

SENIOR SCOOP

JANUARY, 2012

→ DATES TO REMEMBER ←

January 1	Begin submitting FAFSA forms
January 26	ASVAB at 7:30 a.m. in AHS Library
February 1	Local Scholarship Applications become available on line
February 1	Cash for College Workshop-3:00 to 8:00 p.m.-Paso Robles HS Computer Lab / Library
February 7	Cash for College Workshop-5:00 to 8:00 Cuesta College (SLO) High Tech Center, Building #3400
March 2	Deadline to mail or submit on line FAFSA forms
March 2	Cal Poly and Cuesta Scholarship Deadline
March 10	Cuesta Assessment at SLO Campus A-K 9:00 a.m. and L-Z 11:00 a.m.
May 23	Cuesta Orientation Workshops @ Cuesta College
June 20	Priority Cuesta Registration for Fall 2012

A.S.V.A.B. TEST

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (A.S.V.A.B.) will be given in the high school library on **Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.** Sign up in the Counseling Office as soon as possible. There is only room for approximately 100 students to take the A.S.V.A.B. There is no fee or military obligation to take advantage of this great opportunity for self-assessment.

Cuesta College Timeline

Important Dates

- January - Apply to Cuesta College at www.cccapply.org
- January – Cuesta Application workshops @ AHS
- March 10 – Assessment testing at Cuesta College SLO Campus
 - Must Bring with you a Picture ID and your SSN or SID#
 - Math – untimed (progressive computerized exam)
 - English – 2 essay prompts to choose from, 50 minutes to write
- April 15th through May 15th: Complete online Orientation and PRINT Final Page
- May 23 – Cuesta College Orientation
- June 20th – Priority registration begins for incoming SLO Freshman

How to Prepare for Assessments

- Accuplacer: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/preparation-sample.html> (Sample Accuplacer Test Questions)
- Plato Software: <http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/as/1PLATO.HTM> (academic support lab, San Luis Obispo Campus Bldg 3300)
- Khan Academy: www.khanacademy.org (Watch. Practice. Learn almost anything for free. Has a math playlist at the bottom of the homepage).
- Test Prep Review: <http://www.testprepreview.com> (free online Practice Tests)

English Language Learning Students

- AB540 Student Information
 - Eligible for Fall 2012 Scholarships & Board of Governors (BOG) Waiver
- English Assessment Test
 - Can take the English Assessment in the ESL Office. Call to make an appt. (805) 591-6209
- 3/30/12 – Education Si Se Puede Conference
 - Contact Estella Vazquez for more information (805) 546-3941

Educational Opportunity Program (EOPS)

- The Educational Opportunity Program is designed to improve access and retention of historically low-income and educationally disadvantaged students.
- EOP students have the potential and demonstrated motivation to perform satisfactorily in college, but they have not been able to realize their potential because of their economic or educational background.
- The program provides **admission and academic assistance to EOP-eligible undergraduate students. In many cases, the program offers financial assistance to eligible students.**
- **Contact the EOPS Office at Cuesta for more information at (805) 546-3144 SLO Campus or 805-591-6214 NC Campus.**

OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEGES - If you are interested in attending a community college other than Cuesta, you will need to check with that college directly to find out when its application is due, assessment dates, orientation, etc. Access information on community colleges at www.cccco.edu or www.californiacolleges.edu and sign in under "Prospective Students."

REQUESTS FOR COUNSELOR/TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND EVALUATIONS FOR COLLEGES OR SCHOLARSHIPS

Any recommendations, evaluations, or student academic record forms that require counselor or teacher input must be submitted to your counselor or your teacher of choice, at least **two weeks** before the deadline for sending. Failure to give these forms to the designated person two weeks prior to the sending date may result in rejection of your request.

Recommendations are **not** needed for Community College admission.

HINT: Give the forms to the counselor or teacher as soon as you receive them. Also, **submit your personal senior profile with each request.**

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

In compliance with the Military Selective Service Act, young men over the age of 18 years old are responsible to register with Selective Service. The registration process is simple. Go to any United States Post Office and fill out a form by providing your name, address, date of birth, telephone number, and Social Security number. You may also register online at www.sss.gov. Your only other duty is to update any of this information if it should change. Penalties for not complying with the Military Selective Service Act can be a fine up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison. Don't delay. Register as soon as possible after your 18th birthday to avoid problems. Remember, you must be registered in order to be eligible for financial aid.

CASH FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOPS

Paso Robles High School will host a *bilingual Cash For College Night* on February 1st in the Library/Computer Lab from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Cuesta College will be hosting a *bilingual Cash For College Night* at the SLO campus on February 7th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Room 3400. **Both are bilingual.**

High school seniors who participate in Cash for College Workshops will be considered for a **\$1,000 bonus** scholarship.

WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Any student who wishes to attend a trade or technical school, community college, four-year public or private university should consider applying for financial aid. There are no fees to apply for financial aid, so you have nothing to lose--only lots of available money to gain.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

In its simplest definition, financial aid is money that helps a student pay the cost of education by filling the gap between a family's contribution and the student's yearly academic expenses. Aid is available in these forms:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>GRANTS:</u> | Grants are awards based on financial need and have no requirement of repayment. |
| <u>SCHOLARSHIPS:</u> | This gift aid is money awarded for achievement skills, talents, and/or financial need. It does not require repayment. |
| <u>LOANS:</u> | Loans are awards that must be repaid with interest. |
| <u>WORK STUDY:</u> | This aid is in the form of part-time jobs that could be related to interests, skills and/or majors. |

STUDENTS NEED TO LEARN THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY #

It will be used for financial aid and college identification

Use your legal name on all applications and financial aid documents

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

FEDERAL GRANTS

Basic Education Opportunity Grant (PELL Grant)

The Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (PELL), funded by the Federal government, is based on exceptional need and is available only to students who have not received a bachelor's degree. Students need to apply for PELL through the FAFSA application. Awards range from approximately \$400 to \$5,550 for full time students. Those who qualify for a PELL Grant are usually eligible for other financial aid and should apply for it.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Colleges award these grants of between \$100 and \$4,000 per year to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need, with priority given to Pell Grant recipients. Funding for this program is limited. These grants do not need to be repaid.

Educational Opportunity Program Grants (EOP)

These grants are awarded to students who have been selected for college or university Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Eligibility for state EOP grants is based on a demonstrated financial eligibility, in addition to the student's admission to the university through the EOP program. Often a separate application is required.

Check with each university to which you apply to see if a separate application is necessary.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GRANTS

The Cal Grant Program is the statewide, state-funded, educational opportunity program focused on assisting students in paying for a post-secondary education. Legislation guarantees Cal Grants to every student who meets financial need, grade point average, and general eligibility requirements. There is no charge to apply for a state-sponsored Cal Grant A, B, or C. Follow the instructions and complete the appropriate sections on the FAFSA form. Do **not** file before January 1. The need analysis service will forward your processed application to the Student Aid Commission. Funding for certain California state aid programs may be reduced or eliminated as a result of recent state budget shortfalls. To learn more go to www.csac.ca.gov or call 1-888-CAGRANT.

To be considered for a Cal Grant, students must complete a FAFSA (either paper or on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov) and a GPA Verification Form (will be filed by AHS if we have the student social security number on file) and file them by the March , 2012 deadline (check private schools individually as dates may vary). The Student Aid Commission makes Cal Grant award notifications beginning in the spring. Check with the financial aid office.

Cal Grant A

Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards require a 3.0 GPA and provide grant funds to help cover tuition and fee costs for low and middle-income students to attend four-year colleges and universities. Awards went up to approximately \$9,708 at independent schools and colleges, \$10,302 at the University of California, and \$4,430.00 at the California State University.

Cal Grant B

Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards require a 2.0 GPA and initially provide grant funds up to \$1,551 to low-income students to cover general expenses at both community colleges and four-year colleges. Beginning in their second year in college, Cal Grant B students attending four-year colleges also receive grant funds to help cover tuition and fee costs.

Cal Grant C

Cal Grant C helps vocational school students with tuition and training costs. Awards ranged up to \$3,168 for tuition and \$576 for training related costs, such as special clothing, tools, equipment, books, supplies, and transportation. Recipients must be enrolled in a vocational program at a community college, independent college, or vocational school, and in a course of study from four months to two years in length. An additional form (Cal C Supplement) must be filled out.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of scholarships are available through the applicant's university. Scholarships are awarded competitively on the basis of academic performance, financial need, or a unique ability. A separate application is usually required. For information and a list of scholarships offered, contact the Financial Aid Office at the college or university of choice. Deadlines vary so check as soon as possible. Check the bulletin board in Counseling for additional scholarship opportunities.

Local scholarship packets will be available the 1st week of February and will be due March 12, 2012. Cuesta scholarship information is posted on the Cuesta website under financial aid. They're due March , 2012.

LOAN PROGRAMS

Perkins Loans (formerly National Direct Student Loans)

Regularly enrolled students (at least half time) at a university are eligible to apply for the Perkins Loan to help meet their educational expenses. For new borrowers the loan is a 5% simple interest loan; the repayment cycle will begin nine months after a student ceases to carry at least a half-time workload. An undergraduate student may borrow up to \$5,500 annually toward a bachelor's degree. Loans are awarded to students with exceptional financial need.

Stafford Student Loans

This is a long term, low interest loan program made available by banks and other lending institutions upon recommendation by the Student Aid Office. The Stafford Student Loan program is primarily designed for the middle income student and financial need is a requirement to be eligible for this program. The interest rate for loans made to new borrowers is fixed at 6.8% (disbursed after July 1, 2009). The in-school interest rate is 6% and the rate during repayment is 6.81%. Repayment and interest are deferred until six months after the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time. (Interest rates are subject to change)

Students may qualify for two types of Stafford Loans. For a subsidized Stafford Loan the government pays the interest while the student is in college. For the unsubsidized Stafford Loan the interest accrues from the first day the loan is disbursed.

Undergraduate dependent students may borrow up to \$5,500 for the first year, 2nd year \$6,500, thereafter up to \$7,500 annually through the fifth year. A separate loan application is required for this program. Contact the University Financial Aid Officer before submitting the application.

Parent Loans for Students (PLUS)

The PLUS program is available to parents of dependent students and has a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. It is designed for middle-income families. There is no grace period and repayment usually begins within 60 days after final disbursement. PLUS loans are made by banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions.

WORK STUDY PROGRAMS

The College Work Study Program provides part-time employment opportunities for students. Students are placed in jobs according to their background, skills, and areas of study. Positions under this program are available on campus and with non-profit agencies off campus. The types of jobs available may include clerical assistance, readers, teaching assistants, administrative aids, and professional internships.

STUDENT ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT

This listing of part-time jobs on campus is available in the Financial Aid Office of each campus. Off campus part-time employment lists are available. Placement in these positions is not based on a demonstrated financial eligibility.

Private School Financial Aid – Please be sure and check each private schools financial aid deadlines. They are listed on each school's website. The CSS profile or the schools supplemental form is needed.

**IMPORTANT: FINANCIAL AID
INSTRUCTIONS**

***Word of warning-**There is currently a misleading website @www.fasfa.com. It offers financial aid to students for a fee of \$79.99. You should **never** have to “pay” money to receive financial aid!!

The **correct website is spelled f-a-f-s-a**; not f-a-s-f-a!!!

1. **Apply for a Pin #:** Go to www.fafsa.gov. At the top of the page click on pin site. Both the student and one parent must apply for a PIN if you wish to sign your application electronically.
2. **Students/Parents:** Begin work on the FAFSA. The form does not have to be filled out in one setting.
3. It is now preferred to submit FAFSA forms "on-line" at www.fafsa.gov. **This is the preferred method.** A pin number is required for both student and parent. It takes awhile to receive, so apply now (www.pin.ed.gov).
4. If you have problems filling out your FAFSA form, bring your questions and your FAFSA form with you to your counselor at lunch.
5. **Do NOT file FAFSA forms before January 1, 2012.**
6. Depending on the school you are applying for, you may need other forms to fill out, such as the Profile (<http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>). Make sure to check with each school as to exactly which forms they require.
7. Save a copy of the entire application (whether on-line or on paper) and save for your records. Print out signature page and mail in if you submit application electronically. This is not necessary if you and your parents have a pin number.
8. **Send FAFSA no later than March 2, 2012**, or earlier if directed to do so by private universities. If you complete a paper FAFSA and mail it by March 2, 2012 get a certificate of mailing from the post office. The sooner the forms are submitted, the better the financial aid package you may receive.
9. State PELL Grant and Cal Grant awards are given based on financial need and student GPA. GPA verification will be sent to the Student Aid Commission electronically for all seniors who have a social security number on record at the high school. In order to qualify for these state grants a FAFSA form must also be submitted.

Remember: Everyone should file a FAFSA form. Community colleges, trade schools, universities, and colleges all cost money and financial assistance is available for approximately 70 percent of the students attending. The FAFSA is the means used to establish parent expected contribution, student expected contribution, and financial need. Everyone should apply as each family is in a different situation and even students that do not qualify for the PELL grant or the Cal Grant Program might be eligible for other programs at the school they attend. If you have any questions regarding financial aid, or the workshop, please contact your counselor.

HEALTHY FAMILIES – If you are not covered by medical insurance, the counseling office has information on Healthy Families / Medi-Cal for children.

High School Seniors

On-line application process has two parts to the process

First you create an account for a “new user”

Second you apply to Cuesta

- Click www.cccapply.org
- Click *Apply for Admissions*
- Click *Regular Application for Admission*

FIRST STEP

- Click *New User*
- Create a “*student account*” using your personal information (don’t forget to *write down* your *user name* and *password*)
- Click *Create My Account* at the bottom of the page
- Click *Continue* on next page

SECOND STEP

- Click *Go To Online Application*
- Select **Cuesta College** and click *Start New Application*
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click *Begin Application for Cuesta College*

Complete the **9 screen** application process and **remember to SAVE** each time you move to another screen

- ✓ Screen 1: Term and Major
 - Term Applying for: Click *Fall 2012 Semester*
 - Intended major or program of study: Click **whatever major fits your goal**
 - Education goal: Click on your plan
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 2: Personal Information
 - Fill out: *Student Name (use your legal name), Social Security Number (this is optional but highly recommended), Date of Birth, Marital Status, and Biographical Information* sections
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 3: Contact Information
 - Fill out: *Current Mailing Address, Permanent Address, and Additional Contact Information* sections
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 4: Education
 - Entry Level: Enrollment Status: Click *First Time Student in college (after leaving high school)*
 - Entry Level: Highest education level: Click *Received High School Diploma* and fill in graduation date **06/13/12**
 - California HS Attendance: click **YES**
 - Attended high school 3 more years: Click **YES**
 - Last High School Attended: Click *Find School*, scroll to *Atascadero High School*, Click *Select School*
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 5: Residency 1
 - Fill out: *Citizenship (if you are no documented, put “other” for the citizenship question), Military Status* (put “**none apply to me**” if not in military), and *Self or Guardian* sections
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 6: Residency 2
 - Fill out: *California Residing During Last 2 Years* section
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 7: Needs & Interest
 - Fill out: *Main Language, Financial Assistance, Needs & Interest* sections
 - Check **ALL** areas you are interested in “*Needs & Interest*” section
 - Click **SAVE and continue**
- ✓ Screen 8: Request for Consent
 - Fill out: *Request for Consent to Release Information*
- ✓ Screen 9: Supplemental Questions
 - Click **SUBMIT YOUR CURRENT APPLICATION**
 - *Another screen will appear to finalize the submitting of your application – scroll down and click **SUBMIT** on this page*

You will receive a Letter of Welcome within a few days.

KEEP YOUR LETTER OF WELCOME IN A SAFE PLACE ALONG WITH YOUR PASSWORDS!!