

CDO COUNSELING

4 YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING BY QUARTER

Historically, approximately 80% of our graduating seniors will attend a higher education institution. CDO Counseling created the CDO 4 Year College Planning Guide to assist our Dorados in becoming the most appealing candidate for their dream schools. By dividing each school year into 4 quarters, we provide two actionable suggestions per quarter to help stay on track for college admissions.

The CDO 4 year College Planning Guide is a resource for our college bound students. This is not a checklist. There are many things that students should consider than what is listed. While we comprehensively understand that every individual student processes and progresses through CDO differently, we hope that the CDO 4 Year College Planning Guide offers reassurance in a time of potential uncertainty.

We encourage every student to schedule an appointment with their counselor at least once per semester. With the confidence and support of CDO counselors, administrators, teachers and parents, the goal is to equip our students with the knowledge of how to become the most successful version of themselves.

~ CDO Counseling Team

DID YOU KNOW?

Merit based tuition scholarships from ASU, NAU & UofA are based on only UNWEIGHTED semester grades in English, Math, Science and Social Studies from 9th through 11th grades!

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." - Benjamin Franklin



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CDO 4 Year College Planning Guide

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YOUR FRESHMAN GRADES MATTER!!!

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." - Sydney Harris

- You're in high school now! Enjoy it! Attend athletic events, dances, musical and theater performances and make new friends!
- Develop routines to build your academic and time management skills. Freshman grades are vital for college admissions!

1 AUGUST - OCTOBER

- Explore clubs, activities, sports and community service opportunities to meet new people and get involved at school!
- Schedule an appointment with your counselor to create a 4-year plan to best prepare for college admissions.

2 OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- Ask your teachers, family, friends and counselor about which classes to select for your Sophomore year. Consider AP/Honors classes that are appropriate for you.
- Self-advocate for academic assistance with your teachers. Use advisory and tutorial opportunities for success!

3 JANUARY-MARCH

- Utilize MajorClarity or ask your parents, guardians, teachers, friends for help with starting a resume that includes your activities and awards.
- Attend a college visit in the Counseling Office and start exploring college websites to better understand how to navigate them.

4 MARCH-MAY



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FRESHMEN

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YOUR SOPHOMORE GRADES MATTER!!!

- Review your Freshman year, see where and how you want to improve - academically, mentally and socially. Make a plan to make it happen!
- Attend College Fairs at CDO and around Tucson to learn about as many college opportunities as possible.

① AUGUST - OCTOBER

- Push yourself to expand your capabilities. Meet with your counselor to try a new club, sport or activity and to review your 4 year plan.
- Use your problem-solving skills and advocate for academic assistance from your teachers to build up your grit.

② OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- Ask your teachers, family, friends and counselor about Junior year classes. Consider AP/IB/Honors classes such as Honors Seminar!
- Earn community services hours on a regular basis for an organization you are proud to represent.

③ JANUARY-MARCH

- Explore college, community and the CDO Counseling websites for summer camp, internship and/or research opportunities in fields of study that interest you.
- Update your resume with your GPA, community involvement, activities and awards.

④ MARCH-MAY

"Never believe anyone who tells you that you don't deserve what you want." - Taylor Swift



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SOPHOMORES

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YOUR JUNIOR GRADES MATTER!!

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

- Review your Sophomore year, see where and how you want to improve - academically, mentally and socially. Let's goooo!
- While many colleges are test-optional, the PSAT, ACT and SAT are still beneficial for college admissions and scholarship opportunities.

1 AUGUST - OCTOBER

- Work with your family and counselor to create a list of potential colleges based on location, affordability, personal fit, majors offered, etc.
- Attend College Fairs and attend college visits at CDO to learn about as many opportunities as possible.

2 OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- Ask your teachers, families, friends and counselor about Senior year classes such as Honors Capstone.
- Create a list of 6-9 colleges and categorize them as "REACH," "TARGET," or "LIKELY" for acceptance.

3 JANUARY-MARCH

- Schedule a multi-college visit tour (in-person and virtually) for the summer and review their application deadlines.
- Request Letters of Recommendation from teachers, counselors, community members and employers. Find the request form on the CDO Counseling website.

4 MARCH-MAY



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JUNIORS

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4 YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING BY QUARTER

YOUR SENIOR GRADES MATTER!!!

- Ask teachers, family, friends, counselors, etc. to review your personal statement, short answer responses and resume.
- Submit your college applications - be aware of Early Decision, Early Action and Regular Decision deadlines.

1 AUGUST - OCTOBER

- Update your resume with your job(s), GPA, community involvement, interests, activities and awards.
- Check your email and college portals daily to stay updated with communication and deadlines.

3 JANUARY-MARCH

- Complete the FAFSA application as soon as possible after the October 1st launch. You can list up to 10 colleges that you're considering.
- Apply for scholarships listed on the CDO Counseling website and schedule a counselor appointment to find more!

2 OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- Review offers of college acceptances and financial aid/scholarship awards with family, teachers and your counselor.
- MAY 1st = National Decision Day! Congratulations! Submit your deposits for enrollment and housing. Celebrate in the Counseling office with cake!

4 MARCH-MAY

"If you're happy doing what you're doing then nobody can tell you you're not successful." - Harry Styles



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SENIORS