



# College & Career Center Senior Newsletter January/February 2007

**Santa Monica High School, *Home of the Vikings!***

## **Who should apply for Financial aid?**

**EVERYONE!** The application is **FREE!** If your family's income is too high, you may not receive need-based aid, but you could still qualify for scholarships, grants and low-interest student loans as well as work study.

Paper applications for the **FAFSA** which stands for **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**—are available in the College & Career Center now. However, the preferred mode is applying on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Benefits to applying on-line are simple—fewer errors are made and the financial aid is processed faster than paper applications. Students and parents can go on-line now to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and get a PIN (Personal Identification Number) to begin the process for applying for financial aid.

**The application filing period for the FAFSA is January 1, 2007-March 2, 2007.**

**Ms. Harvey (A-K)  
Ms. Carrillo (L-Z)**

Samohi Scholarship Applications due to the College Center:  
*March 1, 2007*

Financial aid packages come in the spring before students are required to submit their “letter of intent” to enroll in a specific school. This way students and their families can look over the different financial aid packages between the schools and choose the one that works best with their financial situation.

There are numerous scholarships and grants available—at the national, state and local levels; this is money students *never* have to pay back. Last year's seniors earned over \$6 million dollars in scholarships and grants, money they never have to pay back.

Furthermore, The College & Career Center produces a monthly scholarship bulletin notifying seniors of upcoming scholarships and the due dates. In addition, we also have scholarship booklets available for our local scholarships due March 1. Look for our new booklets in January.

Seniors—we need your Social Security Numbers to submit your GPA for the Cal Grants to the State of California. If you have a 2.0 GPA or higher and have financial need, you could be eligible for up to \$9800/year for college.

See Ms. Flores in the College Center and give her your SSN to put into our database before 1/26/2007.

## Upcoming Financial Aid Workshops

**Financial Aid Workshop #1**  
January 16, 2007 @ 7 p.m.  
Samohi Student Cafeteria

**Financial Aid Workshop #2**  
February 20, 2007 @ 7 p.m.  
Samohi Student Cafeteria

**Cash for College**  
February 10, 2007 @ 9 a.m.  
Mortensen Library

The above workshops are geared toward seniors and their parents regarding the financial aid process including how to apply, deadlines, specific questions about the FAFSA and what must be reported. It is helpful to have 2006 taxes/1040 forms or an estimate of taxes, earned income, also helpful to go over the FAFSA to be prepared to ask questions. Please take advantage of these opportunities!

Access FAFSA on the web:  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Register for a pin at:  
[www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

## Cal Grant—Free Money for College

For those students choosing to attend institutions of higher learning in California may qualify for up to \$9,800 in grant money if your family has financial need! The Cal Grant Program was developed by Governor Davis to encourage California residents with a 2.0 or higher grade point average to further their education beyond high school; the funding includes all 2 year, 4 year, trade schools, public and private institutions.

Samohi submits the **Grade Point Average Verifications** *electronically* to the government in California. **In order for you to be eligible for the Cal Grants, we must have your social security number on file in our college data base!**

*If you did not fill out your social security number on our college information sheet during registration, come into the College Center now and see Mrs. Flores!*

***Deadline to turn in your SSN is Friday, January 26, 2007!***

## Santa Monica College Outreach—Application Process

For those students interested in attending Santa Monica College for Summer or Fall 2007, we encourage students to sign up for the 2-step application process:

**Step 1: Application Workshop**  
**Step 2: Assessment**

Students must sign up in the College & Career Center with Ms. Flores for the Application Workshop which is scheduled for January 11, 2007.

After the Application Workshop, students are expected to take the assessment exams for math and English placement which will be held during Samohi's semester break—Monday, January 29, 2007.

Save those dates! 1/11 & 1/29!

Students must be at the Application Workshop first in order to come to assessment day scheduled for 1/29/2007!

Immediately after the assessment, students will meet with an SMC counselor to discuss their results and class placement. Save your spot today...space is limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

## Prepare for the midyear! Due date is Friday January 19, 2007!

Students who have spent their time toiling over all those private college applications and essays have another important task at hand. The College Center requires students to turn in a business size envelope with one stamp, the school address, Samohi's return address, student name and number—see sample to the immediate right.

Santa Monica High School  
601 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

39 cents

University of Santa Monica  
123 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA 12345

Mid-Year report:  
Smith, Susie 943123

## Need Help Paying for that Private College Tuition?

Remember to fill out the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE! Many private institutions require this in addition to the FAFSA to come up with a financial aid package to attract students to their schools. The PROFILE is a service of the College Board which connects colleges, universities, professional schools and scholarship programs use the information on the PROFILE to help these institutions award non federal student aid funds. By completing the PROFILE, you provide the colleges with a complete picture of your family's financial circumstances.

To register for the PROFILE go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

- Click on CSS/PROFILE under "Pay for College"
- Click on 2007-08 PROFILE
- Begin filling out the form and submit when finished

All students are charged a \$5 non-refundable fee— each school you wish to send your PROFILE to is an additional \$18.

***For additional information or to pick up a pamphlet, come to the College & Career Center!***