



Palo Alto Senior High School

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Dr. Jacqueline McEvoy
Principal

THE "CONTRACT"

FAMILY DISCUSSIONS AND COLLEGE DECISIONS

It is the responsibility of each Paly family to have a comprehensive discussion of post-high school plans before the end of junior year. This family conversation should set parameters that will help the student make realistic choices.

If your junior decides to go to college, he/she should first consider which factors are important in a college. We consider applications to no more than six to ten colleges (all University of California campuses considered as one, as are all California State University campuses), carefully selected to cover the range from "reach" school to "safety" back-up, to be sufficient. Limiting the number of applications will allow students to do their very best work on each one. A reasonable number will also help students, parents, and the school staff to reduce the time, fees, essays, and extensive paperwork required for each private and out-of-state public application.

In an effort to ensure that each family meets this responsibility before applying to colleges, all parents and students should review the topics listed below, sign this "contract," and return it to the Teacher Advisor.

- family finances: Can your family afford the colleges or plans your student is considering? (See opposite side for representative costs for 2006-07 or 2007-08.)
For which college features is your family willing to pay?
What will your student be asked to contribute?
- geographical restrictions
- public universities? private colleges?
- special requirements: e.g., field of study, athletics, religion, support services
- social environment: e.g., diversity, school spirit
- academic environment: e.g., opportunities in major, pressure, student-teacher ratio

The Teacher Advisors and guidance staff at Paly have begun giving college application materials to the Class of 2008. Included are Senior Profile forms which must be completed by students and parents to assist Teacher Advisors in writing college recommendations. In the fall we will provide descriptions of the procedures and processes we use and the deadlines to which students must adhere. If there are conflicting instructions from other sources such as colleges or independent counselors/consultants, students should contact the Guidance Office or their Teacher Advisors for clarification.

This signed paper and all completed Senior Profile forms must be returned before we can process those college application forms that require a Teacher Advisor's recommendation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

We have discussed the topics listed above in order to establish limits and to make informed decisions about college applications.

Student Name (please print)

Date

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

REPRESENTATIVE COLLEGE COSTS

As reported on each college website for the academic year indicated. Except for Foothill, the costs assume living on campus.

Princeton, 2006-07:	private	\$45,500 (excludes transportation)
Stanford, 2007-08:	private	\$49,363 (excludes transportation)
Emory, 2006-07:	private	\$44,844
Lewis and Clark, 2006-07:	private	\$39,448 (excludes transportation)
Santa Clara, 2007-08:	private	\$46,263 (excludes transportation)
U. of Colorado, 2006-07:	public	\$38,083
U. of Oregon, 2006-07:	public	\$29,343 (excludes transportation)
U.C. San Diego, 2006-07:*	public	\$21,279
Cal Poly SLO, 2006-07:*	public	\$17,043
Foothill College, 2006-07:	public, 2-yr.	\$9,003 (living at home)

*estimated

Figures include tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and other costs and personal expenses unless indicated otherwise.