

College News

January 2015

Important College Dates & Deadlines for Seniors:

- **Jan. 1, 2015:** Federal Financial Aid applications (FAFSA's) may only be submitted after this date. Paper forms will be available in the Counseling Office. However, the preferred method for submission is via internet through their website at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> Students should begin having mature conversations with their parent(s) about what they observe and hope for in their future. Make sure to address issues like college location and costs. If the cost of a college is a concern, parents & students should log onto one of the many websites that will help provide the family "EFC" (estimated family contribution). For more information about the Financial Aid processes go to our [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#) web page.
- **January 6, 2015 (6:30pm - 8pm) in the Pavilion.** Financial Aid Workshop for parents and students. To assist them in understanding the College Financial Aid process.
- **February:** Mid-Year transcripts must be sent to many colleges and universities as part of their application process. See the section below for more details.
- **Feb. 15, 2015:** Many private schools also require the CSS Profile to apply for privately endowed scholarships. It can be accessed at <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp> complete the CSS PROFILE before your earliest college or program priority filing date. At the very latest, you must submit your PROFILE Application by February 15.
- **March 2, 2015:** Deadline to submit the Cal Grant GPA verification form to apply. Click for more information: <http://www.oakparkusd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1080>
- **Mid-March, 2015** is when most UC and CSU schools begin notifying applicants of admission or denial. Berkeley and UCLA are the last to send notices (surprise, surprise)
- **Spring Break 2015:** Spring Break is the time to make final visits to schools that have made them offers of admission. This is also the month students will begin notifying schools of their decisions. Information about scheduling trips to UC & CSU campuses can be found at the following link on our website [UC Campus Events & Tours](#)
- **May 1, 2015: Commitment Deadline!** Students must formally confirm acceptance or declination of an offer of admission by this date.
- **May & June, 2015:** are critical months for seniors because last semester grades do count! Spring semester classes (that were listed on the student's admission application) that are dropped or not passed with at least a "C" may result in a college rescinding its offer. Most competitive universities expect seniors to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in the senior year



Ordering Mid-Year Transcripts for Colleges & Scholarships

Transcript Ordering Procedures:

- February is the month when most private/independent schools require students to send Mid-Year Grade reports (i.e. 7th semester transcripts).
- Schools that students applied to using the Common Application will typically require mid-year transcripts.
- Some CSU's (like CSUN & SDSU) may also request transcripts at this time if they are seeking supplemental information.
- For those schools that are requiring them you can begin pre-ordering them now.
- Many scholarships request transcripts as part of their application as well. The ordering process is the same.
- Once you commit to attend a school you will be asked to send a final (8th semester) transcript to that school. Again, the ordering process is the same.



NAVIANCE Check the "**colleges I'm applying to**" page in Naviance to determine what kind of document transmission format your school(s) prefer.



This is a Common App school and will require mid-year transcript. All transcripts will be transmitted electronically to these schools.



This is an electronic school. If they require a transcript or any other supporting documentation it can be transmitted electronically via Naviance eDocs.



This is not an electronic school. If they require a transcript or other supporting documentation it must be mailed via USPS. If your school or destination is not on the [Naviance eDocs Destinations](#) list then you may either provide a stamped pre-addressed envelope to the Registrar, or we will put the transcript in a sealed envelope for you to pick up and mail yourself. Please review the items at the bottom of the page for this option.

➡ For your non-Common App schools please check the following web link to view the list of destinations that accept Naviance eDocs electronic transmission of documents: [Naviance eDocs Destinations](#) If your school/destination is on this list make sure you have added it to your list of "active applications" in the "colleges" section of Naviance.

Note: you must still pay for electronically submitted transcripts. Please review the options below, and indicate which you prefer on the Transcript Request form.

➡ If this transcript is for the **NCAA** please make sure you list the NCAA on our Transcript Request form, and provide your clearinghouse registration number.

➡ **Transcript Fees - to be paid at the OPHS Student Store:**

\$2 for an unofficial transcript

\$5 for an official transcript – all current students & alumni (with 2 weeks' notice)

\$10 for an official transcript (with less than 2 weeks' notice)

\$20 for an official transcript (emergency requests ready within 48-72 hours)

Check the option(s) that apply to your transcript order.

____ I have reviewed the electronic transmission information above and understand that my transcript will be submitted electronically. Please indicate **(ED)** below next to the schools/NCAA destinations that will be sent electronically.

____ Hold in the Counseling Office for me to pick-up. I understand that I am responsible for picking up and mailing the transcript(s). Please indicate **(H)** below next to the schools/destinations that you want your transcript "held" for.

____ Please mail my transcript(s) and any other related documents in the pre-addressed, stamped envelope(s) I have provided to the OPHS Registrar. I understand that I am responsible for putting the correct mailing address and postage on the envelope(s). I will leave the return address blank on the envelopes I provide. Please indicate **(PA)** below next to the schools/destinations that you have provided pre-addressed, stamped envelopes for.

____ Give transcript(s) to my Counselor as part of my college/scholarship/summer program application(s). I have discussed this option with my Counselor. Please indicate **(C)** below next to the schools/destinations that you want given to your Counselor.

- **Please list all the schools, NCAA and/or other destinations you want transcripts for below.**
- **Make sure to include the corresponding code (ED, H, PA or C) for each item.**
- **For the NCAA please provide your Clearinghouse registration number.**

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

➡ Download/Print the form below, complete it and take it with you to the Student Store to pay for your transcripts.

➡ Seniors, for initial transcript orders this form is part of your required "Counselor's Meeting". Your counselor must review and sign-off on your transcript requests before you take the form to the Student Store to pay.



[Click Here to Print Transcript Request Form](#)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

➡ Something new on the Transcript order form this year is the completion of the "FERPA" waiver. In the past we simply asked students to complete this in Naviance, but the release of records authorization process has now been moved to the Common Application. Since many of our students will not be applying to colleges that use the Common Applications, or will be ordering transcripts for other purposes (i.e. scholarships, NCAA etc...), we will now be including the following release authorization language on all transcript order forms.

The questions you will see below relate to your educational records. The first pertains to the transmission of your educational records from your secondary school(s) to the colleges to which you are applying. The second concerns your right of access to confidential letters of recommendation. Under the terms of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), you can review recommendations and accompanying forms if you are age 18 or older or upon enrollment at a postsecondary institution provided that institution saves the documents. You may, however, waive this right of access altogether.

Why should you consider waiving your right of access? Waiving your right lets colleges know that you will never try to read your recommendations. That in turn reassures colleges that your recommenders have provided support that is candid and truthful. While you are free to respond as you wish, if you choose not to waive your right, some recommenders may decline your request, and some colleges may disregard recommendations submitted on your behalf.

After you make your selection about whether you want to waive your right of access, you will be able to invite your recommenders. Once you make the first invitation, you will not be able to change your waiver selection. To ensure that you fully understand the implications of your decision, we urge you not to answer the waiver question until you have consulted with your counselor, another school official, or your parent/legal guardian.

☐ I have fully read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above

☐ I authorize Oak Park High School to release all requested records and recommendations to colleges to which I am applying for admission. I also authorize employees at these colleges to confidentially contact my current and former schools should they have questions about the information submitted on my behalf

Please select one:

☐ I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf.

☐ I DO NOT waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf.

If you do not waive your right please check below:

☐ I have chosen not to waive my right to review my recommendations and supporting documents. I understand that my decision may lead my counselors or teachers to decline to write recommendations on my behalf. I also understand that my decision may lead colleges to disregard any recommendations submitted on my behalf.

Mandatory:

☐ I understand that my waiver or no waiver selection above pertains to all colleges, scholarships, NCAA or other entities to which I am applying.



For questions please email our Registrar, Pat Ramirez at: pramirez@oakparkusd.org



Or, via telephone at: 818-735-3310