you must have at least **48 hours** completed by **May 28**.
 - *I currently have _____ hours confirmed (check your "Total Service Learning Hours" on StudentVue and your Parchment transcript).*
 - *I still need to complete _____ hours of service to graduate.*

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Library Materials

1. To graduate, you must turn in **or pay for** all due, overdue, missing, and/or damaged library materials borrowed from PGHS (including textbooks, regular-circulation books, Chromebooks, calculators, cameras, etc.).
 - *I currently need to return or pay for the following library materials:*
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

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Transcripts

1. To receive credit for any Dual Enrollment courses (taken at PGHS or elsewhere), those classes need to be included on your PGHS transcript.
2. All "CCAP" Dual Enrollment courses taken at PGHS will be automatically included on your PGHS transcript.
3. All non-CCAP courses (taken online, at MPC, or from other community colleges) **must** have transcripts requested from that school and sent to Ms. Biondi (PGHS Registrar).
 - *I currently need to request Dual Enrollment transcripts from the following schools:*
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Budgeting Your Senior Year

One of the most frequent surprises of being a senior is how expensive it can get! Make sure to coordinate finances with your family to prepare a sustainable budget for the following needs:

PGHS Expenses:

- Senior Portrait: FREE for 5 photos/poses with Premier Studios at PGHS + \$25 optional upgrade for 12 photos/poses
- ASB Card: typically \$45
- Cap & Gown: typically around \$50 for basic package of cap + gown + tassel
- Yearbook: typically starting around \$85 for early-bird orders, but will rise to over \$100 by the end of the school year.
- Senior Events - Senior Breakfast - End of January or February (\$11.00 or free if the senior class can pay for it)
- Senior Trip (Disneyland): typically between \$400-450 (\$200 security deposit required with reservation in 2nd quarter, full payment due in 3rd quarter (or 45 days before the trip whichever comes first)
- Prom: tickets typically start around \$85 (plus wardrobe, vehicle, & dining expenses)
- Graduation Celebrations: varies (invitations, wardrobe, meals, parties)

College Applications & Admissions:

- UC Application: \$80 per campus (fee waivers available for up to 4 campuses for qualifying students based on family income)
- CSU Application: \$70 per campus (fee waivers available for up to 4 campuses for qualifying students based on family income)
- Common App: application fees vary by school, from \$0 to \$100+ (fee waivers and guidelines are [explained here](#))
- MPC (and most other community colleges): FREE application
- Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) commitment deposit: ranges from \$0-250 (depending on campus)
- Housing deposit: ranges from \$50-500 (depending on campus)

Standardized Testing:

- AP exams: \$90 per subject (\$53 reduced-fee available for students enrolled in the Free-and-Reduced Lunch program)
- SAT: \$68 (fee waivers are available)
- ACT: \$70 + additional fees for any add-on exam sections (fee waivers are available)



**NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP
OR TO SUBMIT A FINANCIAL-AID APPLICATION**

Focusing Your College Search

Figuring out where to go and what to do after high school can be a very difficult decision. It is often a stressful time for students and their families. One piece of advice is to research as much as possible. Some students have their hearts set on a specific school. There is nothing wrong with that... unless you are not accepted to that school! With careful research and thoughtful planning coupled with realistic expectations, your college search, applications, and commitment can be a positive experience. Here are a few things to consider as you start narrowing down your options:

Affiliation of Institution	What am I looking for? What am I open to? Public, Private, Vocational, 2-Year, 4-Year, Military, Technical, Liberal Arts, Religious, etc.?
Academic Reputation	What is the school's general reputation? Is it a good match for my skills and abilities? Would I be considered an average scholar in this student body?
Program or Major	Is my intended major or program of interest available? Is this pathway currently impacted? Am I allowed to add/drop majors at this school?
Academic Support Services	Are professors/instructors accessible? Do they offer office hours? Are support services such as tutoring available? What services would I need, and how should I advocate for myself?
Facilities & Resources	What types of additional opportunities would I benefit from? Science/tech labs, media labs, library/research facilities, artistic/performance venues, athletic/training facilities, etc.
Retention, Graduation, Placement Rates	What percentage of students return for their sophomore year? What is the graduation rate of entering students vs. transfer students? What percentage of students are placed in jobs in their field (especially for tech/vocational and specialty schools)?
Location	Do I want to stay local? Do I want to stay in CA? Am I open to moving out-of-state, or outside of the U.S.? Do I prefer living in a big city or a small town? Will I be required to live in an on-campus dorm, and for how many years? Will I need a car?
Finances	What can I realistically afford? What kinds of grants, loans, scholarships, and campus work-study jobs are available?
Campus Environment	What is the campus like? Is it dynamic and active? Is it a commuter school? Is there a diverse student population? How welcome and included will I feel? How safe will I feel?
Activities	What are this school's offerings for sports and intramurals, community/religious activities, social opportunities, Greek life, cultural activities, organized trips and events, etc.?

 Remember to use CaliforniaColleges.edu as your free and primary research resource for all 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities in the United States! 

SAT & ACT Information

Although the UC and CSU systems have “test-blind” applications (no SAT or ACT scores are required), many other colleges require or consider test scores as part of their holistic admission and placement decisions (especially private schools using the Common App). Students often take their first SAT or ACT exams in the spring of their junior year, and may retake them in the fall of their senior year to improve their scores.

SAT/ACT Fee Waivers are available to students eligible for the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP). If you have already submitted your paperwork for NSLP, please contact Ms. Cadigan at mcadigan@pgusd.org for a fee waiver to use with your SAT/ACT registration. Please note that the Common App, UC, and CSU applications all use the same eligibility criteria in the NSLP for application fee waivers. If you are eligible for the NSLP and have not completed the Free and Reduced Meal application, please ask your parent/guardian to submit the following secure form: <https://linqconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=5762A8>.

PGHS School Code: 052310
SAT code for all CSU campuses: 3594
SAT code for NCAA Eligibility: 9999

SAT: Fall 2026 Testing Dates:

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE / EDITED / CANCELED DEADLINE	SCORE RELEASE DATE
August 22	August 7	August 11	September 4
September 12	August 28	September 1	September 25
October 3	September 18	September 22	October 16
November 7	October 23	October 27	November 20
December 5	November 20	November 24	December 18

Register at <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat>
(Seats are typically available at Seaside High School)

ACT: Fall 2026 Testing Dates:

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE DEADLINE	SCORE RELEASE DATE
September 19	August 14	September 1	October 6
October 17	September 11	September 29	October 27
December 12	November 6	November 29	December 22

Register at <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>
(Seats are typically available in Cupertino & throughout the Central Coast / Bay Area)

Recommendation Letter Etiquette: How to Get the Results You Want

Letters of recommendation are a critical part of the college admissions process. Every school year, counselors and teachers collectively generate hundreds of letters for our students, and these numbers have risen significantly in the past few years. While we are always happy to help our students by writing a deserving letter on your behalf, please remember that time is an extremely important component for completing these letters. Please respect the following points as you approach your teachers and counselors for letters of recommendation:

1. **School Counselors are here to help.** However, there is only one Mrs. Rice and over 100 seniors every year who need letters from her. It is vital to develop a positive relationship, communicate regularly, and prepare all of your materials (like a Brag Sheet) in advance, and to always provide AMPLE notification of deadlines when making a request.
2. **Students are not entitled to letters of recommendation.** Writing recommendations falls outside the realm of teachers' professional responsibilities. Many teachers enjoy writing letters of recommendation, but students need to know that writing one letter can often take over an hour, taking away from both professional and personal activities. Be respectful and considerate of their time. Students are also not entitled to view a letter of recommendation submitted on their behalf: this is a system of honor and trust.
3. **Always, always, ALWAYS ask for a letter of recommendation in person.** Many teachers have been contacted by email, and some have had no personal contact with a student whatsoever. This is not acceptable. You must first ask in person, receive consent, and only then add the teacher as a recommender in your applications.
4. **All follow-up should also be done in person** (i.e., checking on due dates, providing necessary or requested information/materials).
5. **Provide all of the necessary information in a timely and organized manner.** Preparation is key: this includes organizing materials and preparing for deadlines.
6. **Ask sooner rather than later.** Please give teachers and counselors **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS'** notice before the deadline.
7. **A simple thank you note goes a long way.** Always remember to personally thank your teachers and counselors, in-person and/or with a simple note or email. The little things do matter.

Thank you for following and respecting these guidelines. By doing so, you will benefit from quality letters of recommendation by your teachers and counselors.

CRITICAL ACCOUNT DATA

*Keep your information from this section **private & safe**: protect it in your binder, or make a dedicated “accounts” section in Notes on your phone.*

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Social Security Number: _____ (9 #s)

Statewide Student Identifier (SSID): _____ (10 #s)

PGHS Student ID: _____ (6 #s)

PGHS School Email: _____

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Parchment (PGHS Transcripts)

- Email Address: _____
 - Password: _____
-

College Board

- Email Address: _____
 - Password: _____
-

CaliforniaColleges.edu (log in through your school Google account)

- Personal (Secondary) Email Address: _____
 - Password: _____
-

California Community Colleges (CCC Apply)

- Email Address: _____
- Password: _____
- CCC Apply Confirmation Number: _____
- CCCID: _____

MPC

- Student ID Number: M _ _ - _ _ - _ _
- Personal Email Address: _____
- MPC Email Address: _____@ mpc.edu
- LoboApps Username: It's the first half of your MPC email address
- LoboApps Password: _____

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UC Application

- Email Address: _____
- Password: _____
- UC App ID: _____

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CSU Application

- Email Address: _____
- Username: _____
- Password: _____
- CAS ID: _____

.....

Common App

- Email Address: _____
- Password: _____
- Common App ID: _____

.....

FAFSA

- Email Address: _____
- FSA ID Username: _____
- FSA ID Password: _____

.....

CADAA

- Email Address: _____
- Username: _____
- Password: _____
- DREAM ID: _____

.....

Cal-Grant (WebGrants4Students)

- Email Address: _____
 - Username: _____
 - Password: _____
-