



**AMBASSADOR**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# COLLEGE PLANNING HANDBOOK

## **Ambassador Christian High School**

Counseling Department

2300 Crenshaw Blvd, Building B

Torrance, CA 90501

Phone (310) 356-0950

Fax (310) 618-8985

[www.ambassadorhigh.org](http://www.ambassadorhigh.org)

CEEB School Code: 054687

# **About Ambassador Christian School**

## **Mission Statement**

We provide a rigorous education from a Biblical worldview through excellence in Student Leadership, Academics, Athletics, and the Arts.

## **Statement of Policy**

The policies and procedures contained in the handbook are designed to maximize the educational experience of the student, provide guidelines for acceptable conduct, and establish academic standards and procedures. The policies and procedures contained in the handbook are subject to periodic modification by Ambassador Christian School.

## **Educational Purpose**

Ambassador's purpose is to qualify its students for personal success to be among the most excellent influencers that shape the moral values of our culture for the glory of God.

As a nurturing Christian school, ACS seeks to admit students of parents who will support the school's mission and educational philosophy. ACS instructs students under the delegated authority of their parents in harmony with their various local congregations.

Ambassador is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). As an ACSI member, ACS subscribes to ACSI's Christian Philosophy of Education. "The mission of ACSI is to enable Christian educators and schools worldwide to effectively prepare students for life."

Parents are responsible for the complete education of their children. The school, founded on Christian values, supports the home and churches of students in providing an education that is grounded in the Judeo-Christian values of the Bible as reflected in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

## **ESLR: Expected Student Learning Results**

Focusing on what students should be able to accomplish upon graduation from ACS, the faculty and administration developed the ESLRs. Faculty members analyzed ESLRs from other schools with similar mission statements to write potential ACS learning results.

Our faculty worked to come up with an acronym to represent the ESLRs in a memorable way. The faculty reviewed draft ESLRs, and it was decided that the acronym T.E.A.C.H. would be used to represent our school because teaching the next generation is our mission.

## **ACS Expected School Wide Learning Results**

Mark 12:29- 31 Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

### **Think Critically**

#### **Effectively Communicate**

#### **Achieve Academic Excellence**

#### **Commit to be Godly Leaders**

#### **Honor God in our Community Through Service Locally and Globally**

### **Think Critically**

Demonstrate an ability to think critically, solve problems effectively, and draw conclusions from research, personal analysis, and investigation.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

### **Effectively Communicate**

Develop interpersonal skills needed to work cooperatively and effectively with others, including those of diverse cultures. Students will skillfully apply technology to successfully articulate their thoughts through the lens of a Christian worldview.

1 Peter 3:15-16 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

### **Achieve Academic Excellence**

Demonstrate competence in academic disciplines that will enable them to pursue the university and career goals to which they aspire.

Daniel 1:4 Youth skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding, learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

### **Commit to Be Godly Leaders**

Develop leadership skills through a personal understanding of what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior with the Bible as the basis of authoritative truth.

1 Timothy 4:12 Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

### **Honor God in our Community Through Service Locally and Globally**

Develop an increasing awareness of and compassion for others, leading to community and global service.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

## **School Counseling Mission Statement**

Welcome to the Ambassador Christian School Counseling Handbook. Our mission is to provide all students with a comprehensive school counseling program that encourages the development of the whole person academically, emotionally, socially, spiritually, and vocationally. In addition, Ambassador High School provides a rigorous education from a Biblical worldview through excellence in Student Leadership, Academics, Athletics, and the Arts.

The school counseling department will encourage all students to become successful lifelong learners and problem solvers. Ambassador Christian school is to deliver a multi-layered, comprehensive, and accountable school counseling program. In collaboration with school staff, families, and the community – we will ensure equity and access while promoting academic success. We will assist all students in acquiring the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to become lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and productive members of society; in partnership with teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and a caring community, the school counselor support all students to become lifelong learners and leaders committed to serving God and society with a profound sense of social justice founded in love. The Counselor is available to assist with academic guidance, college and career planning, and wellness counseling and referral. In addition, I will provide individual meetings, family conferences, student/parent workshops, and more.

## **School Counseling Vision Statement**

Ambassador Christian School counseling program envisions a future where all our students are productive and compassionate members of society, using their talents, abilities, and gifts to make lasting and positive impacts. Ambassador High School believes a developmental and sequential guidance program is essential to the overall education process. We believe that academic, career, and personal/social objectives are attainable by all students when a comprehensive curriculum.

### **Ambassador Christian School Counseling Department believes:**

- Each student has dignity and worth.
- Each student is an individual and learns at their own pace.
- As a result, each student can achieve academic, career, and social/emotional success.

- Each student deserves to be a member of a school community that is culturally compassionate and that celebrates their unique qualities.
- Each student should be accounted for and feel valued.
- Each student can learn to become self-advocates and resilient in facing life's challenges.
- Students thrive when their individuality is recognized and encouraged in the school setting.
- Each student has access to the school counselor who advocates for their academic, career, and social/emotional needs.
- Each student has the right to participate in a school counseling program that is accountable and implemented with fidelity and consistency.
- The school counselor will use data to design, implement, evaluate, and continuously improve the comprehensive school counseling program.
- The school counselor will abide by American School Counselor Association's Ethical Standards for School Counselors to make informed decisions based on the highest moral principles.

### **Program Goals**

The comprehensive school counseling program will align the National counseling standards and the State learning standards to the three domains of school counseling: academic, personal/social, and career. Program goals are focused on these three domains:

**Academic:** Includes acquiring skills, attitudes, and knowledge that contribute to effective learning in school, employing strategies to achieve success in school, and understanding the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community. Academic goals support the premise that all students should meet or exceed the local and state requirements.

**Social/Emotional:** Includes providing the foundation for personal and social growth through experience, expressions, and management of emotions as students progress through school and into adulthood. It involves both intra-and interpersonal skill development. This contributes to academic and career success by helping students understand and respect themselves and others, acquire effective interpersonal skills, and become contributing members of society.

**Career:** Includes providing the foundation for acquiring, attitudes and knowledge that enable students to make a successful transition from school to work. The comprehensive plan ensures that students develop an understanding of skills, abilities, strengths, and interests, as well as career awareness and exploration.

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**AMBASSADOR  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL  
GRADUATION AND  
UC & CSU a-g  
ADMISSIONS  
REQUIREMENTS**

## AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATION AND UC & CSU a-g ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

<b><i>UC &amp; CSU a-g ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS SUBJECT</i></b>	<b>ACS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA/CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>a. History and Social Studies</b>	<b>3 YEARS:</b> 1 Year World History 1 year U.S. History 1 semester U.S. Government 1-semester Economics	<b>2 YEARS</b> 1 year U.S. History or 1 semester U.S. Government and 1 year World History
<b>b. English</b>	<b>4 YEARS</b>	<b>4 YEARS</b>
<b>c. Mathematics</b>	<b>3 YEARS</b> Algebra 1 + Geometry + Algebra 2	<b>3 YEARS: (4 recommended)</b> Algebra 1 + Geometry + Algebra 2
<b>d. Laboratory Science</b>	<b>2 YEARS</b> 1 year of biology and 1 year of Chemistry or Physical Science	<b>2 YEARS (3 recommended)</b> UC: 2 Courses from: Biology, Chemistry, Physics CSU: 1 Biological Science, 1 Physical Science. (One course from the “d” subject area, and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> course may be from the “d” or “g” area)
<b>e. Language Other Than English (LOTE)</b>	<b>2 YEARS</b> of the same foreign language	<b>2 YEARS (3 Recommended)</b> of the same foreign language
<b>f. Visual and Performing Arts</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b> course in the same subject
<b>g. Electives or Additional Requirements</b>	<b>35 Elective Credits</b> 1 year PE/Health 4 years of religious studies	<b>1 YEAR</b> of college Prep Electives from the ACS UC/CSU a-g approved list

Colleges recognize a C or higher as a passing grade. UC DO NOT recognize grade improvement on a C or higher grade. A grade of D will earn credits toward high school graduation but WILL NOT meet the requirements for college admission. The UC's and CSU's “weight” only specific underlined courses on Ambassador's school's UC Accredited Course List. Visit <https://doorways.ucop.edu/list/site> where “weighted” classes are starred. For more detailed information on admission to UC:

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions). For more detailed information on admission to CSU:

[www.csumentor.edu/planning/high\\_school](http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school)

For further information, please visit the following online resources:

- A-G Course Lists (search by high school) – <https://doorways.ucop.edu/list/>
- California Colleges – <http://www.californiacolleges.edu/>
- University of California A-G Guide – <http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/>



# **Colorado Christian University and Ambassador**

## Colorado Christian University and Ambassador

Colorado Christian University, a Christian university partners with AHS and will issue the credit for their courses. The Dual Credit class is recorded on both the AHS transcript and the college/university transcript, with a letter grade assigned. Therefore, a student can receive college credit while attending high school. Biola University also offers Spanish courses at Ambassador and provides Dual Credit.

The Early College courses offered at Ambassador High School will transfer to California State Universities (CSU), University of California campuses (UC), and most private universities. Parents are welcome to visit [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) to check transfer credit for specific universities not listed above. In addition, ACS can provide additional information on the transfer policies of particular schools where AHS alumni attend.

Policies can change year to year, so students are encouraged to consult with the institution of their choice regarding the transferability of credits earned.

Please remember that campuses and majors may have additional requirements that students must fulfill, especially if you are applying as a transfer student; it is important to research your major on the campus website.

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/>  
<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/preparing-to-transfer/>

During the school year, students have Dual college credits from CCU available to them. These courses include:

<b>AA Course List</b>					
Ambassador High School			Course Equivalencies		
<b>High School Course</b>	<b>CCU Course Code</b>	<b>CCU Credits</b>	<b>CCU Course Equivalency</b>	<b>HS Grade</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
<b>BIBLE &amp; HUMANITIES</b>					
Old Testament Survey	BIB 111	3	Old Testament	9 <sup>th</sup>	Academy
New Testament Survey	BIB 114	3	New Testament	10 <sup>th</sup>	Academy
C.S. Lewis in Film & Liter	HUM 229A	3	C.S. Lewis in Film & Liter	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Academy
<b>BIOLOGY</b>					

AP Biology	BIO 101/111	4	Biological Life/Lab	11 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
Speech	COM 103	3	Public Speaking	10 <sup>th</sup>	Academy
<b>ECONOMICS</b>					
AP Microeconomics	ECO-222	3	Principles of Economics: Micro	12 <sup>th</sup>	Academy
<b>ENGLISH</b>					
AP English Language	ENG 102	3	English Composition	11 <sup>th</sup>	Silva
AP English Literature	ENG 201	3	Introduction to Literature	12 <sup>th</sup>	Silva
<b>HISTORY</b>					
AP World History	HIS 185	3	Western Civilization	10 <sup>th</sup>	Barker
AP U.S. History	HIS 205	3	American History	11 <sup>th</sup>	Barker
<b>MATH</b>					
Pre-Calculus	MAT 115	3	Pre-Calculus	11 <sup>th</sup>	Giampaoli
AP Calculus AB	MAT 141	3	Calculus 1	12 <sup>th</sup>	Giampaoli
AP Seminar	MAT 250	3	Introduction to Research/Stats	12 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>					
Philosophy	PHL 202	3	Philosophical Inquiry	11 <sup>th</sup>	Silva
World Views	PHL 205	3	World Views	11 <sup>th</sup>	Silva
<b>PHYSICAL SCIENCE</b>					
AP Physics	PHY 201/212	5	General Physics/Lab	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Giampaoli
<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE</b>					
AP Government and Pol.	POL 207	3	Introduction to American Polit	12 <sup>th</sup>	Barker
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>					
Psychology 1	PSY 101	3	General Psychology	10 <sup>th</sup>	Academy
<b>SPANISH</b>					

Spanish 100	SPA 100	3	Elementary Spanish 1	9 <sup>th</sup>	Biola U
Spanish 102	SP 102	3	Elementary Span 1B	9 <sup>th</sup>	Biola U
Spanish 205	SP 205	5	Elementary Spanish 2	9 <sup>th</sup>	Biola U
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>					
AP Computer Science	CIS 130	3	Foundations of Programing	10 <sup>th</sup>	Giampaoli
	Total Units				

Early College Program with AA from Colorado Christian University-IGETC- 60 college units

\*Some universities don't accept Dual Credit so please check your university transfer policy.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade -9 units

Biola Spanish 100-3 units

Biola Spanish 102-3 units

CCU Oral Communications-3 units

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade-12 units

Biola Spanish 205- 3 units

CCU Psychology 1- 3 units

CCU History 185-3 units

AP Computer Science -3 units (must score a 3 on exam)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 24 units

CCU Biology AP-3 units

CCU Intro to Philosophy--3 units

CCU Philosophy Worldviews-3 units

CCU AP English Language-3 units

CCU US History 205/206-6 Units

CCU Pre-Calculus – 3 units

CCU C.S. Lewis - 3 units \

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade-18 units

CCU AP Calculus -3 units

CCU AP English Literature-3 units

CCU AP Calculus AB- DC 3 units

AP Government- DC 3 units (must score a 3 on exam)

Old and New Testament from CCU 6 units (must take online)

60 units is needed for the degree

Total is 60 units for the AA degree.

## **General Education Core (36 credit hours)**

### **Arts and Humanities (9 credit hours)**

Take 3 classes from the following list of CCU courses or satisfy the requirement with equivalent college-level transfer credit in the Arts and Humanities field. Courses must come from at least two unique discipline prefixes.

CCU Course Name	ACS Equivalent Course Name	Program*	Credits	Term Taken	Grade	GE Credits Earned
APL 100A - Introduction to Apologetics		ODE	3			
ART 112A - Art Appreciation (with prior permission)		ODE	3			
ENG 201 - Introduction to Literature	AP English Literature & Composition	DC	3			
HUM 229A - C.S. Lewis in Film & Literature		ODE	3			
PHL 202 - Introduction to Philosophy	CCU Philosophical Inquiry	DC	3			
PHL 205A - World Views	CCU Worldviews	DC	3			

### **Biblical Studies (6 credit hours)**

Take 2 classes from the following list of CCU courses.

CCU Course Name	ACS Equivalent Course Name	Program*	Credits	Term Taken	Grade	GE Credits Earned
BIB 102A - New Testament Introduction		ODE	3			
BIB 111 - Old Testament		ODE	3			
THE 200A - Introduction to Systematic Theology		ODE	3			

### **Communications (6 credit hours)**

Take 2 classes from the following list of CCU courses or satisfy the requirement with equivalent college-level transfer credit in the Communication field. One course must be an English composition class.

<b>Written Communication (3 credit hours)</b>						
<b>CCU Course Name</b>	<b>ACS Equivalent Course Name</b>	<b>Program*</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Term Taken</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>GE Credits Earned</b>
ENG 102 - English Composition	AP English Language & Composition	DC	3			
<b>Oral Communication (3 credit hours)</b>						
<b>CCU Course Name</b>	<b>ACS Equivalent Course Name</b>	<b>Program*</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Term Taken</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>GE Credits Earned</b>
COM 110A - Oral Communication		ODE	3			
<b>Mathematics (3 credit hours)</b>						
Take 1 class from the following list of CCU courses or satisfy the requirement with equivalent college-level transfer credit in the mathematics field.						
<b>CCU Course Name</b>	<b>ACS Equivalent Course Name</b>	<b>Program*</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Term Taken</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>GE Credits Earned</b>
MAT 115 - Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus	DC	3			
MAT 141 - Calculus I	AP Calculus AB	DC	4			
MAT 241 - Calculus II	AP Calculus BC	DC	4			
<b>Science (3 credit hours)</b>						
Take a minimum of 3 credit hours from the following list of CCU courses or satisfy the requirement with equivalent college-level transfer credit in the Science field. Credit hours earned from a lab course must be accompanied by the corresponding science lecture course.						
<b>CCU Course Name</b>	<b>ACS Equivalent Course Name</b>	<b>Program*</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Term Taken</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>GE Credits Earned</b>
BIO 101 - Biological Life AND	AP Biology	DC	3			
BIO 111 - Biological Life Lab		DC	1			
BIO 203A - Foundations in Human Anatomy and Physiology I AND		ODE	3			
BIO 213A - Foundations in Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab		ODE	1			
BIO 204A - Foundations in Human Anatomy and Physiology II AND		ODE	3			
BIO 214A - Foundations in Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab		ODE	1			
PHY 210 - General Physics I AND	AP Physics 1	DC	4			

PHY 212 - General Physics I Lab		DC	1			
PHY 310 - General Physics II AND	AP Physics 2	DC	4			
PHY 312 - General Physics II Lab		DC	1			

### Social Science (9 credit hours)

Take 3 classes from the following list of CCU courses or satisfy the requirement with equivalent college-level transfer credit in the Social Science field. Courses must come from at least two unique discipline prefixes. At least one course. In addition, it must be history (HIS).

CCU Course Name	ACS Equivalent Course Name	Program*	Credits	Term Taken	Grade	GE Credits Earned
ECO 220A - Introduction to Economics (with prior permission)		ODE	3			
HIS 185 - Western Civilization	AP World History	DC	3			
HIS 205 - Early American History	AP US History - 1st Semester	DC	3			
HIS 206 - Making of Modern America	AP US History - 2nd Semester	DC	3			
HIS 211A - History of Christianity		ODE	3			
POL 202A - American Political Process (with prior permission)		ODE	3			
PSY 102A - General Psychology		ODE	3			
					<b>Total GE Core Credits Earned:</b>	

### Elective Requirements (24 credit hours)

Take 24 semester hours of CCU or college-level transfer credit, not used to satisfy general education requirements. This includes the Biola Spanish courses, APs, and other Community College coursework.

Course Code & Course Name	School		Credits	Term Taken	Grade	Elec. Credits Earned
						7

# Transcripts



# Transcripts

Your transcript and diploma are the key to opening the doors to opportunities. Getting into college, earning a scholarship, gaining employment – even just receiving a discount on your car insurance. Transcripts are the closest thing a student has to a permanent record. They detail your academic history, including your grades, the courses you have completed, and whether or not you graduated. They're key to transferring credits from one university to another and are the best way to verify your prior academic performance. Yet many students struggle to get their transcripts and don't know how to ensure that their previous work follows them from one institution to another.

## How to Get a Copy of Your Transcript

### Unofficial Transcript

You can view an unofficial copy of your transcript by logging into your student account and printing out your history. This transcript is free. It can be helpful as you begin the application process, particularly if the school to which you apply wants a list of recent courses or needs to know your GPA before it receives your transcript. Your unofficial transcript may also help you assess whether you meet certain prerequisites for the classes you hope to take or the program in which you want to enroll.

Most universities won't accept unofficial transcript. There are numerous reasons for this, including that an unofficial transcript may be incomplete. It's also possible to forge an unofficial transcript. So, at some point during the application and admission process, you'll need to supply an official document. Each school's rules for this vary slightly. Some only require an official transcript upon admission, while others want the transcript to be sent when you apply.

### Official Transcript

**Current Students:** official transcripts may be ordered online through [Parchment](#). An additional fee may be charged depending on the method of delivery. Click on the button below to begin the ordering process.

Current students should consult with their counselors regarding whether an official transcript is required during the college application process. Many initial and mid-year transcripts can be sent by your counselor electronically. However, all college-bound seniors must request a final, official transcript to be sent to the college of their choice.

### Ambassador Transcript

You can order final transcripts to be sent anytime online through [Parchment](#) for our school. The best part is that most colleges and universities get the electronic copy the same day. Here is link on our website under the STUDENT tab. If you have any questions let me know.

Click the ORDER RECORDS logo to order.

[https://www.ambassadors.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=384532&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1131310](https://www.ambassadors.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=384532&type=d&pREC_ID=1131310)

### **Order a CCU Transcript or Diploma**

A CCU transcript is a comprehensive record of a student's academic progress at Colorado Christian University and the University's certified statement of the student's academic record, including coursework, grades, and degrees earned. A replacement diploma may also be ordered for students who have lost their original diploma or for students who want an additional copy. All official transcript and diploma orders are submitted through CCU's easy, online ordering system. Fax and e-mail orders are not accepted.

#### **ORDER TRANSCRIPT OR DIPLOMA**

Students can choose the following shipping methods for transcript orders:

[Electronic PDF transcripts](#) delivered the moment we receive and process your order

(recommended) Paper transcripts delivered via [U.S. Postal Service](#)

Other shipping options for overnight and international delivery are available for an additional shipping fee View transcript cost on our [transcript pricing](#) page.

#### **Unofficial Transcripts**

Currently enrolled students can access their unofficial transcript in their Student Planning account in [Self-Service](#). Unofficial transcripts are not available for former students or alumni. Former students who no longer have access to Self-Service will need to place an order for an official transcript.

#### **Letters of Completion and Diplomas**

Students may order a letter of completion if all degree requirements are completed but the student has not yet graduated. Letters of completion will not be delivered for students who have a conferred degree or who have a financial obligation owed to the University.

Replacement diplomas and diploma covers may be purchased by students who have graduated from the University.

Please see our [transcript pricing](#) page for more information.

## **Official LACCD Transcripts**

In 2017, LACCD transitioned from nine college specific transcripts to a single district transcript for all nine colleges. If you attended one or more LACCD Colleges since 1974 and beyond, all courses will appear on one transcript. Please place the transcript order at the last LACCD College you attended. If you completed courses at other LACCD colleges. The LACCD transcript will reflect both credit and noncredit courses completed at any of the nine LACCD Colleges.

The LACCD consists of the following nine California Community Colleges:

- Los Angeles City College (LACC)
- East Los Angeles College (ELAC)
- Los Angeles Harbor College (LAHC)
- Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC)

- Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC)
- Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC)
- Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC)
- Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC)
- West Los Angeles College (WLAC)

Student academic records are classified as confidential and may be released only with the student's written authorization and signature, in accordance with the Public Information Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

## Request a transcript online (Preferred Method)

Official transcripts can be requested through [Parchment Credentials](#). Transcripts requested through [Parchment Credentials](#) can be sent via paper mail or electronically through Parchment or eTranscript California. **To ensure accuracy of records, please include the student's LACCD student ID number or at least the last four digits of their social security number.**

To request a transcript online, you must pay the transcript fee using a credit or debit card. As of December 1, 2020, LACCD will use Parchment transcript ordering service. The Parchment transcript ordering service charges a \$2.75 convenience fee to process an online order. Transcript processing time is 10 business days.

If students have attachments needed to be included with their transcripts, they can be attached to their request through Parchment Credentials.

### To order transcript through Parchment website:

1. Visit the Parchment website. (Requestors will need a Parchment account to order records.)
  - If you are ordering your own record, select "Ordering your own credentials or academic records".
  - If you are a third party ordering on behalf of the student, select "Ordering on behalf of someone else".
2. Read the information and carefully follow the instructions for ordering transcripts.

### To order transcript through student portal:

1. Log on to the student portal.
2. Click on "Academic Records".
3. Click on "Official Transcript Requests".

4. You will be redirected to the Parchment transcript ordering website.
  - Please refer to the instructions above on how to order through the Parchment website.

## Transcript fees (for in person/mailed in requests)

Each student is entitled to two regular processing official transcripts (or Enrollment Verifications) for free. After the first two copies, fees apply.

- Regular processing (7-10 Business Days): \$3 per copy
- Rush processing (within 1 Business Day excluding holidays): \$10 per copy
  - When requesting a Rush processing transcript in person, transcript can be produced at the time of request.

**\*\*Please note that Parchment Credentials will NOT account for the two free copies.\*\***

## Requesting transcripts by mail

When mailing in a request for official transcripts, students will need to include the following information:

- Full First Name- Last Name
- Other Last Name (if attended under another name)
- Student ID number or Social Security number
- Date of Birth
- Current Address
- Phone Number
- Indicate IGETC - CSU Certification, if applicable
- Where the transcript is being mailed to (Student is responsible for providing the correct address.)
- Number of transcripts being requested
- Signature and date (Request will be returned if signature is missing.)

Send appropriate payment (if not requesting first two free official transcripts), sign the request, and mail it to:

Los Angeles Harbor College  
Admissions and Records-Transcript Request  
1111 Figueroa Place  
Wilmington, CA 90744

We are accepting payment in the form of cash, money order, or check (made out to Los Angeles Harbor College).

## Unofficial transcripts

Unofficial transcripts can be viewed and printed for free online through the Student Information System (SIS Portal Login).

## Submitting Official Transcripts

### Official College Transcripts

Official high school or college transcripts must be sent from institution to institution to be considered official. Electronic transcripts are preferred. You may choose to have your official high school or college transcript mailed directly to the campus address. We cannot accept college transcripts from students.

\*\*\*Evaluated foreign transcripts must be submitted via original sealed envelope from the evaluation agency if mailed to our Admissions Office. \*\*\*

Official transcripts can be submitted to our office via the following methods:

- Via Post mail to the address:

Los Angeles Harbor College  
Attn: Admissions & Records Office  
1111 Figueroa Place  
Wilmington, CA 90744

- Sent through an electronic service to our LAHC transcript email at [transcripts@lahc.edu](mailto:transcripts@lahc.edu)
  - We accept electronic transcripts from the following services:
    - Credential Solutions
    - eTranscript California
    - National Student Clearinghouse
    - Parchment Credentials

## Incoming Transcripts/Records:

Incoming transcripts sent from other schools to LACCD campuses should be sent to:

- Los Angeles City College (LACC): [admissions@lacity.edu](mailto:admissions@lacity.edu)
- East Los Angeles College (ELAC): [admissions2@elac.edu](mailto:admissions2@elac.edu)
- Los Angeles Harbor College (LAHC): [transcripts@lahc.edu](mailto:transcripts@lahc.edu)
- Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC): [admissions@lamission.edu](mailto:admissions@lamission.edu)
- Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC): [transcripts@piercecollege.edu](mailto:transcripts@piercecollege.edu)
- Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC): [lasc-transcripts@lasc.edu](mailto:lasc-transcripts@lasc.edu)
- Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTTC): [applications@latttc.edu](mailto:applications@latttc.edu)
- Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC): [incomingtranscripts@lavc.edu](mailto:incomingtranscripts@lavc.edu)
- West Los Angeles College (WLAC): [wlac-transcripts@laccd.edu](mailto:wlac-transcripts@laccd.edu)

## Foreign Records:

**Please check with your home-campus before selecting to complete the evaluation process.**

Have you completed courses in a foreign country that you'd like to have evaluated for transfer credit? If so, your transcript needs to be reviewed by one of these approved agencies:

- [Agencies Approved by the Commission for Foreign Transcript Evaluation](#)

If you are required to submit evidence of high school completion (diploma or GED) for financial aid purposes, you will need to provide a translated notarized copy of your high school document.

- [List of Approved Agencies](#)

# **College Preparation Timeline**

# College Preparation Timeline

## Freshmen Year

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### FALL:

- Meet your counselor—Ms. Hicks
- Get involved in extracurricular activities
- Study hard and get good grades
- Reach out to teachers or your counselor at any time for help
- Learn about college admissions from A to G by checking out our college prep glossary.
- Get a jump on college prep by choosing a challenging class schedule with honors and AP classes.
- Show colleges you're a well-rounded student by getting involved in extracurricular activities.

### WINTER:

- New semester = new grades and classes
- Explore your interests and ask questions
- Start thinking about the classes you want to take sophomore year
- Explore colleges: What kinds of schools should you be looking for?
- Find volunteer activities that are good for you and good for the world.
- Think about taking SATs while the curriculum is still fresh in your mind.

### SPRING:

- Get involved in school and outside of school
- Continue to build your qualifications- Keep track of your extracurricular awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in
- Study hard and continue to keep your grades up
- You will meet with Ms. Hicks to discuss your plans for the summer and the upcoming school year

### SUMMER:

- Create your resume and fill it with activities and accomplishments from your freshmen year
- Think and start planning your Volunteer or Community Service
- Have Fun



# Sophomore Year

## Fall (September-November)

- Evaluate your course load and determine how much you know about college planning.
- Register for and take the PSAT (pre-SAT) or PLAN (pre-ACT) tests.
- Increase your commitment to extracurricular activities so that you will stand out on your college applications.
- Create a college calendar to keep track of important dates and deadlines.
- Get familiar with college planning and the admissions process, so you'll know what to expect before college.

## Winter (December-February)

- Develop your standardized testing plan and take the tests you're ready for.
- Discover unique tips on how to organize your college prep activities.
- Start your essay prep by often writing now, so you can reap the benefits later.
- Capitalize on college planning resources and learn more about colleges and universities.
- Spring (March-May)
- Consult your counselor to make sure you're prepped for junior year classes.
- Expand your knowledge about prospective schools by attending college fairs and information sessions.
- Plan a solid summer filled with volunteering, internships, and of course, fun.
- Ask your counselor or teachers about AP testing to see if you're ready to take AP classes or sign up for the AP exam.

## Summer (June-August)

- Talk with your family about creating a college budget.
- Secure a summer job and build credentials while having fun!
- Enroll in ACT or SAT prep over the summer while you still have free time.
- Visit college campuses to see which types of school's appeal to you.

# Junior Year

## June to August

- College visits

## September

- Check graduation requirements and meet with high school guidance counselor
- Review with counselor post-high school plans and college preparation
- Take the PSAT Prep and test
- Create a calendar for SAT/ ACT/ AP test dates
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities

## October

- Resource check: Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there. Is there a college night for students and families? When will college representatives visit your school? (Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine catalogs and guides.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges to apply
- Register for AP exams
- Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college

## November

- Research colleges
- Attend college fairs
- Request information from colleges of interest
- At school, speak to your counselor about taking the PSAT/NMSQT®, which is given in October. If you plan to ask for testing accommodations (because of a disability), be sure the College Board has approved your eligibility.

## December

- Research financial aid and scholarships
- Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data. Then, if appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- Estimate your financial aid need. Financial aid can help you afford college. Use the College Board's Getting Financial Aid and the financial aid calculator at [bigfuture.org](http://bigfuture.org) to estimate how much aid you might receive.

## January

- Register for the spring SAT/ACT
- Begin a search for financial aid sources. National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources. (Ask a counselor for help or check your public library.)
- Start looking for summer Programs

## February

- Meet with a counselor to plan senior classes

- Sign up for summer programs
- With your family, make an appointment with your counselor to discuss ways to improve your college preparation and selection processes.

### **March**

- Prep for SAT/ACT
- Sign up for summer programs
- Contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. For example, if you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.

### **April/May**

- Take SAT/ACT
- Take AP tests
- Prepare for a summer job or internship
- Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges of interest to you. You can find many colleges where you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
- Chart college application deadlines on your calendar
- Brainstorm college application essay topics
- Start to gather documents for financial aid: Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1.
- Visit colleges. When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.

# Senior Timeline

Seniors will meet with the counselor individually at least once in the fall semester. The counselor will schedule seniors for these meetings throughout the fall and spring. Students are welcome to drop in to see their counselor before school, after school, during lunch or office hours, or by emailing the counselor.

## SUMMER/ AUGUST

- Visit colleges. When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- Begin narrowing your list of colleges (At least 10 schools)
- Register to take the SAT and ACT
- Create ONE Common App account for all colleges that use the Common App
- Create outlines for colleges essays
- UC applications are open for the fall
- Begin to create a master calendar with important college application deadlines
- Check and apply for scholarships

## SEPTEMBER

- Meet with College Admissions
- Retake the SAT or ACT, if necessary
- Begin meeting with your counselor
- Begin personally asking teacher(s) for letter(s) of recommendation
- Check and apply for scholarships

## OCTOBER

- Finalize your college list
- Prepare to submit for Early Decision or Early Action, if needed
- Ask a teacher/counselor to review essay drafts
- FAFSA opens on October 1
- If you have not had your test scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to do this!
- CSU Application opens for the fall
- Check and apply for scholarships

## NOVEMBER

- November 1- 15: For early admission (ED or EA), college may require test scores and applications between these dates. (Please check the college website)
- Complete the UC and CSU applications – they are due NOVEMBER 30
- Check and apply for scholarships

## DECEMBER/ JANUARY

- Continue to complete applications
- If you are applying to a WUE college, most deadlines are in December to receive the scholarships
- Remember to check college portals and emails
- Make sure all test scores are sent
- Verify that all applications are complete
- It is recommended to have FAFSA, and CSS Profile completed
- Continue to keep senior grades up! Colleges want your first semester grades
- Some college housing applications begin to open (if you were accepted early)
- Check and apply for scholarships

## **FEBRUARY**

- No Senioritis!!!! Accepting colleges do look at second-semester senior grades
- If you submitted your CSS profile, check your acknowledgment, and send any corrections, if necessary, directly to the colleges that require it
- Apply for scholarships!

## **MARCH**

- Keep active in school. If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and learned of its decision
- Be sure to consistently check your email and college portals, as this is how colleges will be in contact with you

## **APRIL**

- Check all college portals for decision notifications
- You should receive acceptance letters and emails by April 1. If you have not yet done so, visit your final college before accepting by May 1
- Contact the colleges if you have any questions about the financial aid packages, they have offered you. Make sure you understand all the terms and conditions
- Make a final decision, accept the aid package, and submit a deposit to the college you select by May 1

## **MAY**

- May 1: College Decision Day! You must inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of their offer of admission or financial aid
- Send your deposit to ONE COLLEGE ONLY
- Waitlisted by a college? If you plan to enroll if accepted, tell the admissions counselor your intent and ask how to strengthen your application
- Hand writes a Thank you note to everyone who wrote you a letter of recommendation or otherwise helped with your college/scholarship application

## College Application Requirements

	Community College	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)	Private Colleges and Universities
	cccapply.org	www2.calstate.edu/apply	apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/	www.commonapp.org OR university website
<b>High School Academics (minimum requirements)</b>	High School Graduation	<p>“A- G”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. History (2) years</li> <li>b. English (4) years</li> <li>c. Math (3, incl. Agl 2) years</li> <li>d. Science (2) years</li> <li>e. World Language (2) years</li> <li>f. Visual/ Performing Art (1) year</li> <li>g. Elective (1) year</li> </ul> <p>Minimum 2.0 GPA (10-11)</p>	<p>“A- G”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. History (2) years</li> <li>b. English (4) years</li> <li>c. Math (3, incl. Agl 2) years</li> <li>d. Science (2) years</li> <li>e. World Language (2) years</li> <li>f. Visual/ Performing Art (1) year</li> <li>g. Elective (1) year</li> </ul> <p>Minimum 3.0 GPA (10-11)</p>	<p>College Prep Classes</p> <p>History (2-3 years) English (4 years) Math (4 years) Science (3-4 years) World Language (3-4 years) Other depends on the school 9-12<sup>th</sup> GPA considered</p> <p>*Classes depend on the college</p>
<b>Standardized Tests</b> * requirements depend on campus/ major	Not Required	SAT or ACT SAT Subject Tests are not required and will not be considered	SAT w/ Essay or ACT w/ Writing SAT Subject Tests & AP Tests are not required but considered	SAT w/ Essay or ACT w/ Writing  SAT Tests & AP Tests not required but considered
<b>Extracurriculars</b>	Not Required	Not Required	Important	important
<b>Personal Statement</b>	Not Required	Not considered	Choose 4 of the 8 Personal Insight prompts to write short essays (each 350 words max)	Choose 1 of 7 essay prompts (650 words max) Supplemental Essays
<b>Letters of Recommendation</b>	Not Required	Not considered	Not considered	Varies by School: 2 High School Teachers 1 School Counselor (# Required/Optional/Other)
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Varies	Opens: Oct 1. Submit: Oct 1 - November 30	Opens: A.ug 1 Submit: Nov 1 - November 30	Varies: Early Action/Decision: Oct - Dec Regular Decision: Dec - Feb Rolling Admissions

**What are  
colleges  
looking for?**

# What are colleges looking for?

Applying to college can be overwhelming, especially if you're trying to get into schools where competition is stiff. There are several common factors that most colleges consider when looking at potential applicants; however, the key to acceptance isn't just doing well. Instead, you want to show admissions officers what makes you stand out from the crowd.

## High School GPA and Class Rank

Your GPA in high school shows colleges how successful you were in academics and whether you buckled down and worked hard. Colleges look not only at your overall GPA but also at how well you did in individual classes. If your school has a class rank, that shows how much competition you faced with grades and performance to reach a particular level.

## AP and Honors Classes

Being able to show prospective colleges that you challenged yourself academically is important. Admissions officers will look at AP, honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), and other college prep classes you take in high school to see how well you handled the course load. This is a good indicator of how you'll do in college.

## Challenging Extracurricular Activities

Colleges also want to see students who stretch themselves beyond the limits of the classroom. The kinds of activities you choose say a lot about your personality and even your morals. Whether or not you stick with your selected undertakings exhibits your ability to commit to important projects in the long term.

## Volunteer and Work Experience

Any experience that shows genuine commitment, leadership qualities, and an interest in the community benefits your application. Include the organizations or companies you worked for and what your responsibilities were at each one. If you received any promotions or special recognitions, be sure to mention those as well.

## Test Scores

Not all schools rely heavily on SAT and ACT scores as they used to, but it doesn't hurt to take both tests and do as well as you can. Some schools don't look at these tests at all, while others may look at scores from additional tests, including SAT Subject Tests and AP tests. Check with your chosen schools to determine which ones are required for admission.

## Quality Recommendation Letters

Be sure to get recommendation letters from people who know you well, have interacted with you in the classroom, or are otherwise able to show why you're a good candidate for the schools you're applying to. A good recommendation letter supports a solid application by affirming all your best qualities as a student.

## A Well-Written Essay

Admissions officers want to see essays that go for a personal connection. Rather than using the essay to discuss your accomplishments, focus on showing who you truly are and what makes you



interesting. Stick with the given prompt as you write and remember to include why you want to attend a particular school.

### **Talents and Passions**

More colleges are moving away from accepting students who did the most "stuff" to looking for those who focus their energy on specific areas they're passionate about. Schools want to see what makes you unique and how hard you're willing to work at the things you care about.

## **Top Ten Strengths and Experiences Colleges look for in a High School Student**

1. A high school curriculum that challenges the student. Academically successful students should include several Honors and AP classes.
2. Grades that represent strong effort and upward trend. Grades should show an upward trend over the years. However, slightly lower grades in rigorous programs are preferred to all A's in less challenging coursework.
3. Solid scores on a standardized test (SAT, ACT). These should be consistent with high school performance.
4. Passionate involvement in a few activities, demonstrating leadership and initiative. Depth, not breadth or experience, is most significant.
5. Community service shows evidence of being a "contributor." Activities should demonstrate concern for other people and a global view.
6. Work or out-of-school experiences (including summer activities) that illustrate responsibility, dedication, and development of areas of interest. Work or other meaningful use of free time can demonstrate maturity.
7. A well-written essay that provides insight into the student's unique personality, values, and goals. The application essay should be thoughtful and highly personal. It should demonstrate careful and well-constructed writing.
8. Letters of recommendation from teachers and school counselors that give evidence of integrity, special skills, and positive character traits. Students should request recommendations from teachers who respect their work in an academic discipline.
9. Supplementary recommendations from adults who have had significant direct contact with the student. Letters from coaches and supervisors in long-term work or volunteer activities are valuable; however, recommendations from casual acquaintances or family friends are rarely given much weight, even if they are well known.
10. Anything special makes the student stand out from the rest of the applicants. Include honors, awards, evidence of unusual talent or experience, or anything else that makes the student unique. Overall, colleges are seeking students who will be active contributing members of the student body

## **Character Counts: What Are Colleges Looking For?**

Your character and the personal qualities you can bring to a college are important too. That's why you need to think about your goals, accomplishments, and personal values and figure out how you can best express those in your applications.

### **The Qualities Colleges Want**

"What makes a student unique, and how will you contribute to the life of our campus?" To gauge what students can bring to their campus, they look for these types of qualities:

- Leadership
- A willingness to take risks
- Initiative
- A sense of social responsibility
- A commitment to service
- Special talents or abilities

### **Your Application Shows Your Qualities**

So how do you show colleges what's unique about you? Personal qualities are not easy to measure, but admission officers look at the items listed below for clues to an applicant's character.

**Letters of recommendation:** Recommendation letters can tell a lot about the kind of person you are. A teacher who knows you well can give insight into not just your academic strengths but also the qualities you display in class, such as leadership or fairness

# **The College Search**

# The College Search

## So how do they find that match?

Run a preliminary search using California College, College Board, and Niche (I will provide the link for all websites). Encourage your student to make a list of “must haves” before focusing on a particular university. Look for schools that match their strengths and include the items on their must have list. Encourage them to go to the College Fair & College Visits. Be realistic and maintain perspective

### Building your College List

With so many facets to the college application process, it can be difficult for students and their families to even know where or how to begin. A good starting point—and one of the most important pieces of the application process—is formulating a balanced college list. Junior year is the ideal time to start, as it will leave you time to do your research, visit campuses, and eliminate schools that may not appeal to you as much as you originally thought.

Your college list is the barometer for the rest of your college prep going forward, so it’s important to start refining your priorities, evaluating where your profile falls relative to other applicants and working towards finalizing the list of colleges to which you will apply.

College is a big investment, and to ensure you’re getting the most out of the experience and the best ROI, you need to apply to a well-researched and thoughtful list of colleges where you can thrive and graduate in four years. With nearly one-third of students transferring colleges at least once, this is especially important to avoid the time and money lost trying to transfer out of a college that wasn’t a great fit, to begin with.

## Apply to a Range of Colleges:

- **Reach** – a long shot; your probability of admission is less than a 30% chance
- **Target** – your probability of admission is slightly better than 50%
- **Probable (safety)** – your probability of admission is highly likely, but never guaranteed
- I recommend applying to 7- 10 schools. 3 Reach, 3 Target, 3 Probable

## So how do they find that match?

- Run a preliminary search using California College, College Board, and Niche (I will provide the link for all websites)
- Encourage your student to make a list of “must haves” before focusing on a particular university
- Look for schools that match their strengths and include the items on there must have a list
- Encourage them to go to the College Fair & College Visits
- Be realistic and maintain perspective

## Research, research, research!

Start with a list of all the colleges that you think are interesting, but you’ll need to dig deeper to find out if these schools will truly fulfill your individual needs. Learn everything you can about

the schools that have piqued your interest, and even look for other, lesser-known schools that may also meet your personal, academic, and financial needs.

Research courses, majors, minors, professors, activities, and other factors that are important to you on the school's website. Interested in engineering? Learn everything you can about the courses you might take, professors you might study with, and what extracurriculars or clubs are available to engineering students.

Also, follow prospective colleges on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media channels, as that is a great way to stay up to date on campus news, events, and admissions information.

Research and following colleges on social media also help to demonstrate interest, which is important when it comes time to apply. Become an expert in each school you're interested in and be sure you're able to articulate exactly why each school is a great fit for you and what you can contribute to the campus community – this will also come in handy when you're writing your college essays.

### **Consider Fit**

Harvard might sound like the ultimate college to apply to, but is it really a good fit for you? If you prefer larger research universities on the west coast then, no, it won't be a great match. You must consider more than name brand and "reputation" when refining your college choices. Sure, Middlebury College is an excellent school, but if you're interested in engineering, it's not going to have the academic programs you're looking for, thus making it not a great fit for you.

Colleges on your balanced list should be good academic, social, and financial fits. Choose colleges that meet your needs, both inside and outside of the classroom; that way, you'll have a variety of colleges to choose from where you can be happy and successful.

### **Visit**

One of the best ways to determine if a college is the right fit for you is to visit, ideally when classes are in session. Attend information sessions with admissions officers, tour the campus, explore the surrounding community, and, if possible, spend the night in a freshman dorm to get a real feel for the college life there.

Refining your college list is about identifying what's important to you and the opportunities and programs offered by colleges that meet those priorities. A visit can go a long way to help you make those assessments. Do you like the campus atmosphere? Is it located too far from a city—or perhaps too close to one? Are you comfortable with the dorms? Is class size appropriate for your needs? Sometimes a visit can be a gut-check for a college you're on the fence about.

### **Develop Your Rankings**

Do you have a solid list but are unsure how to compare each school to one another? Develop your own rankings based on your personal preferences and priorities to assess each college on

your list. Conventional rankings lists give little insight into how each college fits students' needs, so students shouldn't consider those when making decisions about where to apply.

Instead, create a chart that lists the factors you consider most important, i.e., location, academics, size, etc. and after researching and visiting each college, place a "+" in the box if you liked that certain aspect of the college, a "-" "if you didn't, or a "0" if you're not sure. Tally up the "+" at the end to get your rating for that school.

College	Academics	Location	Size	Extracurriculars	TOTAL
College X	+	+	0	+	3
College Y	+	+	-	-	2
College Z	-	-	+	0	1

By creating a visual representation, you can see which colleges meet your needs and which don't. This can help you refine your list and remove any schools that on the surface seem great but may not actually be a good fit for you.

### Keep It Balanced

It's important to challenge yourself and aim high, but a list heavy on colleges with single-digit admission rates can leave you with few options come enrollment time. Make sure you identify a wide range of "likely," "target," and "reach" colleges to consider.

- **"Likely" schools** = student's academic profile is significantly stronger than the middle 50 percent of students who are typically admitted.
- **"Target" schools** = student's academic profile is similar to that middle 50 percent.
- **"Reach" schools** = student's academic profile is not as strong as the middle 50 percent.

All this information can be found on the school's admissions website. If you're not able to easily locate it, call the admissions office.

It's okay to reach for that "dream" college but keep realistic expectations. On the flip side, don't include a "likely" you're not that thrilled about just to have a "backup."

Again, if all the colleges you choose are great fits, you'll be happy to attend any of them. "Likely" colleges shouldn't be considered "fallbacks" or colleges you'll just attend for one year only to try to transfer into your top-choice college later. All the colleges on your list, whether a far reach or a very likely, should be schools you'd love to attend.

## Keep It Manageable

With over 4,000 colleges and universities in the US, the options available to students can sometimes be overwhelming. Couple that with single-digit admission rates at some of the country's top-tier universities, and many students may feel that in order to get into a great school they will need to explore every college available, sometimes applying to upwards of 40 or 50 schools. This is not a smart application strategy, as applying to a high volume of colleges diminishes the quality of each application. Not to mention that without time to thoroughly research dozens of colleges, it's unlikely that every school will be a great fit.

Ideally, your balanced college list should include a total of no more than 10-15 best-fit target, reach, and likely colleges. Any more than that, and the quality of the applications and essays will suffer, thus reducing your chances of admission. It's important to keep your college list manageable to minimize stress and maximize your chances of admission to your top-choice colleges.

## Picking a Major

Choosing a college major can be hard. Some students have known what they wanted to be since they were three years old; others aren't sure, even with college right around the corner. Whether you're already in college or you've just started applying, here are some tips to finding the major that's right for you.

What is a major? What's the difference between a major and a minor? **A major is a specific subject area college students specialize in.** Typically, between one-third and one-half of the courses, you'll take in college will be in your major or related to it. Some colleges even let you design your own major! **A minor is a secondary field you can study in while completing your major degree program.** It's a specialization that requires fewer courses than a major. Minors are only required for certain degrees.

### *When do you declare a major?*

**Generally, at most four-year colleges you don't have to decide on a major until the end of your sophomore year.** This gives you time to try a couple of classes and see what you like before you decide and earn general education credits that count toward your degree. **Keep in mind, certain fields and programs (like most pharmacy programs) require an early commitment so you can take all the required classes and graduate on time.**

## Steps to picking a major

### *1. What do you like?*

The first thing to consider when picking a major is what you like to do. By the time you graduate high school, you'll have enough information and experience from your classes to figure out what you might or might not be interested in pursuing. Here are some ways you can dig deeper:

- **List 10 things you love.** Listing what you love doing inside or outside the classroom is a great way to see possible paths you can take. For example, if you enjoy art and drawing

but are also interested in technology, consider majoring in graphic design. If you're into business and traveling, investigate majoring in international business.

- **Make a list of strengths and weaknesses.** Figuring out your strengths and weaknesses can help you assess what kind of major to go into. For example, if public speaking isn't your thing, you might want to avoid majors that could lead to careers like being a news anchor or spokesperson. You can also take your weaknesses and build on them in college. On the other hand, if public speaking is something you want to improve, go ahead, and take a speech class. You might love it!
- **Use the Roadmap to Careers.** Connect your interests to majors and careers, and explore video interviews with professionals in different industries to hear how they got where they are today. Then, use your College Board login to map your future—it's free for students who take the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, or the SAT.

## ***2. What are your career goals?***

After digging into what you're interested in and potential career options, it's time to think about your future career goal—and how hard it might be to find employment.

If you have a specific career goal in mind, you might need to pick your major or program in advance, sometimes as early as when your college.

It's also good to know what degree you'll need for the field that interests you. Here's an overview of different college degrees:

- **Associate Degree** The two-year associate of arts (AA) or associate of science (AS). Some students who earn this degree transfer to a four-year bachelor's program; others use it to go straight to work. Community college in addition, community colleges, and some four-year colleges offer associate degrees.
- **Bachelor's Degree** This degree requires completing a four-year college program. Most students earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science degree (BS). You can also study toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Architecture degree.
- **Joint Degree** Students can earn a bachelor's degree plus a graduate or professional degree in less time if they combine them. For example, a student on this track may apply to a graduate program as an undergraduate and begin the graduate program in their fourth year of college.
- **Graduate Degree** Graduate degrees are advanced degrees pursued after earning a bachelor's degree. Examples are a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MS). Students generally earn a master's degree after two years of study. A doctoral degree (a PhD) requires four or more years of study.

## ***3. Talk to advisers and professionals***

The best source of college advice is your school counselor. They've helped lots of students who are making the same decisions you are. In addition, your school counselor can tell you more about college majors and program offerings. Here are five questions you might want to ask a counselor.

1. Are there any college fairs at this school, or nearby?
2. Can you put me in touch with recent grads who are going to the colleges on my wish list?
3. Which elective courses do you recommend?



4. Do you have any information to help me start exploring careers?
5. Do you have any college planning sessions scheduled?

Check out BigFuture for a list of 20 questions to ask your counselor to get the conversation started.

You can also reach out to professionals working in the field you're interested in. They can talk to you about how they got from college to where they are now. Whether they're your parents, guardians, family members, or people you interact with professionally, set up a time to interview them. Be prepared with a set of questions to ask.

#### **4. Backups**

Try to come up with one or two backup majors. This way you've got options if you decide to switch your major.

#### **What if you can't decide on a major?**

**It's okay to enter college as an undecided major.** You don't have to know what you want to major in (or even what you want to do with the rest of your life) during your major search process. College gives you the opportunity to take classes you think you might enjoy or even classes you've never been exposed to before.

**Volunteer and find internships.** Internships and volunteer work are the best ways to get real hands-on experience in fields a major can lead to. You'll get a great understanding of what day-to-day life in the profession is like. If you can, talk to people in different departments to see if their work interests you.

**Events at local colleges/college visits.** You can learn a lot from visiting colleges or attending events on campus. Colleges have open houses or accepted student days where department representatives answer questions and offer you, their knowledge. There are also students around you can talk to about their major and class experiences in the major.

#### **Can you change your major?**

**You can absolutely change your major in college.** Studies find that most students change majors at least once and many students switch several times. No matter what year you're in, sometimes the major you declare doesn't end up being the right one. If you decide to change your major, make sure the credits you need align with your expected graduation date. Go to your counselor for guidance on picking a new major and setting up your schedule.

It's a big decision, but you know yourself and your interests better than anyone. Remember, when choosing a major, the most important thing is to make sure you're happy and clear about your priorities for your life and career after college.

# 10 Free Search Tools to Find Your School

To help you get started, I have collected a few college search engines from around the web. If you're putting together your college list, check out these ten online tools.

## 1. College Board's BigFuture

[College Board](#) offers one of the best search tools around with BigFuture. You can find colleges by test scores, location, majors, support services and diversity. If you create an account, you can save your favorite colleges and revisit them later. In addition to its college finder, College Board offers tips on [how to apply for financial aid](#) or explore careers.

## 2. Cappex

[Cappex](#) is another top resource and college search engine. You can search through thousands of schools, plus you can estimate your chances of admission based on your GPA and admission test scores. You can also use the "Fit Score" to gauge whether a college could be a good match for you. The fit meter assigns a percentage to each school based on your preferences, like school size and tuition cost. If you get 90% or higher, the school could be a great fit. Finally, you can estimate your chances of gaining admission to specific schools by inputting your grade and test score information.

## 3. College Insight

Some college search websites let you save a list of your favorites, but [College Insight](#) takes things a step further. With College Insight, you can build tables with any combination of variables to compare colleges. You can pick out the most relevant data and information to compare schools in a way that makes sense for you.

## 4. College Confidential

You might know [College Confidential](#) as a discussion forum, but the college search site also offers a comprehensive tool. The filters don't get as specific as some other sites, but they're enough to help you start [building a college list](#). Once you narrow your results, you can learn about each school's acceptance rate, tuition costs and test scores, among other essential facts.

## 5. Niche

[Niche](#) is another great resource for learning about colleges across the country. After narrowing down your list, you'll see that each college comes with a "report card" and overall grade. Niche gives grades for professors, athletics, dorms, and safety, among other concerns. Plus, it creates its rankings based on data from the U.S. Department of Education (DoED) so that you can browse [colleges by state](#) or major.

## 6. Unigo

[Unigo](#) mixes up the traditional college search format. Instead of selecting filters, you'll answer questions through a college match quiz. Then, Unigo will match you with colleges based on your responses. You can learn about each school, as well as read unbiased student reviews. Besides its college search engine, Unigo also helps you [find scholarships](#).

## **7. College Navigator**

[College Navigator](#) is a free college search tool offered by the DoED's National Center for Education Statistics. Although the design of the website isn't exactly slick, it's a thorough directory with up-to-date info.

You can filter schools by location, selectivity, sports teams, and other criteria. Plus, you can indicate tuition costs and your state of residency; the tool will even consider tuition. Use College Navigator for a no-frills look at facts and figures.

## **8. College Simply**

[College Simply](#) doesn't have a ton of search filters, but it does collect a huge number of student reviews. You can find schools by test scores, state, ranking or acceptance rate.

Then, learn some basic facts about each college and read through reviews. Although College Simply isn't as thorough as some other college search tools, it's a useful place to start.

## **9. College XPress**

Over 4.2 million students use [College Xpress](#) to find colleges and browse rankings. In addition to getting matched with schools, you can scan over \$7 billion in scholarship opportunities. After you create an account, you'll be able to sign back in later to revisit your college list or track your scholarship applications.

## **10. Peterson's**

If you're just beginning the college search process, [Peterson's College Search tool](#) could be a good starting point. Its College Discovery Center provides pre-made lists of schools categorized by major or field. You can also use the site's search function to narrow your results by major, location or another keyword. From there, Peterson's delivers the same filtering functionality as its competitors. Finally, Peterson's is something of a one-stop shop, with its additional resources for test preparation and scholarships.

# College Fit Factors

## **Academics Factors:**

- Major/Minor Availability
- Admissions Rate/Selectivity
- Student to Faculty Ratio
- School Size
- Graduation Rate
- Freshmen Retention Rate
- Graduate/Professional School Options
- Quality of Department of Study
- Quality of Professors/Faculty
- Study Abroad Programs

## **Student Life Factors:**

- Location
- Size of Campus
- Meal Plans
- Extracurricular Options
- Housing Options
- Public/Private
- Sports Participation
- Safety Statistics
- Religious Affiliation
- Transportation
- Demographics/Diversity
- School Spirit
- Alumni Network
- Disability Services

## **Financial Factors:**

- Cost (Net Price Calculator)
- Financial Aid Qualification
- Working Students
- Application Fees
- Graduating Class Indebtedness

# Questions to Ask College Representatives

## Student Life

- What do students like most about your school?
- What kinds of students are happiest at your school?
- Where do students hang out on campus? Do students mostly live on or off campus?
- How would you describe the students that go to your college? Where do most of them come from?
- What student clubs are available? Would it be possible for me to create my own student organization? What is that process like?
- What happens on weekends—are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most students go home?
- How would you describe safety on campus? The surrounding area?
- What housing and meal plan options are available?
- What is the trip like to travel home (to Southern California) from campus?
- What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
- I would love to ask current students at your school about their experience. Would it be possible for me to connect with a current student?

## Academics/Career Preparation

- What makes your college unique?
- How would you describe the academic pressure and workload at your school?
- What opportunities would I have if I majored in \_\_\_\_\_ at your institution?
- What differentiates your program in \_\_\_\_\_ from programs offered at other universities?
- My favorite subject in school is \_\_\_\_\_. How can that translate into a major at your school?
- What support services are available (academic advisors, tutors, counseling, etc.)?
- What's the faculty like? How accessible are they outside of class?
- What academic programs is your college most known for? What are some programs that others might not know about?
- What are some examples of internships held by students majoring in \_\_\_\_\_ at your school?
- What kinds of career planning opportunities are available at your school?

## Cost and Financial Aid

- How much am I going to pay each year to attend your school? Can you tell me about other fees and costs in addition to tuition?
- What financial aid programs does your college offer?
- What kinds of scholarships do you offer?
- What percentage of the annual cost to attend your school can be covered by scholarships?

## Top 10 Ways to “Test Drive” a college

1. **Learn about the college before you visit.** Read materials from the college and check out their website. If you are visiting more than one on a particular day, refresh your memory about that school just before you arrive. Be sure to spend at least one-half day at each school.
2. **Evaluate the environment of the campus.** Is the campus too big or too small for you? Do you like the nearby town, or do you feel isolated? Consider how you would get around campus particularly in the rain or snow.
3. **Visit the admissions office and participate in the information session.** Ask questions that help you clarify the academic program at the school and the type of student who is most comfortable and successful there. You may choose to have a formal interview with an admissions staff member. Bring a resume of your grades and activities. Dress nicely, but not out of character.
4. **Take the student led campus tour.** Take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions about campus life from a peer. Recognize, however, that tour guides are not necessarily typical of all students since they formally represent the school.
5. **Check out the dorms.** Find out about the dorm options available, such as all- freshman or coed. Arrange in advance to spend the night in a dorm, if possible. Picture yourself living in a dorm. Are you comfortable with where they are located on campus, such as the proximity to classes or the campus center?
6. **Arrange for campus meeting with department heads in the subjects that interest you, coaches in sports where you excel, and former graduates from your high school.** Bring a resume that highlights your experience in your area of expertise. Ask about opportunities based on your skills and interests. Write down the names of any officials you meet with and send them personal thank you notes when you return home.
7. **Sit in on classes and check out the library.** How is the rapport between students and professors in the classroom? Look through the books in the library in your area of interest. Look for a quiet place to study.
8. **Look into life beyond academics.** Check out the athletic facilities, theater, and student center. Read the notices up in the dorms or on bulletin boards. Can you see yourself joining in?
9. **Have lunch in the student center and watch student interactions.** Talk with students all over campus about their impressions of the school. Look at the students themselves. Do you feel comfortable among the students?
10. **After each visit, write down your impressions of that college.** After a while, the visions of different schools start to blur if don't immediately stop and record your thoughts. Keep a list of pros and cons for comparison.

# California State University

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

Application Opens: October 1

Submit Application: October 1 - November 30

CSU Bakersfield    CSU Channel Islands  
Chico State    CSU Dominguez Hills  
Cal State East Bay    \*Fresno State  
\* Cal State Fullerton    Humboldt State  
\*Cal State Long Beach    \*Cal State L.A.  
Cal Maritime    CSU Monterey Bay  
CSU Northridge    Cal Poly Pomona  
Sacramento State    CSU San Bernardino  
\*San Diego State    San Francisco State  
\*Cal Poly San Luis Obispo    \*San Jose State  
CSU San Marcos    Sonoma State  
Stanislaus State

\* Indicates Impacted Campus

You will submit

- An application
- Official Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
- Application Fee: \$70 each campus

Transcript	Letter of Rec	Essay/ Personal statement	Test Scores
Final Transcript/ When contacted	Not Required	Not Required	Required/Send

## EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)

This program provides admission and academic assistance to EOP-eligible undergraduate students. In many cases, the program offers financial assistance to eligible students. Campuses tailor their programs to accommodate the needs of their student population.

For more information: <http://www.calstate.edu/sas/eop/>

Campuses that guarantee admissions to local area students if they meet the eligibility index (use equation)

$$(CSU \text{ GPA} \times 800) + (SAT \text{ Math} + \text{Reading}) = 2950$$

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/eligibility-index>

## Impacted Campuses Eligibility Scores:

Non-STEM Majors

$$(GPA \times 800) + (\text{Critical Reading and Math}) = 3200$$

STEM Majors

$$(GPA \times 800) + (\text{Critical Reading} + (2 \times \text{Math})) = 3300$$

## **Most Competitive/Impacted Campuses:**

Cal State Long Beach  
Cal State Fullerton  
Cal State L.A.  
San Diego State University  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Fresno State University

San Jose State University

**Not Impacted: All California Students**

CSU Bakersfield

CSU Channel Islands

CSU Dominguez Hills

Humboldt State University

CSU Maritime Academy

San Francisco State University

CSU Stanislaus

Note: Meeting the minimum scores for competitive campuses does not guarantee admissions. Admission is offered to those with the highest overall scores and are affected by choice of major. Popular majors such as Nursing, Engineering, Biology, Criminal Justice, and Psychology are more impacted.

<https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/degreescertificates-credentials/Pages/impacted-degrees.aspx>



# University of California

<https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Application Opens: August 1

Submit Application: November 1 - November 30

- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UCLA
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC San Diego
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz

## You will submit

- An application
- Personal Insight Questions
- Official Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
- Application Fee: \$70 each campus

Transcript	Letter of Rec	Essay/ Personal statement	Test Scores
Final Transcript/ When contacted	Not Required	Required	Required/Send

## Highly Competitive:

- UCLA
- UC Berkeley
- UC San Diego

## Middle Range Competitive:

- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Irvine
- UC Davis

## Competitive:

- UC Santa Cruz
- UC Riverside
- UC Merced

## How to Apply Online:

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-toapply/apply-online/>

## How Applications are

Reviewed/14 Factors:

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/how-applications-reviewed/index.htm>





# The Common Application

<https://apply.commonapp.org/>

## The Common Application:

500+ College and University Members, you will submit

- **An application**
- **Official High School Transcript**
- **Letters of Recommendation (LOR's)**
- Check whether the mid-year report and transcript
- Potential Short Answers and Essays
- Test Scores
- Application Fee: Varies per school
- Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire (Counselor and Teachers)

Transcript	Letter of Rec.	Essay/Personal Statement	Test Scores
Send via Parchment to "Common App"	Required (Varies by school)	Required (Varies by school)	Self-Report & Send Official to Individual College

## To set up your Common Application:

- Create a Common Application account at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Use a personal email address for college communications (not your MD Email)
- Self-Report your:
  - Background information
  - Extra-Curricular Activities
  - Senior Year Classes
  - SAT/ACT Scores (remember to send official scores)
  - Complete the Education Section of the application.

## Common Application Essay

Directions: Choose 1 of the seven prompts. The

word limit is 650 words. (Prompts are Subject to Change)

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

# Main AICCU Campuses by Region \*

## 1. Northern California (1)

Simpson University Redding

## 2. SF Bay Area (19)

California College of the Arts San Francisco  
 Calif. Institute of Integral Studies San Francisco  
 Dominican University of California San Rafael  
 Golden Gate University San Francisco  
 Holy Names University Oakland  
 Institute of Transpersonal Psychology Santa Clara  
 Mills College Oakland  
 Notre Dame de Namur University Belmont  
 Pacific Union College Angwin  
 Palo Alto University Palo Alto  
 Saint Mary's College of California Moraga  
 Samuel Merritt College Oakland  
 San Francisco Art Institute San Francisco  
 San Francisco Conservatory of Music San Francisco  
 Santa Clara University Santa Clara  
 Saybrook University San Francisco  
 Stanford University Stanford  
 Touro University - California Vallejo  
 University of San Francisco San Francisco

## 3. Central Valley (4)

Fresno Pacific University Fresno  
 Humphreys College Stockton  
 University of the Pacific Stockton  
 William Jessup University Rocklin

## 4. Central Coast (4)

California Lutheran University Thousand Oaks  
 Fielding Graduate University Santa Barbara  
 Thomas Aquinas College Santa Paula  
 Westmont College Santa Barbara

## 5. Los Angeles/Kern (30)

American Academy of Dram. Arts L.A. Hollywood  
 American Jewish University Bel Air  
 Antioch University Los Angeles Los Angeles  
 Art Center College of Design Pasadena  
 Azusa Pacific University Azusa  
 Biola University La Mirada  
 California Institute of Technology Pasadena  
 California Institute of the Arts Valencia  
 Chicago School of Prof. Psychology Los Angeles  
 Claremont Graduate University Claremont  
 Claremont McKenna College Claremont  
 Harvey Mudd College Claremont  
 Kean Graduate University Claremont  
 Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles  
 Marymount College Rancho Palos Verdes  
 Master's College, The Santa Clarita  
 Mount St. Mary's College Los Angeles  
 Occidental College Los Angeles  
 Otis College of Art + Design Los Angeles  
 Pacific Oaks College Pasadena  
 Pepperdine University Malibu  
 Pitzer College Claremont  
 Pomona College Pomona  
 Scripps College Claremont  
 So. California Univ. of Health Sciences Whittier  
 University of La Verne La Verne  
 University of Southern California Los Angeles  
 Western University of Health Sciences Pomona  
 Whittier College Whittier  
 Woodbury University Burbank

## 6. Orange (7)

Brandman University Irvine  
 Chapman University Orange  
 Concordia University Irvine  
 Hope International University Fullerton  
 Laguna College of Art & Design Laguna Beach  
 Soka University Aliso Viejo  
 Vanguard University of Southern California Costa Mesa

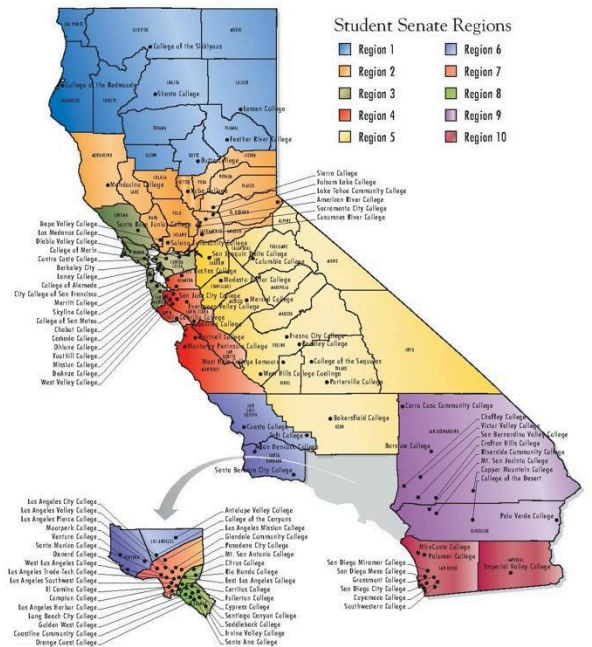
## 7. Riverside/San Bernardino (4)

California Baptist University Riverside  
 La Sierra University Los Angeles  
 Loma Linda University Loma Linda  
 University of Redlands Redlands

## 8. San Diego/Imperial (5)

Alliant International University San Diego  
 National University La Jolla  
 Point Loma Nazarene University San Diego  
 San Diego Christian College El Cajon  
 University of San Diego San Diego

\*See schools websites for satellite locations.



Chancellor's Office  
 California Community Colleges  
 1102 Q Street Sacramento, California 95814-6511 www.cccco.edu

State of California

# California Colleges.edu

## What is the California College Guidance Initiative?

The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI or the Initiative) provides a data and planning infrastructure that helps to increase postsecondary preparation and attainment for students in California.

## CaliforniaColleges.edu

Used by over 750,000 6th-12th grade students in California during the 2016-2017 school year, CaliforniaColleges.edu provides students with an interactive 6th-12th grade curriculum that guides students through grade-appropriate exploration and planning activities, as well as the process of applying for college admission and financial aid. This includes:

- Career assessments.
- An academic planner that helps students choose the right high school courses to meet their postsecondary goals
- Career and major search tools that help students identify careers of interest and clarify what degrees, certificates, and majors can help them gain entry to those career paths.
- A college search tool that includes all accredited nonprofit and public institutions of higher education helps students' institutions where their target degrees, certificates, and majors are offered.
- A vocabulary list helps students understand confusing college and financial aid planning terms.
- High school seniors can launch applications from within their accounts on CaliforniaColleges.edu to all California Community Colleges currently participating in CCC Apply (107 of 114) and all 23 CSU campuses. They can also launch their FAFSA.
- An individual portfolio called "My Plan" where students set goals, develop college, career, and financial aid plans, manage tasks associated with the college and financial aid application process, and respond to reflective writing prompts that help them think through key decision points in the process.

**CaliforniaColleges:** <https://www.californiacolleges.edu/#/>

**Username:** Student's AHS email address

**Password:**

All AHS Students have access to CaliforniaColleges, a powerful college and career research tool!

- List the colleges you're thinking about
- Take the Career Interest Profiler
- Career assessments.
- College, Career, and Major Search tools.
- An Academic Planner for developing high school course plans.
- Tools that support goal setting, task management, and self-reflection.
- An online digital portfolio to track college, career, and financial aid planning activities called My Plan.

# College/Career Information Websites

## Academic Resources

[www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org) – Bureau of Labor Statistics and great career information

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org) – ACT – American College Test

[www.aiccumentor.org](http://www.aiccumentor.org) – California's 76 Independent Colleges

[www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) – displays report of how course credits earned at community college can be applied  
when transferred to another college

[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) – a guide to all colleges in California including private institutions

[www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu) – provides information about the CSU system and links to all 23 CSU campuses

[www.cavhs.org](http://www.cavhs.org) – UC website providing test preparation advice

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) – rich database of information on colleges, careers, scholarships, financial aid,  
college planning per grade level, registration for SAT I, SAT II, (New SAT info) PSAT, AP, CLEP

[www.collegeboard.com/apstudents](http://www.collegeboard.com/apstudents) – info on AP exams for undergraduate placement

[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) – a comprehensive guide to the California State University's 23 campuses.  
Provides outreach, preadmission, financial aid, and admission information.  
Students can create a student planner to guide them in meeting CSU admission requirements.

[www.csumentor.edu/filing-status](http://www.csumentor.edu/filing-status) – a ready reference to determine which CSU campuses are accepting undergraduate applications and which majors are open or closed.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) – scholarship search site

[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net) – Hispanic Scholarship Fund

[www.mdtp.ucsd.edu](http://www.mdtp.ucsd.edu) – practice tests for mathematical analysis and readiness test

[www.mycoolcareers.com](http://www.mycoolcareers.com) – assessment tests and streaming video interviews

[www.myroad.com](http://www.myroad.com) – a personality profile; explore colleges and careers (free for AVID students only)

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) – athletic information

[www.pathways2.ucop.edu](http://www.pathways2.ucop.edu) – a comprehensive guide to the University of California's 9 campuses

#### **College/Career Information Websites**

[www.studyabroad.com](http://www.studyabroad.com) or [www.istc.umn.edu/rotary.org](http://www.istc.umn.edu/rotary.org) – gives information studying abroad

[www.ucop.edu](http://www.ucop.edu) – use a search engine: new exams – gives new eligibility requirements for new SAT

[www.ucop.pathways.edu/doorways/list](http://www.ucop.pathways.edu/doorways/list) – UC Course Lists

[www.ucop.edu/sas/elc](http://www.ucop.edu/sas/elc) – ELC information

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply) – online application

[www.ucop.edu/pathways](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways) – comprehensive information about admissions and financial aid

[www.ucapplication.net.ucap](http://www.ucapplication.net.ucap) – review a sample application

[www.ucgateways.org](http://www.ucgateways.org) – personal statement tutor

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/apptour](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/apptour) – virtual reality tours of UC campuses

#### **Financial Resources**

[www.admission.uci.edu/ats](http://www.admission.uci.edu/ats) – academic talent search

[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) – California Student Aid Commission lists services for college financial aid and for

GPA verification

[www.easi.ed.gov](http://www.easi.ed.gov) – scholarship search

[www.edfund.org](http://www.edfund.org) – Ed Fund

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) – guides you in the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

March 2 – last date to file

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) – over \$1 billion in scholarships; summer programs, volunteer opportunities

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) – scholarships, financial aid, loans

[www.free-4u.com](http://www.free-4u.com) – scholarships are grouped by category

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) – info on scholarship scams

[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com) – lists scholarships

[www.sallie.com](http://www.sallie.com) – info on grants and financial aid

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) – scholarship information

[www.ucop.edu/sas/publish](http://www.ucop.edu/sas/publish) – to request *Financing Guide for Students & Parents*  
(Or email a request to [ucpubs@ucop.edu](mailto:ucpubs@ucop.edu))

# **Other Post Grad Option**

# Other Post Grad Option

## GAP YEAR

A gap year is a year spent taking time off between life stages. An increasingly popular option, it provides time for traveling, volunteering, learning a new language, or experiencing any number of other activities for personal growth. While gap years have been common in other countries for years, they are only now just slowly gaining in popularity in the United States. Typically, students elect to take gap years after they graduate high school and before they enter college. After High school is a wonderful time to take a gap year! And if you plan it just right, you might even still be able to graduate without losing a year! There are no rules when it comes to taking a gap year, so the possibilities are truly endless.

Luckily, there are organizations that specialize in helping students organize their adventures, for example, some companies assist with everything from finding a host family, to setting up the volunteer project, to taking care of meals and travel insurance. Areas of focus students may choose from for their gap year activities include Animals, Archaeology, Business, Conservation, Education, Healthcare, Human Rights, Journalism and Sports. Whether to individually design a program or use the resources of an established organization. Planning for college—Students who apply for college during their senior year of high school can defer enrollment for a year, so they'll already have their place secured and can easily start classes upon completing the gap year.

### *Suggested Unique Gap Year Programs for Teens*

- **Rotary Youth Exchange programs** range from a year abroad studying at a local school and living with a local family to shorter term programs that can be customized to include homestays, internships, volunteer projects, travel, and more.
- **The Traveling School** is just that -- a school that travels. The program is open to girls in high school and each semester takes place in a different part of the world.
- **Projects Abroad's Global Gap Year** program focused on volunteering on various service projects in five countries on three different continents over the course of 27 weeks.
- **The Island School** is also semester-based, an opportunity for students to study in the Bahamas, with a focus on environment and sustainability and the chance to conduct scientific research at the associated Cala Eleuthera Institute.
- **Where There Be Dragons** offer a variety of programs which typically include a mix of travel, service learning, language learning, homestays, and more.



# The Military

This can be a good option for young adults who thrive on structure and physical activity. The training involves a lot of practice and repetition. Service in the armed forces can lead to a job or to college-level education. Before joining, it's important to think about how learning and thinking differences could impact training. The military has rules for qualifying if a young person has taken ADHD medication in the past or needs special accommodations.

# Work

If more schooling isn't right, going straight to work can be a rewarding path for young people. But in a tough job market, young adults may have trouble getting a job, especially if they have no experience. If that's the case, they might consider volunteering for a while to build skills. School guidance counselors and community centers can help young adults find internships and volunteer work. Family members and friends may know of jobs, too. As a young person learns solid work skills, independence will follow. And they may discover a career path that leads to further training.

# LEARN A TRADE/APPRENTICESHIP

Learning a trade through an apprenticeship program allows one to receive training and gain skills on the job while getting paid. Even more appealing for people considering a career in skilled trades -- many of these jobs are in high demand, with expected growth to continue for some time. Furthermore, because more young people choose college over trades, the shortage of skilled workers is growing. Besides the demand for these jobs, skilled tradespeople can easily earn \$40,000 or more annually.

# Applying To School

# Applying To School

The college application process can seem intimidating, especially if students don't have parents or siblings who have already been through it and can offer advice. Since there are so many steps, such as writing an essay and obtaining letters of recommendation, experts say a good way for students to get started is to create a to-do list during their junior year of high school.

Though there is often prep work that happens beforehand, students generally begin filling out college applications the summer between their junior and senior year of high school, experts say.

Here's what prospective undergraduates need to know about completing a college application.

## **What Are the Important College Application Deadlines?**

High school seniors have multiple deadlines to choose from when applying to colleges.

First are early decision deadlines, usually in November. Students who apply via early decision, or ED, will hear back from a college sooner than their peers who turn in applications later. ED admissions decisions often come out by December.

However, students should be aware that ED acceptances are binding, meaning an applicant must enroll if admitted.

Some schools also have a second early decision deadline, ED II, which is also binding. The difference is in the timelines. ED II deadlines are usually in January. ED II admissions decisions often come out in February.

Early action is another type of application deadline that tends to be in November or December. Similar to early decision, students who apply via early action will hear back from schools sooner. The difference is EA acceptances aren't binding.

Students can also choose to apply by a school's regular decision deadline, which can be as early as Nov. 30 at certain colleges but is typically Jan. 1. Students who apply regular decision generally hear back from schools in mid-to-late March or early April.

One other admissions policy to be aware of is rolling admissions. Schools with rolling admissions evaluate applications as they receive them and release admissions decisions on an ongoing basis. These schools may have a priority filing date, but they generally don't have a hard cutoff date for applications. The institutions continue accepting them until all spots in the incoming class are filled.

In deciding when to apply, as well as how many colleges to apply to, students should consider financial aid implications. Experts say if money is a concern, as it is for many families of college-bound students, applicants should choose nonbinding deadlines – EA and regular decision. This will enable families to compare financial aid offers from multiple schools.

For regular decision deadlines, students typically have until May 1 to decide which school they will attend and pay an enrollment deposit.

## Which College Application Platform Should I Use?

Students have several options when it comes to college application platforms.

One popular choice is The Common Application, which is accepted by more than 900 colleges, including some located outside the U.S. Students fill out the Common App once and can then submit it to multiple colleges.

However, in addition to the main application, Common App schools often have a supplemental section. The supplement sometimes includes additional essay questions, so students may need to budget time for more writing.

But not all schools accept the Common App, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Georgetown University in the District of Columbia.

Other application options include the Coalition Application, a newer platform accepted by more than 150 schools, and the Common Black College Application, accepted by more than 60 historically Black colleges and universities.

Additionally, some colleges have school-specific or university system-specific applications. For example, the University of California system has its own application – the only platform used by UC schools – and students can apply to multiple campuses with one application.

Students can visit a college's website to determine which application platforms are accepted. Also, the Common App, Coalition Application and CBCA websites list their partner schools.

## What Are the Other Key Components of a College Application?

Here are other parts of the college application that prospective students should be ready for.

- **Personal information:** In the first portion of a college application, students will have to provide basic information about themselves, their school, and their family.
- **High school transcript:** Colleges will also ask for an official high school transcript, which is a record of the course's students have taken and the grades they have earned.

Admissions offices typically ask that a transcript be sent directly from the high school rather than from the student. Usually, students submit a transcript request to their high school's counseling office.

- **Standardized test scores:** Many schools require applicants to submit SAT or ACT scores. The testing companies usually send these scores. However, the number of schools requiring standardized test scores has dropped dramatically as the coronavirus pandemic upended these exams, with many testing centers closed across the U.S. in parts of 2020.

Prospective students should know, however, that testing policies vary even when such exams are not required. Key terms to pay attention to include test-blind and test-optional. Test-blind means that scores will not be considered if submitted. By contrast, test-optional colleges do not require ACT or SAT scores but will consider them if submitted as part of an application.

SAT test-takers are allowed four free score reports each time they register for the exam. Students can select which schools they'd like their scores sent to before or up to nine days after the test, according to the College Board, which administers the standardized test. The fee for each additional score report is \$12.

- **Letters of recommendation:** Colleges often ask students to submit two to three letters of recommendation.

### **Do I Need to Submit a Resume?**

Some college applications may be optional for students to upload a resume.

But much of the information generally contained in a resume – such as awards, work experience and extracurricular activities – is asked for in other parts of a college application, often in an activities section.

### **How Much Do College Application Fees Cost?**

There's no set price for college application fees, which experts say typically range from \$50 to \$90 per application, though costs can stretch upward of \$100 in some instances. Prospective students should check college websites to determine these individual fees.

### **How Can I Get a College Application Fee Waiver?**

There are several ways students from low-income families can submit college applications for free.

Students who received SAT or ACT waiver are eligible for college application fee waivers from the testing companies. The College Board sends such waivers automatically to students. Not all schools accept these waivers, but many do.

Similarly, the ACT has a fee waiver request form students and school counselors can fill out and send to colleges. The National Association for College Admission Counseling also offers a fee waiver request form.

In addition, eligible students can request a fee waiver within the body of some college applications, including the Common App.

### **Using a College Visit to Decide Where to Apply**

Visiting a college can help prospective students understand the culture and community and how they may or may not fit in. While it's not part of the formal application process, exploring a college can help students determine which schools to apply to.

While virtual tours may offer fewer opportunities to make a personal connection, students should still attempt to do so.

Knowing what the colleges you're applying to are looking for helps you make the best choices for college prep and craft a better application when the time comes. In addition, contacting your top school choices will give you a more specific picture of what they all expect, allowing you to target your applications for each and increase the chances of acceptance.

## Applying Early?

This should be considered for students whose application is the best it can possibly be at this time (test scores, transcript, and essays)

### EARLY ACTION

- Apply early (usually November)
- HIGHLY qualified candidates who apply early may receive offers of admission early (in the admission cycle) by mid – December
- Early Action is not binding
- Students may apply to as many EA'S as they wish
- You have until May 1st to make your decision

### SINGLE CHOICE EARLY ACTION

- Apply early (usually November)
- You can only apply to one private university under Single Choice Early Action
- Single Choice Early Action is not binding
- You have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to make your decision

### EARLY DECISION

- Early Decision **IS BINDING**. If accepted, you must withdraw all other college applications.
- Read all information carefully, these are contracts
- You can apply to **ONLY ONE SCHOOL** under Early Decision
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans

### Who should Apply Early?

*Applying to an Early Action or Early Decision plan is most appropriate for a student who:*

- Has researched colleges extensively
- Is absolutely sure that the college is their first choice
- Has found a college that is a strong match academically, socially, and geographically
- Meets or exceeds the admission profile for the college for SAT, ACT Scores and GPA
- Has an academic record that has been consistently solid over time

*Applying to an Early Action or Early Decision plan is NOT appropriate for a student who:*

- Has not thoroughly researched colleges
- Is applying early just to avoid stress and paperwork
- Is not fully committed to attending the college
- Needs a strong senior fall semester to bring grades up

## The Essay & Personal Statement

### Purpose of the essay or personal statement

- Bring life to the person behind the application
- Showcase a student's talents, achievements, experiences, and points of view in ways the rest of the application cannot

- Provide a complete picture and fill in the gaps
- Used in scholarship consideration

### **General Writing Tips**

- Write a solid introduction; this makes the reader want to continue reading
- The bulk of your essay should clearly tell the reader who you are in the case of a short essay (200 words or less) the answer should get to the point in the first sentences, supported by well-chosen examples and a well-focused conclusion
- Use transitions to give your essay a logical flow
- Write a conclusion that impresses upon the reader your qualifications and ties your essay together

### **Reminders**

- Read all instructions carefully
- Answer the prompt
- “Anything” means one strategically chosen topic which highlights or explains what’s in the application itself
- Avoid lists of accomplishments but focus on what these activities say about you
- Start early (summer before senior year) and rewrite...write one draft and let it sit for a day
- Have others review your work
- Write in your own authentic voice
- Be careful with humor
- Do NOT manufacture hardship
- Do NOT use big words to make your essay sound more impressive
- Be YOU!

### **What are some things readers may be looking for?**

- Thoughtful reflection: A genuine sense of who you are
- Personal qualities that may include leadership, initiative, openness to growth,
- persistence, commitment to others, maturity, motivation
- Meaningful participation in activities
- Students willing to go the extra mile to enrich their education
- Think of the essay as your chance to interview. Colleges want to know more about you.

## **After you Apply**

The day you’ve been dreaming about has finally arrived – you just submitted your college applications! Here’s what to do next.

Most of the important work is done. You’ve built a thoughtful list full of colleges you’re excited about attending, you’ve written an awesome college essay, and you stayed organized while completing all the pieces of these applications. Let’s not forget how much work that is – it’s a lot and you did an excellent job of getting it all done. That must feel good!

However, once you hit that submit button and wait for admission offices to receive each piece of your application, there are several things you should be doing while waiting for decisions to be released.

### **1. REGISTERING FOR ONLINE APPLICANT PORTALS**

Although it varies by school, you'll likely get an official "Thanks for applying to [XYZ school]" email anywhere between two and 10 business days after your application has been submitted and downloaded. Most schools will also send information in these emails regarding how to access and register for their online applicant portal.

When you receive this information, create an account, and put your login information in a safe place. Having access to the college's applicant portal will allow you to confirm what an admission office has received and what they're still waiting to process and add to your file. Also, many colleges release admission decisions via their respective portals, so you'll need to have an account set up to find out whether you've been accepted or not.

I advise students to make a habit of periodically checking applicant portals – maybe once a week or so. This not only ensures their application is complete and ready for review leading up to a deadline, but they can also check for any communication from the admission office that may require a response or an action to be taken.

## **2. COMPLETING SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Yes, while your application is complete and submitted to various colleges, there still may be more work for you to complete before your file will be considered ready for review. This extra work will vary by college.

Some colleges may not have any supplemental short essays in their application itself or in the Common Application, but they will appear in your portal once you have access to it. For example, the University of Delaware has done this in recent years for students who submitted applications under their test-optional policy.

Other institutions like Bowdoin College for example want students to answer questions via recorded video, and that information isn't available until after you've officially submitted your application. Alternatively, schools like Brown University require your video intro to be submitted by the regular college application deadline.

The most common "extra work" I've seen in recent years includes the Self-Reported Academic Record, also known as the SRAR. This is essentially an opportunity for you to self-report your transcript, and generally requires you to include all courses and final grades for each year of high school, as well as your grade 12 courses in progress.

How this is used can vary by college, but the University of Pittsburgh uses the SRAR in place of your official high school transcript during the admission committee review process. Pittsburgh makes this an optional part of your application, but there are other colleges, like Penn State University, that require the SRAR to be complete prior to reviewing your application. Colleges will send an email with directions on how to complete the SRAR, and many times, you'll need access to your online applicant portal to successfully submit it.

## **3. SUBMITTING NECESSARY FINANCIAL AID FORMS**

It's critical to submit your application for admission by the published deadlines or they won't be considered. But there are also deadlines to submit financial aid forms to the colleges on your list. There are two main forms that might need to get filled out and submitted: the FAFSA and the CSS Profile.

The FAFSA is the more universal financial aid form that colleges need. It's required for students who want to be considered for federal student loans, grants, and federal work-study programs, as well as qualifying for state and institutional scholarships. This mostly concerns any need-based aid that a student would be eligible to receive within their financial aid packages.

The CSS Profile is an additional form some colleges require. Colleges will use this form to award institutional aid to eligible students. Here's a list of colleges that require the CSS Profile.



These forms are similar to the Common App because you only need to complete each one once before sending it to all the colleges on your list. The CSS Profile only needs to be completed prior to freshman year, while the FAFSA must be completed each year you're in college. You'll likely need help from your parents to complete these forms because they each ask financial questions you probably don't know the answers to. Make sure everyone in your family is aware of what needs to be completed and by when, so it's all submitted prior to the stated deadlines on each college's financial aid website.

#### **4. SCHEDULING AN INTERVIEW (IF POSSIBLE)**

As part of your research process, you'll find out which colleges on your list require or recommend interviews, and which ones don't offer them. In some cases, students will be able to interview once they've applied for admission. One school that does this is Wake Forest University.

The thought of having an interview can be anxiety-provoking, but those nerves will dwindle a bit if you prepare. Some helpful tips I give students is to anticipate common questions getting asked, be yourself, and have your own questions ready to ask.

It's also helpful to do research on that specific school before the interview. If you're scheduling one after applying, though, you've probably already researched the school to make sure it's a good fit for you. To get more details on the above tips and more suggestions on how to have a great college interview, [check out this article](#).

#### **5. DEMONSTRATING INTEREST IN COLLEGES**

It's possible that you've already engaged with the colleges on your list in some way prior to applying, but if you haven't done so yet, [now is a great time to start](#). You can engage with a college in different forms, such as an in-person or virtual campus visit, meeting a college rep at your high school or a college fair, following the admissions office on social media, or any other type of in-person or virtual event experience.

The schools on your list may offer a variety of opportunities for you to engage with them via specific admission-related events like campus visits, information sessions, or academic program events. This is important because as part of the evaluation process, some admission offices will consider a student's level of [demonstrated interest](#) when making decisions.

Demonstrated interest is typically not considered at highly selective colleges and large public universities. However, institutions that don't fall into either of those categories are more likely to be interested in knowing if you hold their campus in high regard. It can be difficult to figure out which schools consider demonstrated interest and which don't.

#### **6. MAINTAINING GOOD GRADES**

Another benefit of completing applications is that it allows you to solely focus on being a high school senior again. And that means keeping your grades up and staying involved in your extracurricular activities. Your academic progress throughout senior year will be sent to colleges in the form of a midyear report and your final transcript. You've worked hard for three-plus years prior to applying to college. Make sure you finish your high school career strong by staying engaged.

Completing and submitting college applications is a huge accomplishment that should be celebrated accordingly. A lot of work has gone into it, and finally hitting the submit button likely feels like reaching the top of Mount Everest. However, even when you reach the summit, you can't stop paying attention on your way back down the mountain. After officially becoming an applicant, and putting your best foot forward in your application, stay engaged and pay attention

to the details. That way, you'll put yourself in the best possible position to receive good news from admission offices.

## WHAT TO DO AFTER GETTING ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE

After you've celebrated with friends and family, there's more work ahead.

1. Carefully review your admissions and financial aid offers. Make sure the information in the admission offer is correct. For example, have you been accepted to the term (fall, spring, or summer), campus, and academic department or program you expected? If you received financial aid, make sure you understand the terms of any loan or scholarship you are accepting and that you understand how much you and your family will be paying out of your own pockets. See [these tips for evaluating a financial aid offer](#) and [negotiating for more financial aid](#).

2. Formally accept your admissions offer. Follow the instructions on your acceptance letter, email, or admissions portal.

3. Decline other offers of admission. Colleges want to know if you won't be attending so they can offer your spot to another student. This can be as easy as clicking a box on the admissions website or emailing the admissions office.

4. Set up your college email account. Once set up, use it for all your college communications.

5. Follow your college on social media. Join the Facebook or other social media groups for your freshman class. Also follow the social media accounts of the admissions office and relevant academic departments and clubs so you don't miss important announcements or events.

6. Ask your high school to send your final transcript to the college. Don't let your grades slip. Deciding that you've worked hard enough for three and a half years and [coasting in the second semester](#) of your senior year could get your college acceptance revoked. It's not common, but it does happen.

7. Sign up for freshman orientation. You might have the option of attending [orientation](#) virtually or in person, but in either case, you should check to see if you need to sign up to reserve a spot.

8. Register for placement tests, if required. Also, be sure to complete any assignments from your college that you might receive.

9. Look for important documents from your college. Carefully read every email, text, or letter you receive from your college. Share this information with your parents, especially if they will be making payments or deposits on your behalf. Here's some of the information you can expect to receive.

- Confirmation of your final financial aid award. Indicate which awards you'll accept and return the signed form to the financial aid office.
- Housing and meal-plan forms. Look for a housing application and contract, and instructions for selecting a roommate and paying your housing deposit. You'll also get instructions for selecting a meal plan.
- Medical records and coverage. Your college may want to see your immunization record or require a physical exam. It may also offer you medical insurance.
- Bills for room and board, tuition, and other fees. Colleges normally expect you and your family to pay what you owe by the beginning of each semester or quarter.

10. Find and get in touch with your roommate(s). If you've been assigned a roommate or roommates by your college, connect with them by email, video conference, or in person --

whatever is most comfortable. At some point, you will want to discuss any shared items each of you will bring to the dorm room, such as a refrigerator, a coffee maker, or a microwave. If you're looking for off-campus housing, check with your college's housing office for information about finding roommates and rentals in the area. Or consult an internet roommate finder service, such as RoomieMatch or Diggz.

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE NOT ADMITTED ANYWHERE**

1. Consider applying to other colleges that are still accepting applications. Colleges with rolling admissions will review applications until their class is filled. For a frequently updated list of colleges accepting applications for the upcoming fall term, visit the National Association for College Admission Counseling.
2. Think about attending a local community college. Many students complete their general education requirements at a community college and later transfer to a four-year university. Here are seven reasons to consider attending a community college.
3. Look into taking a gap year. Some students find it helpful to take a year or semester away from academics. A gap year can include exploring a career path or interest, working full time, volunteering, or traveling.

## **WHAT TO DO OVER SUMMER BREAK**

Over the summer, you'll have more time to lay the groundwork for your new post-high school life. Here are some tips.

1. Figure out logistics. Whether you are moving away from home, traveling, or staying put in your hometown, your post-high school life will likely be more independent. You may need to set up a new bank account, get a credit or debit card, and create a budget. You should also review transportation options for getting to and from classes and/or work, and how you will arrange healthcare or other support.
  2. Look into work-study or other part-time work. If you qualify for work-study, find out when you can begin applying for positions on campus. If you're looking for a non-work-study job, consider looking for one before you move to campus. The best jobs often get snapped up quickly.
  3. Give the college permission to talk to your parents or guardians. This helps your family get information about your college bills and lets the college communicate with them if there is an emergency.
  4. Watch for updates. Check social media and your college's website regularly for updates about orientation, move-in day, or safety protocols due to the coronavirus.
- Applying to college and deciding where to attend isn't easy, and you should celebrate these accomplishments. But don't forget to take care of these important details after you accept your admissions offer or make other plans.



# Financial Aid

# Financial Aid

## Start Planning Early

Plan how to pay for college before you start. Ask school counselors and the college financial aid office about state, college, and nonprofit grants and scholarships you can apply for. Be sure to meet application deadlines. Start saving before you get to college. Consider prepaid tuition and education savings (529) plans.

## Fill Out the FAFSA® Form

Before each year of college, apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own aid. After submission, you'll receive your Student Aid Report.

## Review Your Aid Offer

Your aid offer explains the types and amounts of aid a college is offering you, and your expected costs for the year. If you've been accepted to multiple colleges, compare the costs and aid offers. Accept the aid from the school that's best for you and inform them of other sources of aid (such as scholarships) you expect to receive.

## Graduate and Start Repayment

As you prepare to graduate, get ready to repay your student loans. Good news! Federal student loan borrowers have a six-month grace period before you begin making payments. Use this time to get organized and choose a repayment plan. If you start falling behind on your payments, contact your loan servicer to discuss repayment options.

<b>GRANTS</b>	Free money from the state, federal government and /or the university, based in financial need. Grants do not have to be paid back.
<b>Scholarships</b>	Free money awarded to students for academic achievement, interests, special talents, financial need, or a combination of different factors.
<b>Work Study</b>	Federal program which funds part-time student employment to help pay for college. The amount awarded to each student is based on their individual need.
<b>Loans</b>	Money that is borrowed by the student or parent, which must be repaid with interest. Money can be borrowed from Federal, State, or Private Loan agencies.

## How do I apply for this money?

<b>FAFSA</b>	<b>Dream Act</b>
Who should file a FAFSA? U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen with valid social security (not DACA). Males between the ages of 18 and 5, must register for selective service	Who should file the CA Dream Act Application? Undocumented students with a social security, or only a DACA social security. Student must meet the AB540 criteria. Males between the ages of 18 and 25, must register for selective service
<b>Deadline:</b> To apply for FAFSA or Dream Act you must submit an online application between October 1st and March 2nd of Senior Year (12th grade) in high school. This is the priority deadline for consideration for the CAL Grants and institutional awards.	
<b>VISIT:</b>	<b>VISIT:</b>

<b><a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a></b>	<b><a href="https://dream.csac.ca.gov">https://dream.csac.ca.gov</a></b>
<p>What will I need to apply? INFORMATION NEEDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student License # (if applicable)</li> <li>• Student's SSN or Permanent Resident number</li> <li>• Student date of birth</li> <li>• Parent 1 date of birth</li> <li>• Parent 1 Social Security number (if applicable)</li> <li>• Parent 2 date of birth</li> <li>• Parent 2 Social Security number (if applicable)</li> <li>• Date of parent marriage, remarried, divorced, or widowed (if applicable)</li> <li>• Parent(s) total cash, savings, checking account value</li> <li>• State Disability received (if applicable)</li> <li>• Child Support amount received or paid (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>DOCUMENTS NEEDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student W-2 (if student worked)</li> <li>• Parent(s) W-2</li> <li>• Students most recent tax return</li> <li>• Parent(s) most recent tax return</li> <li>• For the year 2018-2019 did you or your parents receive any of these benefits: Social Security, TANF, Workers Comp, WIC, Food Stamps</li> </ul>	<p>B540 Eligibility Criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend a California High School for 3 or more years</li> <li>2. Graduate with a High School Diploma or GED Equivalent</li> <li>3. Enroll in an accredited higher education institution in California</li> <li>4. Must file an affidavit, stating that the filer will apply for legal residency as soon as possible.</li> <li>5. Must not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, E etc)</li> </ol> <p>Note: Males between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for selective service</p> <p>What will I need to apply? Please see list to the left.</p>
Having trouble completing your application?	
<p>VISIT:</p> <p><a href="https://fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm">https://fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm</a></p>	<p>Visit:</p> <p><a href="https://dream.csac.ca.gov/application/DreamActHelp.aspx">https://dream.csac.ca.gov/application/DreamActHelp.aspx</a></p>

### **CSS Profile**

What is the CSS Profile?	The CSS Profile is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For federal aid you must complete the FAFSA, available Oct. 1 at <a href="http://fafsa.ed.gov">fafsa.ed.gov</a> ). Some college may require the CSS profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.
When do I complete the CSS Profile?	You may complete the CSS Profile as early as October 1. You should submit no later than two weeks before the earliest priority filing date specified by your college.
Who must complete the CSS Profile?	Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile. A list of participating colleges is also found on the CSS Profile homepage.
How do I complete the CSS Profile?	You submit the CSS Profile at <a href="http://cssprofile.org">cssprofile.org</a> . Once you sign-in, you will find a list of the useful documents, such as federal tax returns and other financial information that you will need to complete the application. Help is provided within the

	application and additional help is available by chat, phone, or email by clicking "Contact Us" in the application
What does the CSS Profile Cost?	The fee for the initial application is \$25. Additional reports are \$16. Payments may be made via credit or debit card. First –time domestic college applicants may receive CSS profile fee waivers if the student qualified for a SAT fee waiver, or the student is an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24 or based on parental income and family size.
Visit	Visit <a href="http://www.cssprofile.org">www.cssprofile.org</a>

## Cal Grants

Cal Grants at a Glance			
<b>Cal Grant A</b> 3.0 high school GPA required	<b>Cal Grant B</b> 2.0 high school GPA	<b>Cal Grant C</b> 2.0 high school GPA	<b>Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement</b> Grant 2.4 Community College GPA required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$12,294 at University of California</li> <li>\$5472 at California State University</li> <li>\$9084 at qualifying private California colleges</li> <li>\$4000 at qualifying non WASC accredited for profit institutions</li> <li>If you attend a California Community College, your grant is held in reserve until transfer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1670 living allowance for your first year, plus tuition and fee award beyond first year in the same amounts as Cal Grant A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$547 for books, tools, and equipment for a technical or career education.</li> <li>\$2462 for tuition (if not attending a California Community College)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B</li> </ul> <p>*** Cal Grants are only available for students pursuing a first-time professional degree. Cal Grant offers are subject to state budget requirements. Check <a href="http://www.csac.ca.gov">www.csac.ca.gov</a> for current award amounts</p>
<b>Ambassador Christian School will submit Cal Grant GPA Verification</b>			

## Financial Aid Resources and Scholarship Information

Financial Aid Websites	Scholarship Resource Websites
<p><a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> – the official Financial Aid website where students can complete the application and find additional information.</p> <p><a href="http://www.pin.ed.gov">www.pin.ed.gov</a> – Financial Aid PIN website where students and parents can apply for their PIN. The PIN is a four-digit numeral code that serves as the security code to access the application and electronic signature to submit the application online.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov">www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov</a> – Provides an early personalized eligibility estimate for federal student aid and estimated family expected contribution.</p> <p><a href="http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions_paying-foruc/index.html">www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions_paying-foruc/index.html</a> - Financing your UC education</p> <p><a href="https://www.2.calstate.edu/apply.paying-for-college">https://www.2.calstate.edu/apply.paying-for-college</a> - provides information regarding cost and estimator tool for students and parents</p> <p><a href="http://www.calgrants.org">www.calgrants.org</a> - California Cal Grants</p> <p><a href="http://www.lacashforcollege.org">www.lacashforcollege.org</a> – Los Angeles County Cash for College website</p> <p><a href="http://www.scholarshare.org">www.scholarshare.org</a> – California 529 scholarship savings plan</p> <p><a href="https://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx">https://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx</a> -allows prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in previous years.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.finaid.org/">http://www.finaid.org/</a> - the calculator featured in this site is a great tool for finding out exactly how much you will need in scholarships.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gmsp.org">www.gmsp.org</a> – Gate Millennium Undergraduate Scholars Program</p> <p><a href="http://www.jackierobinson.org">www.jackierobinson.org</a> – Jackie Robinson Foundation</p> <p><a href="http://www.scholarships.com">www.scholarships.com</a> – a free college scholarship search and financial aid resource. It provides links to contests that offer scholarship awards up to \$10,000.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a> – This site offers a free scholarship search along with other resources for college students</p> <p><a href="http://www.uncf.org">www.uncf.org</a> – United Negro College Fund - provides resources and scholarships for African American students</p> <p><a href="http://www.apiasf.org">www.apiasf.org</a> – Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund –provides resources and scholarships for Asian American Students</p> <p><a href="http://www.hsf.net">www.hsf.net</a> – Hispanic Scholarship Fund – provides resources and scholarships for Latina/Hispanic students</p> <p><a href="http://www.bue.edu">www.bue.edu</a> or <a href="http://www.collegefund.org">www.collegefund.org</a> – Bureau of Indian Education and the American Indian College Fund – Provides resources and scholarships for Native American</p>



<https://www.wiche.edu/wue> - With WUE, out of state students pay no more than 150% of in state tuition at participating schools, compared with nonresident rates that can exceed 300% of in state rates

students. [www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov) – California Student Aid Commission – Chaffee Grant for Foster Youth  
[www.Raise.me](http://www.Raise.me) - With RaiseMe, anyone can earn money for college starting in 9th grade based on their achievements in school and life.

Scholarships and Resources for AB-540 students:

[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)

[www.salef.org](http://www.salef.org)

[www.ab540.com](http://www.ab540.com)

## Financial Aid

**FAFSA:** [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) (File October 1 - March 2)

**DREAM:** [caldreamact.org](http://caldreamact.org)

<b>FSA ID - Student</b>	
<b>FSA ID - Parent</b>	
<b>Username</b>	
<b>Password</b>	

**Cal Grant/WebGrants 4 Students:** <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>

**University Scholarships:** Check individual colleges

**CSS Profile:** Check if required by individual private colleges

# Scholarships

# Scholarship

The best scholarships come "in-house" from the schools to which they apply and must be completed as part of the early action/early decision applications to get the most money. These same scholarships are given based on merit or need base. We also encourage students and parents to apply for financial aid every year even when they know they don't qualify. Many times, aid will be offered in later years while the student continues to be enrolled at a college.

It's never too early to start researching and applying for scholarships. Please check the list below and begin planning and preparing for scholarship program applications and deadlines. Also check google classroom for reminders about scholarships with upcoming deadlines. Also check the weekly newsletter for scholarships with close deadlines.

Below are some resources for students and parents to discover together. Please Scroll all the way to the bottom to see all the scholarships our school advertises. If you have any questions about, please stop by the Counseling office and see Ms. Hicks.

## **Scholarship Websites...from Western Association for College Admission Counseling**

### **SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SITES**

- [AffordableColleges.com](#)'s mission is to help you earn your degree without taking on thousands of dollars in debt. Our site is a free resource designed to help everyone address the costs of college while pursuing their goals. We can show you the path to a reasonably priced higher education.
- [Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans Scholarships](#)  
Scholarships for Asian American Pacific Islands Students.
- [Can Learn](#)  
Another Canadian free scholarship search site
- [Cappex](#)-Use this website to find merit money at colleges and universities across the U.S.
- [College Answer](#)  
Sponsored by Sallie Mae, they use the Scholarship Experts data base.
- [College Board Scholarship Search](#)  
Utilizes a database of more than 2,300 sources of college funding totaling almost \$3 billion in scholarships and aid.
- [College Connection Scholarships](#)  
This service provides free scholarship searches and personalized scholarship application letters.
- [College Data](#)  
This free scholarship search allows students to save results in a data locker.
- [College Scholarships](#) - This service provides free scholarship searches and personalized scholarship application letters.
- [College Tool Kit](#)  
Search for scholarships by geography, heritage, religion, extracurricular, family affiliation, high school, or scholarship name.

- CollegeFunds  
Helps you hunt down the most ideal student loan, scholarships, and other financial aid resources available
- eCampus Tours  
Uses a database of more than 10,000 scholarship programs that distribute awards worth more than \$36 million.
- Educational Excellence for Hispanics  
To help Hispanic students and their families navigate the college process.
- Edvisors Network -These folks allow you to search for scholarships by geography, heritage, religion, extra-curriculars, family affiliation, high school, or scholarship name.
- Fast Web  
Large database of free scholarships
- FastAid  
The World's largest and oldest private sector scholarship database
- Financial Aid Officer  
This free scholarship search engine lists scholarships worth \$1.45 billion.
- Gates Millennium Scholars Program  
Billion dollar grant from the pockets of Bill and Melinda Gates supports the higher educational needs of high-achieving minorities
- Go College  
This search encompasses 800,000 individual awards worth over \$2.8 billion in scholarships
- International Education Financial Aid  
College scholarship and grant information for US and international students wishing to study abroad
- Latino College Dollars  
Scholarships for Latino students regardless of immigration status.  
Scholarship database of 3,0000 sources worth up to \$3 billion
- Scholarship Experts  
One of the best, most comprehensive free online scholarship searches available to students, parents, and educators.
- Scholarships
- Scholarships Canada  
Canada's most comprehensive scholarship portal
- Scholarships.com - This site claims a “scholarship database of 3,0000 sources worth up to \$3 billion.”
- School Soup  
Scholarship data base lists \$32 billion in scholarships
- Study Abroad Funding  
Our comprehensive database of study abroad scholarships, fellowships, and grants can help make your dream of studying abroad a financial possibility and a profound reality. Scholarship searches can be conducted by country or subject.
- The Scholarship Page  
Started by a student in 1997

## **Scholarship Application**

Crafting a winning scholarship application requires a strategic approach. Scholarships are awards by organizations with a specific goal in mind. Perhaps they want to encourage study in a certain field or encourage participation in a particular hobby. This means that for each scholarship you apply for you need to present yourself as the perfect applicant for the award by displaying how you meet the criteria. In each application you will end up presenting a different aspect of yourself and your personality.

Students with a chance at athletic scholarships usually are involved with recruiters, so it could be enough to focus on the athletic abilities and get coaches involved with making phone calls and/or writing recommendations. However, for an academic or science award you might need to focus on presenting your winning research project to a scholarship board. This will require some effort to tailor your efforts to the awarding organization.

Whatever the scholarship, the key is to determine what values and qualities the scholarship committee wants. They are looking for specific traits in the scholarship winners. Once you have determined this, construct every facet of your application (essay, recommendations, interview, etc.) to demonstrate how you meet these objectives.

### **Tell Them What They Want to Hear...**

Honestly. Politicians are notorious for telling their constituents what they want to hear, which can be a good or a bad thing! Good politicians do not lie, but they are skilled at putting a positive spin on their speeches and tailoring it to the audience. We urge you to NEVER lie on an application but take care to you present yourself and your work in the best possible way. Appeal to the interests of your audience, which will be the scholarship review board. Ask yourself the following questions about them:

- What is the mission of the organization giving the scholarship?
- Who is reading your application?
- Who is your competition?

**Go For the Gusto...** Quickly Selection committees' pore through so many applications that you need to grab their attention immediately, or risk getting placed at the bottom of the pile. This can be challenging, because often the space on the form is limited. Therefore, you need to feature your most impressive points first.

If you have listed four extracurricular activities, assume that some judges won't even read beyond the first two. This doesn't mean that all judges will be this lazy, but there are always some who are. Therefore, it's extremely important for you to prioritize the information that you present, and rank your accomplishments according to the following four criteria:

1. Fit with scholarship organization's goal. The most crucial factor in prioritizing your achievements is how they fit with the goal of the scholarship.
2. Scope. Prioritize your accomplishments by their scope, or how much of an impact they have made. Be sure that you spell out, briefly, details about this impact.
3. Uniqueness. Since your application will be compared to that of perhaps thousands of others, include accomplishments that are uncommon.

4. Recentness. This is the least important criterion, but if you get stuck, put the more recent achievements first.
- 5.

### **Use Your Smarts**

As you are completing your applications, keep in mind that while you may be applying for a public service scholarship you should also include at least a few academic achievements. For example, it does not hurt to list in a leadership scholarship application that you also came in second place at the county science fair – it shows that you are a multi-faceted individual. Also, make sure that you write actively and compellingly about your experiences.

### **Leadership Is Always Better Than Membership**

If you've ever tried to motivate a group of peers to do anything without taking the easy way out (bribery), then you know that it takes courage, intelligence, and creativity to be a leader. Because of this, many scholarships give extra points to reward leadership. Regardless of the subject, scholarship judges want to know that the dollars will be awarded to someone who will not only make a difference in the future but who will also be a leader and motivate others to do so as well. Take charge of some elements in your activities, and don't hesitate to refer to it in your applications!

### **Extracurricular Activities and Hobbies**

Scholarship organizations recognize the importance of a variety of activities, which is why so many scholarship applications include a section for extracurricular activities or hobbies. Award committees want to see evidence that you do more than read textbooks and take exams. Demonstrating a variety of interests – even better if they are a little out of the ordinary! – shows that you can transcend studying, and that you are a well-rounded person. Organizations love this kind of applicant...

### **Honors and Awards**

Many applications will ask for a list of honors and awards, and this is a chance for you to throw modesty to the side and boast a bit! Be honest and don't pad your resume, but also don't overlook your awards. We always suggest that students highlight all their honors and awards in a way that will get the scholarship committee to pay attention to your application.

### **Tailor Your Application to Fit**

Scholarship applications offer limited space in which to cram a lot of information. You will need to do a lot of editing and may even have to omit many of your accomplishments. As you fill out the application you may find that you are trying to squeeze in too many details, or that you have a bit of room and can expand on your most impressive achievements. Don't forget to adjust font sizes and line spacing if necessary and keep it readable. In general, don't go smaller than a 10 point font.

### **Filling the Application**

In general, try not to leave any area of the scholarship application blank. You don't need to fill the entire space but try to list something in every section. Just remember not to stretch the truth, don't lie, and make sure that any "awards" are somewhat relevant. If you've never held any kind of job, then you don't need to list anything under work experience. Remember, however, that if

you painted your grandmother's house one summer and got paid for it, that type of experience could be listed.

Before you add any detail, take a moment to think like a scholarship reviewer. Is the information relevant? Does it seem like a stretch? If you cannot convince yourself that what you are listing is justified, then it will certainly not go over well with the actual judges. Crafting a winning application takes time. Make sure you give yourself plenty of it. However, you also need to balance quality with quantity. Because each scholarship is judged on different criteria, it is not always easy to know whether you will be selected for the scholarship. With time as the limiting factor, apply to as many scholarships as you can find that match up with your talents, goals, and achievements. Even the smallest scholarships look very impressive on a resume and curriculum vitae!

## **Scholarship Q & A**

### **Q: How can I find out about what scholarships are available?**

A: Your best scholarship research sources include: The internet (try some of the many free scholarship search engines, such as the one that can be found at <http://www.financialaid.com/sse/login.cfm>); your local community (contact your local chamber of commerce); and your high school guidance counselor and/or college financial aid officer.

### **Q: Can I apply for a scholarship if I don't know what college I'm going to attend?**

A: Absolutely. You can start applying for scholarships as early as your freshman year in high school. If you win a scholarship before you know which college you'll attend, the scholarship organization usually will either write you a check (with your assurance that you will use the money for college), or simply give you the money when you decide where to attend college.

### **Q: Should I have to pay a fee to apply for a scholarship?**

A: In most cases, no. Since scholarships are meant to support students who need funds to pay for college, they shouldn't require those same students to shell out money. Usually, scholarships that require a fee are scams. Be aware and avoid these types of programs!

### **Q: If I didn't win a scholarship, can I apply again next year?**

A: Usually. Unless you no longer qualify for some reason, you can apply for a scholarship again. However, consider whether your application will be dramatically stronger the next time around. If you will essentially submit the same application, you probably will be better off spending your time applying to a different scholarship competition.

### **Q: Can I lose my scholarship once it's been awarded?**

A: Yes. Most scholarships that are renewable, meaning that you may receive them for more than one year, will have requirements for you to keep the award. These may stipulate that you must continue to attend the same college, maintain a certain GPA, or keep the same major. If you fail to live up to the requirements, they may revoke the scholarship.

### **Q: Can I apply for scholarships while I'm a college student?**

A: Certainly. In fact, one of the biggest mistakes that many students make is NOT applying for scholarships once they graduate from high school! There are literally thousands of scholarships

available for students who are already in college... and even some for graduate students. Look for scholarship opportunities through your college or university.

**Q: If I win a scholarship, will my college take away some of my other financial aid?**

A: Possibly. Many colleges require you to report the scholarships that you win and then adjust your financial aid package. For example, if you win a \$1,000 scholarship, the college may decrease your financial aid package by \$1,000. However, if your college has this kind of policy, remember to ask them to decrease your loan amount, instead of your grants. It's better to receive more in scholarships, so that you don't have to pay back loan money later! It is still worthwhile because scholarships look great on your resume.

**Q: Can I transfer my scholarship if I go to another school?**

A: Maybe. Of course, if the scholarship is from a college or an alumni organization, you can only use it at that specific college. However, if the scholarship is from another group, you can probably transfer the scholarship with you, as long as you still meet the eligibility requirements. However, don't make any assumptions. It's important that you contact the awarding organization directly to ask and make any necessary arrangements.

**Q: Should I bother applying for scholarships even if I don't have perfect grades?**

A: Definitely, just do your research first. There are scholarships for all kinds of things, including achievements, leadership, public service, art, athletics, theatre, and dance. Even the scholarships that are based on academic achievements are often not solely based on grade point averages. Instead, the scholarship boards may be seeking students who best fit their selection criteria, which may include other factors like character, motivation, leadership, ethnicity, religious affiliation, or involvement in specific activities. Find the scholarship/s that fit you best and apply!

**Q: Do all scholarships require an essay?**

A: No, but most do. Essays are really the best (and often the only) way for scholarship judges to hear directly from you as an application, and to get to know you beyond your grades, test scores and other data that you provide on your application form. There are some types of scholarships that don't require essays, however, especially those for art or music that may require a portfolio, project, or audition.

**Q: Can I win a scholarship if my parents make too much money?**

A: Yes. There are two types of scholarships: need-based and merit-based. As the name suggests, need-based scholarships are based on your financial need and your parents' income. Merit-based scholarships are based on other factors such as academic or extracurricular achievements and will not usually be affected by family income.

**Q: What is a renewable scholarship?**

A: Renewable scholarships can be won once and then renewed in the following years. These are the best kind of scholarship, because you can win the money for more than one year! Just make sure that you live up to your end of the scholarship bargain, and you will receive money each year.



# Testing

# Testing

## **Keep Test Scores in Perspective**

Colleges consider GRADES and COURSE RIGOR more than test scores for admission. Many colleges have become “test optional” - for a list go to: [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org). More colleges do a “holistic review” in the admissions process to include more factors than GPA and ACT or SAT score.

## **What is the PSAT and why is it important?**

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT is a great primer for the SAT, and even the ACT, but it’s more than just a trial run. PSAT scores are used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships. More than 3.4 million high school students (mostly juniors and sophomores) take this nationwide, multiple-choice test every year. The PSAT won’t count towards your college admissions applications, but it is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship. Some of the highest scoring students may win scholarship money, so while you shouldn’t stress out about the PSAT, you certainly shouldn’t ignore it either. Use the PSAT as practice for the SAT and ACT and an important guidepost on your college admissions journey.

## **When is the PSAT?**

The PSAT is offered nationally every year in October. Ask your school counselor about when your class is scheduled to take the PSAT. View upcoming PSAT test dates.

## **What does the PSAT test?**

The PSAT has two sections: Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. You’ll encounter passage-based questions—sometimes accompanied by tables, graphs, and charts—and math problems drawing upon algebra, geometry, and a little trig.

## **How is the PSAT scored?**

Each section is scored on a scale of 160–760, making a “perfect” score 1520. There are also test scores, cross-test scores, and sub scores. Find out more about PSAT scoring.

## **Did I get a good PSAT score?**

Good question. The highest scores and percentiles earn National Merit Recognition. But PSAT scores are also useful in determining your best prep strategies for the SAT or ACT. For a PSAT score report consultation, call us at 800-2REVIEW.

## **How do I register for the PSAT?**

Check with a counselor at your school or at a school in your community to sign up.

## **How should I prepare for the PSAT?**

The PSAT and SAT tests are almost identical: the PSAT is 15 minutes shorter, does not include an essay, and has a slightly different scoring scale. By prepping for the SAT, you are prepping for both tests! For a limited time, get our PSAT prep (a \$299 value) for free when you enroll in a comprehensive SAT course or tutoring program. Learn more today.

## THE SAT VS. THE ACT

THE SAT	THE ACT
The <b>SAT</b> is scored on a scale of 400 – 1600. There are two sections scores: Reading and Writing, and Math. The four timed sections of the SAT range from 25 minutes to 65 minutes. The Essay is optional and scored separately. The essay does <b>NOT</b> factor into the total score.	The <b>ACT</b> is scored on a scale of 1 -36. There are four sections: English, Math, Reading and Science. All four sections are averaged to generate the total composite score and each section ranges from 35 to 60 minutes. The Essay is optional and scored separately. The essay does <b>NOT</b> factor into the composite score.
<b>1 Evidence – Based Reading and Writing Test: Writing and Language:</b> 4 passages/ 11 questions each (35 minutes)	<b>1 English Section:</b> 75 questions (45 minutes) 5 passages/ 15 questions each
<b>Reading:</b> 52 questions (65 minutes) 1 Literature passage 1 Social Science passage 2 Science passages 1 Great Global Conversation passage	<b>1 Reading Section:</b> 40 questions (35 minutes) 1 Prose passage 1 Social Science passage 1 Humanities passage 1 Natural Science passage
<b>1 Mathematics Test:</b> No Calculator: 20 questions (25 minutes) Calculator allowed: 38 questions (55 minutes) Contains student –produced response questions Includes formulas to reference <b>Specification and Range of Math:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Algebra</li> <li>• Interpretation of Data</li> <li>• Geometry and Arithmetic</li> <li>• Trigonometry</li> </ul>	<b>1 Mathematics Section:</b> 60 questions (60 minutes) Calculator allowed No student-produced response questions Does not include formulas to reference <b>Specification and Range of Math:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• Arithmetic</li> <li>• Basic Trigonometry</li> </ul>
	<b>1 Science Section:</b> 40 Questions (35 minutes)
<b>50 Minute Essay Test (Optional)</b> 3 Sub Scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Analysis</li> <li>• Writing</li> </ul> 2- 8 points each section	<b>40 Minute Essay Test (Optional)</b> 4 Sub Scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas and Analysis</li> <li>• Development and Support</li> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Language Use and Conventions</li> </ul> 2- 12 points each section (2 -12 Points total)
4 Answer Choices for Multiple Choice Questions:	4 Answer Choices for Multiple Choice Questions
<b>Total length: 3 hours and 50 minutes</b>	<b>Total Length: 3 hours and 35 minutes</b>
<a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	<a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>

## SAT & ACT Extra Tips

- The Counseling Department recommends that you plan out your spring semester according to the Spring SAT and ACT testing calendar of your junior year.
- Most colleges require you to take either the SAT or the ACT. The best place to find out about a colleges testing requirement is on their website.
- The SAT and ACT allow students to choose which scores will be sent to the colleges.
- CSU's and various private colleges take your best verbal and math scores from multiple test dates; this is called the "Super Score".
- When you send your SAT scores to one UC, all UC's will have access to your scores.
- UC's will take your best single SAT score (they do not super score)
- UCs no longer require SAT Subject tests for all applicants but still recommend them and may require them for specific majors.
- ACT Scores can be sent to one CSU and one UCs, and the other campuses will have access to your scores.

## Test Prep Resources

### **Khan Academy:**

- Personalized to you – Khan Academy will create a tailored practice plan for students based on a diagnostic or the SAT or PSAT/NMSQT score.
- Interactive – thousands of practice questions, videos, lessons, and hints plus study and test
- taking tips and strategies.
- Official – 8 full-length, real practice tests and content created in partnership with College Board.
- Instant – get constant feedback and progress, so you know where you stand.
- Raises confidence and scores – 20 hours of practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average 115-point score increase from the PSAT/NMSQT to the SAT, nearly double the average gain without Khan
- Go to [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat) to learn more about the inside scoop on the SAT. Free and exclusively from Khan Academy.

### **ACT Academy:**

- Raise you student to the next level – ACT Academy provides free resources for students that are unique to their learning gaps. Access the best resources from top publishers, all in one place, and accurately aligned to the standards
- All the best resources – ACE academy provides students with the best resources, no matter what subject or publisher. One publisher might cover math really well, while the other is better at teaching science.
- More than videos – it's important that concepts are presented to students in a variety of ways, not just one type of video. Today students can listen to a song, tomorrow students might be playing a game on the same topic.

- Personalized for you – sit back and let ACT Academy automatically pick the exact resources students need to help them learn what they need to know!
- ACT Academy is the go-to place to get personalized practice. Join for free at [www.academy.act.org](http://www.academy.act.org)

**Keep Test Scores in Perspective**

- Colleges consider GRADES and COURSE RIGOR more than test scores for admission.
- Many colleges have become “test optional” - for a list go to: [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org).
- More colleges do a “holistic review” in the admissions process to include more factors than GPA and ACT or SAT score.

# **Student-Athl etes and NCAA**

# Student-Athletes and NCAA

## WANT TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS?

The advantages of competing in college sports are both immediate and lifelong. Participating in college sports provides opportunities to learn, compete and succeed. Student-athletes receive top-notch academic support, quality medical care, and regular access to outstanding coaching, facilities, and equipment. Student-athletes graduate at higher rates than their peers in the general student body and feel better prepared for life after college.

College-bound student-athletes preparing to enroll in Division I or Division II schools must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure they have met amateurism standards and are academically prepared for college coursework.

Are you ready to play college sports? [Download these resources](#) to find out.

You need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. First, create a Certification Account, and we'll guide you through the process.

*You must create a Certification Account to make official visits to Divisions I and II schools or sign a National Letter of Intent.*

Please click on the following link to visit the NCAA website. There you will find information on steps to prepare for NCAA eligibility. [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

## Information and Resources for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Parents

### The Student-Athlete's Guide to College Sports

To participate in Division, I or II athletics on a collegiate level, a student must meet the NCAA Clearinghouse requirements for certification. It is the student's responsibility to make themselves aware of these requirements and to meet them. This process begins in freshman year and continues throughout the four years of high school.

**For comprehensive rules on prospective Division I & Division II athletes**, please visit [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) or [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for more information.

### Create an Account

Create a free Profile Page if you plan to compete at a division III school or are not yet sure where you want to compete.

You'll get an NCAA ID, and we will send you important reminders as you complete high school.

### Create a Profile Page

## **Division I requirements**

- Graduate high school

- Earn a core course GPA of 2.3 or higher
- Complete 16 core courses
  - 4 years of English
  - 3 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
  - 2 years of natural/physical science
    - 1 year must be lab science if your school offers it
  - 1 additional year of English, math, or biological/physical science
  - 2 years of social science
  - 4 additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion, or philosophy
- You must complete 10 core courses by the end of your junior year (before the start of your seventh semester). 7 of the 10 core courses must be English, math, or natural/physical science. The grades in these seven courses will be “locked in,” meaning you will not be allowed to retake them to improve your grades.

### What are the core courses in high school?

Most high schools in the U.S. have a list of approved core courses with the NCAA. This list allows the NCAA to quickly evaluate an **athlete's eligibility** by simply checking that the class is on the approved list and seeing the student-athlete grade in the course. **First, review the page on the NCAA website where you can look up your high school's NCAA-approved courses.** Then, meet with your counselor and ensure your course plan matches the approved courses.

### NCAA core courses worksheet – how do you figure out your core GPA?

If you need to check your core course GPA and make sure you are on track to meet the eligibility requirements, you will need the **core course worksheet**. With this worksheet, you will fill in the classes you have completed (make sure they are on the approved list for your high school) and the grade you received in the class. You can then total up the credits and grades to estimate your core course GPA and know if you are on track.

## HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE

### GRADE 9

#### Plan

- Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades you can.
- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes. Or, find your high school's list of NCAA core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](http://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist).

### GRADE 10

#### Register

- Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page with the NCAA Eligibility Center at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).
- If you fall behind on courses, don't take shortcuts to catch up. Ask your counselor for help with finding approved courses or programs you can take.

### GRADE 11

#### Study

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time.
- Take the ACT or SAT, and make sure we get your scores by using code **9999**.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript.

### GRADE 12

#### Graduate

- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and make sure we get your scores by using code **9999**.
- Request your final amateurism certification after April 1.
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation.



# Handbook Glossary

# Glossary

## "a-g" Subject Requirements

These are classes in specific subjects. You'll need to take these classes if you want to go to a [CSU](#) or [UC](#). You must get a C- or better in your "a-g" classes in order to meet the requirement. [Learn more about "a-g" classes.](#)

## Academic Probation

This is a name for your academic standing if your grades fall below a specific level when you're in college. Each campus has its own rules. If you're put on academic probation, you'll need to raise your GPA. You might be suspended or expelled from your college.

## Academic Year

This is the time you spend in school. It's different depending on your school. The academic year for most high schools is from August or September through June. It's usually from August through May for colleges using the semester system. It's usually from September through June for colleges using the quarter system.

## Acceptance (also called Admitted)

This is the official news that you've been accepted by a college and can go there.

## Accreditation

This is a title that colleges have if they are credible. Colleges are reviewed by one or more independent organizations. They make sure that the colleges are meeting certain standards. The organizations can be regional, national, and subject-specific.

## ACT (American College Testing)

The ACT is an admission exam. It'll tell you where you are in your education. It can show how ready you are for college-level work in English, math, reading, and science. Some colleges are using it to place students in their English and math classes for their first year. [Learn more about college admission exams.](#)

## Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

This is your or your parents' total income from all jobs, minus deductions that are applicable. Last year's tax returns can show what this is. Take a look at line 37 on form 1040. Take a look at line 21 on form 1040 A. Take a look at line 4 on form 1040 EZ.

**Admit rate:** The percentage of applicants who are offered admission.

## Admission Tests (also called College Entrance Exams)

These are standardized tests. They can tell you where you are in your education. You'll need to take a standardized test to apply to many colleges.

## Admissions Counselor

This is a person who works for a specific college. They can help you go to the college they work for if you're a good fit for that school. They also look at applications and help with admissions decisions.

## Advanced Classes

These are more difficult classes that you can take. [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) and [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) are two kinds of advanced classes you can take. They can help you get ready for your college classes. They're worth more GPA points because they're harder. Talk with your counselor to find out what advanced classes you can take.

## Advanced Placement (AP) Course

These are more difficult classes than regular high school classes. Because they're harder, they're worth more GPA points. They're supposed to better prepare you for college coursework. After taking an [AP class](#), you'll take an AP exam. You can get college credit if you pass the exam with a high enough score.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Test**

This is a standardized test to measure how well you understand a specific subject. The tests are given by the College Board in May. You can take the test after being in the AP class. Or you can take the test without going through the AP class. If you score high enough on the test, you might be able to earn college credit. Talk with your counselor about your options.

### **Appeal**

This is a process you can go through if you didn't get into a college. It means you want a college to take a look at your application again to see if you can be admitted.

### **Application**

This is the form you'll fill out and send to a college you want to go to. They can look similar or very different from each other. Learn how to apply to a [CCC](#), [CSU](#), [UC](#), or [private college](#).

### **Application Fee**

This is money you'll need to pay in order to apply to a college. The amount varies depending on the college you're applying to. If you can't afford to pay for the application fee, you might be eligible for a fee waiver. Talk to your counselor about how to get a fee waiver for your application.

### **Articulation Agreement**

This is an agreement between a CCC and a four-year college. It makes sure the classes you take at a CCC will count for credit when you transfer.

### **Associate Degree or Associate Degree for Transfer**

This is the kind of degree you can get from a CCC. There is an AA or an AS. An AA is an Associate of Arts degree. An AS is an Associate of Science degree. You can also choose an associate degree for transfer, which would be an AA-T or an AS-T. If you choose an associate degree for transfer, you'll start as a junior at the four-year college you transfer

to. Learn more about an [associate degree for transfer](#).

### **Athletic Associations**

These are associations that make the rules for playing sports. They govern sports at the college level and can be national or regional. You'll need to meet specific requirements to play on teams that are part of an athletic association. [Learn about athletic associations](#).

### **Bachelor's Degree**

This is the kind of degree you'll get from a four-year college. You can get a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS). How fast you finish your program depends on the college and your journey to finishing your degree while you're there. [Learn more about graduation rates](#).

### **Brag Sheet**

This is a document where you can write about the great things you've done. It's like a resume. A brag sheet shows all of your awards, leadership activities, and volunteer work. See **Resume**.

### **Bright Outlook**

These are careers that are likely going to have a lot of job opportunities in the near future. The list of these careers is created by the U.S. government. [Learn more about Bright Outlook careers](#).

### **Budget**

This is the way you keep track of how you make and spend your money. You can write a budget for any amount of time. So, you can make a budget for your day, week, month, and year. [Learn how to make smart money decisions](#).

### **Cal Grant**

This is money for college that you won't have to pay back. There are different types of Cal Grants. Each is its own amount depending on the college you're going to go to. To get a Cal Grant, you have to fill out the FAFSA or

CADAA. [Learn more about how to get a Cal Grant.](#)

### Cal State Apply

This is the application you need to fill out if you want to go to a California State University (CSU) college. The same application is used by all 23 CSU campuses. It's online and starts October 1. [Learn more about how to apply to the CSU.](#)

**Calendar:** The system used by an institution to divide its year into instruction periods. The most common are semester, quarter and 4-1-4.

- A **semester** system is a division of the school year into two equal parts, usually 18 weeks in length. Schools may have an additional 8-week summer session.
- A **quarter** system is a division of the school year into three quarters, usually 11 weeks in length. Students take three or four courses per quarter rather than the traditional five in a semester system.
- A **4-1-4** system consists of two terms of about 16 weeks each, separated by a one-month intersessions used for intensive study in one area, research, or internships.

### California Aid Report (CAR)

This is the report you'll get after applying for the FAFSA or CADAA. It's from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). It tells you about your Cal Grant eligibility.

### California Dream Act

These are the laws that allow certain students to be eligible for college. Students who meet AB 540/AB 200/SB 68 eligibility requirements can go to the college or trade school they want and get financial aid. [Learn more about the California Dream Act.](#)

### California Dream Act Applications (CADAA)

This is the application that undocumented and nonresident students fill out for financial aid. They can get state and campus financial aid

from applying for the CADAA. [Learn more about the CADAA.](#)

### Campus

This is the physical area where you'll go to college. It includes all kinds of buildings, like classrooms, dorms, cafeterias, the library, and more. It is the area that makes up your college community.

### Campus Activities (also called Student Activities)

These are the activities that you can do in college. They're also called Student Activities. They can be focused on your schoolwork, your career, or for fun. There are a lot of things to learn from Campus Activities. You can learn more about activities at your college when you use the [College Search Tool.](#)

### Campus Visit

This is a trip you can take if you're seriously thinking about going to a specific college. Students might go on a college campus visit while they're still in high school. A campus visit is a chance for you to check out the vibe. You can eat in the cafeteria, meet students, and see how it feels to be there. [Learn more about campus visits.](#)

**Candidate Notification Date:** The date by which colleges notify students of admission decisions.

**Candidate Reply Date:** The date by which students must reply to the colleges that admitted them. The universal date is May 1<sup>st</sup>, also known as the SIR (Student Intent to Register/ Decision Day)

### Career Cluster

This is a term used to group similar careers together. Nurses, doctors, and dentists are all part of a health and sciences career cluster.

### Career Pathway

This is a plan for college courses to get you into your career or industry.

### CCC (California Community Colleges)

These are public colleges. The programs at CCCs usually last two years or less. They're

different from four-year colleges, like CSUs or UCs. CCCs offer associate degrees and certificate programs. You can transfer to a CSU or UC if you want to get a bachelor's degree. [Learn more about CCCs](#).

### **CCCApply**

This is the application you'll need to fill out to go to a CCC. Look for the application deadline on the CCC's website. [Learn how to apply to a CCC](#).

**CEEB:** Abbreviation for the College Entrance Examination Board, which creates and supervises the administration of the SAT and the Subject Tests. **The CEEB code for ACS is 054687.** You will need this number every time you register for an SAT, ACT, or apply to college

### **Certificate Programs**

These are programs that you can go through at community colleges. They are usually for careers that don't need an associate or bachelor's degree. Some examples are medical assistants and electricians. There are different kinds of certificates. Talk with your counselor to find the best option for you.

### **Class Rank**

This is a system that compares graduating students in the same class with each other. Students are compared and ranked based on grades. Not all high schools and colleges rank students. If your high school does rank you, colleges, might look at your rank when making your admission decision.

### **Class Schedule**

This is the list of your classes that you're taking or plan to take.

### **Co-Signer**

This is the person who agrees and signs your student loans with you. This means they are legally tied to your loans. Co-signers agree to share the responsibility to repay your student loans.

### **College**

This is the next step in your education after you graduate from high school. You'll study a specific subject, called your major. You can get an associate degree, bachelor's degree, and a graduate degree. [Learn about college](#).

### **College Catalog (also called a Course Catalog)**

This is the list of classes offered at your college. It includes the course descriptions and an academic calendar. You'll find the deadlines in the College Catalog. You'll also find the college's mission statement, history, policies, procedures, tuition and fee information, and campus resources.

### **College Choice Criteria**

These are things about college that are important to you. They help you find the best fit. Some criteria might be the degrees you can get, how far it is from your family, or how many people go there. You'll probably also include financials, like how much it costs to go there and what type of financial aid you can get.

### **College Costs (also called Cost of Attendance)**

This is the total cost to go to college. Some things included in your college costs are your tuition and fees, books, travel, and health insurance. Financial aid helps with college costs. Net price is how much you'll pay after free money from financial aid. [Learn about the net price for college](#).

### **College Credit**

Refers to a number assigned to each college class. Each class is worth a specific number of credits/units, and you need a specific amount of credits/units to graduate from college.

Some colleges grant college credit for Advanced Placement (AP) tests. Also see **Advanced Placement (AP) Test**.

### **College Entrance Exams (also called Admission Tests)**

These are tests you might have to take to get into a college. The most common are the [ACT](#) and the [SAT](#). The UC, CSU, and CCC don't require these tests for admission. But some private colleges or out-of-state colleges might. These tests can also help place you in your English and math classes your first year.

### **College Essay (also called the Personal Statement or, for University of California, Personal Insight Questions)**

This is the essay you'll submit with your application. It will look different depending on where you're applying. Make sure you're writing the essay the way your college wants. Some colleges ask for essays, and some want you to respond to specific questions. This is a creative opportunity to share who you are and what you want out of your college experience. Ask your educators to review your essay. [Learn more about college admissions essays](#).

### **College Interview**

This is the chance you'll have to interview with a college you want to go to. You don't have to interview for every college. The interviews are given by college counselors or college alumni.

### **College Rankings**

This is a ranking system based on students' grades, [graduation rates](#), and what alumni rate colleges, among other things. College rankings aren't always a reliable way to tell if a school is a great choice or not. Some of the more popular rankings include [U.S. News and World Report](#), [Princeton Review](#), [Kiplinger's](#), and [Niche](#).

### **College Readiness**

This term refers to how ready you are for college.

**Coalition Application:** A universal application for admission used by over 140 public and private colleges and universities.

### **Common Application**

This is a type of college application. It's used by over 800 colleges in the world. It's very popular with independent colleges. The Common App allows you to submit one application to multiple schools. [Learn how to apply to college using the Common App](#).

### **Common Application Supplements**

These are the other things you'll need to send with your Common Application. Most colleges that use the Common App ask that you send in something else with your main application. This is different depending on where you're applying. It could be a form you'll need to fill out or an essay the college wants you to write. [Learn how to apply to college using the Common App](#).

### **Community College (also called a Jr. College or Technical College)**

This is a type of public college. It's known for offering two-year programs called Associate Degrees. Credits you earn at a community college usually transfer to four-year colleges. If you want to join the workforce faster, you can go through a certificate program at a Community College.

**Conditional Acceptance:** An offer of admission to a college or university that is contingent upon certain steps a candidate must take or criteria they must fulfill in order to ultimately enroll.

### **Cost of Attendance (also called College Costs)**

This is the total cost for college. It might be abbreviated to COA.

### **Course**

This is a term used to talk about a college class. Each course is worth a certain number of credits.

### **Course Load**

This is the number of college courses you're taking each semester or quarter.

### **CSS Profile**

This is an online application you might need to fill out to apply for financial aid. The



College Board administers the CSS Profile. Colleges use the application information to figure out your eligibility for non-federal student aid funds, such as institutional grants and scholarships. The CSS Profile is used in addition to the FAFSA or CADAA. [Learn more about the CSS Profile.](#)

### **CSU (California State University, also called Cal State)**

This is a California public system for college. There are 23 campuses all over the state. You can get a bachelor's or master's degree at a CSU. [Learn more about the CSU.](#)

### **Data Release Number (DRN)**

Refers to a four-digit number assigned to your FAFSA application by Federal Student Aid. It is printed on the upper right corner of the paper Student Aid Report (SAR), in the upper right corner on the electronic SAR, and on your confirmation page.

### **Defer (also called Deferred Admission)**

This is an option you can choose if you want to postpone your college enrollment. You can defer for one year after being admitted. Talk to the college admissions office if this is something you want to do.

### **Deferment or Forbearance (also called Loan Deferment)**

This is a specific amount of time you choose to postpone payments on your federal student loans. You might not need to pay for the interest on some types of federal loans during your deferment. You'll need to pay interest on all types of federal loans during your forbearance. [Visit Federal Student Aid](#) to learn more about eligibility and how to request a deferment or forbearance.

### **Degree**

This is what you get when you successfully finish a program at your college. You can get a degree for a certificate program, an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a doctorate. It means you have finished the required classes on a certain subject.

**Demonstrated Interest:** An applicant's level of enthusiasm for or engagement with a college as shown through visits, communication, and other contact with the admission office. Some schools track these interactions closely and use them a factor in admission decisions.

**Demonstrated Need:** Cost of attendance minus the Expected Family Contribution give the student's demonstrated need.

**Denial:** An application for admission to a college or university is declined.

### **Dependent Student**

This is the title for students who are assumed to have financial support from their parents. You'll need your parents' financial information to apply for the FAFSA or CADAA if you're a dependent student.

### **Deposit**

For banking, this refers to when you put money in your checking or saving account. For college admissions, this is the money you put toward a college when you accept an offer for admission. A college admissions deposit secures your spot at that school. The amount varies. The deposit is usually taken out of the total amount you'll owe the college for that year. It's usually non-refundable. If you can't afford the deposit, you might be able to get an extension, or your deposit waived altogether.

### **Disbursement**

This is the way your financial aid money is given to your college. Some money goes straight to the college. Some money goes straight to you.

### **Dual Enrollment**

This is a program you can go through in high school to get ahead with college credits. Once you fill out a college application, you can take college courses while you're still in high school.

### **Early Action (EA)**

This is a specific kind of college application and admission. Students can apply for EA if they're almost 100% they want to go to a

college. You don't have to go to that college if you're accepted. If you're accepted to a college you applied to with EA, your spot will be held for you until you've heard from other colleges.

### **Early Admission Programs (also called Early Decision, Early Action, and Restrictive Early Action)**

This is an admission program at some colleges. You'll apply before the regular deadline and get the admissions decision earlier than other students.

### **Early Decision (ED)**

This is an early admission program at some colleges. This program is for students who are 100% sure they want to go to a specific college. You'll have to go to a college if you apply for ED and are accepted. You're committing yourself to that college. You can only apply to one college with ED. You can apply to any college if you're not admitted to the college you choose for your ED application.

### **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

This is the amount of money the government thinks your family can put toward your college education. Your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) helps to find this number. You'll need your family's tax and financial information when you apply if you're a dependent student. You can use the [Financial Aid Eligibility Tool](#) to get your EFC.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

These are the activities you do outside of your classes. They can be sports, clubs, volunteer hours, and more. Learn more about how [your activities can help you get into college](#).

### **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

This is a free application you can fill out for federal financial aid. You can get grants, [work-study](#) opportunities, and [loans](#). Learn more about FAFSA. If you're an

undocumented student, you'll fill out the [CADAA](#). Learn more about [financial aid](#).

### **Family Income (also called Household Income)**

This is the total amount of money everyone in your house over 15 years old makes. This includes wages, social security, child support, and investment income.

### **Fee Waiver**

You can fill out a fee waiver if you can't pay for your college application or registration fees. It's an application you'll need to fill out. Colleges, the College Board, and ACT all have different fee waivers. Talk with your counselor to make sure you're applying for the right fee waiver.

### **Fees**

These are what you'll have to pay for different things for college. There are application fees and fees for various activities. You'll have to pay for fees on top of your tuition and room and board.

### **Financial Aid**

This is a term for the help you can get to pay for college. It includes grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study. You can get financial aid from the federal government, state government, your college, and private organizations. Learn about [financial aid](#).

### **Financial Aid Offer (also called Award Letter or Financial Aid Package)**

This is a letter you'll get from colleges that accept you. It is a breakdown of the costs for that college. It also includes the kinds of financial aid you can get if you go to that college. Learn how to [compare your financial aid offers](#).

### **Financial Need**

This is how much financial aid you'll need to pay for college. It's how much is needed to pay for college after you subtract how much your EFC is from how much college will cost.



### **For-Profit College**

This is a kind of college that is owned by a private company. It makes a profit from your tuition and fees. Private, not-for-profit colleges and public colleges don't make money from your tuition and fees. Some for-profit colleges aren't accredited. That means you might not be able to transfer to another college with the credits you earn. It also means some employers might not really consider the degree you earned. You don't want that. Learn more about [for-profit colleges](#).

### **FSA ID**

Your FSA ID stands for Federal Student Aid Identification. It was called your PIN before. You can see your financial aid information when you log in, like your FAFSA. You'll have a username and password that you choose. You and your parents will have to have your own FSA IDs. Keep your information safe so no one can log in to your financial aid applications.

**GAP Year:** A yearlong break between high school and college, allowing a student to travel, work, and explore a passion (language, sport, culture).

**General Education Requirements:** Also called G.E.D., breadth, distribution, or core curriculum requirements, they are courses required by all candidates for a bachelor's degree at a college.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

This is the average of all of your class grades. Each grade is a number. Your GPA is the average of all those numbers. If an A is worth 4.0, then your GPA would be a 4.0 with all As. There are two types of GPAs. Unweighted is the value for all the classes you've finished. Weighted includes the extra points you'll usually get with AP, IB, and Honors classes.

### **Graduate Degree**

This is a degree you can get after you get your bachelor's degree. There are different kinds.

You can get a J.D., Master's, PhD, and more.

### **Graduation Rate**

This is the number of freshmen who graduate from a college in a specific time period. For example, you can see how many students could get their degree in four years or six years.

### **Grant (also called Gift Aid)**

This is money you can get with financial aid. It's a gift. That means you won't have to pay it back. Grants are usually from the federal or state government.

**Greeks or Greek Life:** At a college campus, the collective term for members of sororities and fraternities.

**Guaranteed Transfer:** An applicant is denied admission as a first-year student but is offered the option to transfer to the college (frequently as a second-year student) provided the student earns a specific GPA at another institution.

### **Higher Education**

This is a term for the schooling you get after graduation from high school.

**Holistic admission:** A method for reviewing applications that accounts for a student's quality and achievement both inside and outside the classroom.

### **Honors Course**

This is an advanced high school course. It can raise your GPA because these classes are harder and worth more points. It can look better on your college applications if you do well in an honors course.

### **Impacted Major**

This is a major that has more students enrolled than can take classes. These majors are harder to get into because so many people want to take the classes.

### **Independent Colleges**

This is a term for a private, not-for-profit college. These are not public colleges. You

can apply for financial aid at private colleges. There are many private colleges in California. Learn more about the [Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities \(AICCU\)](#).

### **Independent Student**

This is a student applying for financial aid who meets certain criteria. They are at least 24 years old, have been a ward of the court, are married, are a graduate student, are a veteran, are a member of the armed forces, or are experiencing homelessness. If you're an independent student, you won't have to report your parents' information on the FAFSA or CADAA.

### **Industry**

This is a label for companies that are similar. They can offer similar activities, products, or services. For example, nurses, physical therapists, and mental health counselors are all in the healthcare industry. You can use the industry filter in the [College Search Tool](#).

### **Intent to Register (also called Intent to Enroll, Statement of Intent to Register, or SIR)**

This is a form that you'll need to fill out to tell colleges your decision to go there or not. It might be online or paper. You should wait until you hear from every college you applied to before you fill it out. Make sure to let the colleges know. If you want to go there but don't turn in your form or deposit, the college could reverse its admission. Colleges you don't want to go to can use your spot to admit someone on the waitlist.

### **Intercollegiate Teams (also called Varsity Teams)**

These are sports teams that represent colleges in competition with other colleges. They're also called varsity teams, and they compete in conferences managed by athletic associations. Learn more about [athletic associations](#).

### **International Baccalaureate (IB) Program**

This is a program students can go through in high school. It includes advanced coursework. You can get an IB Diploma. Learn more about [IB](#).

### **Intramural and Club Sports (also called Recreational Sports)**

These are sports that you can play in college. They're less rigorous than intercollegiate teams. These are sports that are good for students who want to play for fun. They don't have an intense practice and travel schedule.

**Ivy League:** The term used to designate highly selective eastern colleges. Strictly speaking, however, it is an athletic league comprised of the following colleges: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale.

### **Job Shadow**

This is an opportunity to check out a career. Students follow someone in their workplace to see what their days are like.

**Legacy:** an applicant who is the son or daughter of an alumnus and alumna (or sometimes a more distant relative). Private colleges sometimes give special consideration to such candidates.

### **Letters of Recommendation (also called College Recommendations)**

These are letters that your counselors and teachers can write to recommend you to a college. Some colleges ask for them. Colleges usually like it when you send letters of recommendation from teachers who taught you in 11th or 12th grade. Some colleges accept extra letters from mentors or coaches.

**Liberal Arts:** The studies in a college (such as language, history, mathematics, literature, and abstract science) intended to provide chiefly general knowledge and to develop the general intellectual capacities, such as reason and judgement, opposed to professional and vocational skills.

### **Loan**

This is money you borrow for college. It's a part of your financial aid that you'll have to pay back after college. All loans gain interest as time goes by. You're responsible for paying for the loan and the interest it gains. Federal loans have lower interest rates and more benefits. They're more flexible when the time comes to repay them. Learn more about [student loans](#).

### **Major (also called College Major)**

This is an academic field you can study in college. Some examples are biology, engineering, and education. You'll need to take specific classes to meet your major's requirements. Learn how to [choose your major](#).

### **Master Promissory Note (also called MPN)**

This is a legal document for your financial aid. You promise to repay your federal student loans and any accrued interest and fees to your lender or loan holder. There are different MPNs for Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans and Direct PLUS loans. The entire MPN process must be completed in a single session and usually takes less than 30 minutes.

### **Merit-Based Financial Aid**

This is a term for financial aid based on merit, not need. Merit may be based on academics, leadership, or involvement in activities.

**Merit Scholarships:** Financial awards based on a student's achievement or potential (academic, athletic artistic, other), typically awarded by the college/university or private organizations. Merit scholarship is not need based "gift aid" and does not need to be paid back.

### **Minor (also called College Minor)**

This is a little like a major, but it has less requirements. You have to take a certain number of classes in a field. You might want to minor in a field that will support your major.

### **NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association)**

This is a nonprofit organization that regulates college athletes in college and conferences.

Learn more about [athletic associations](#).

**Need-aware Admissions:** A process of reviewing applicants for admission in which the student's ability to pay is taken into consideration.

### **Need-Based Financial Aid**

This is financial aid that you need to pay for your college. You'll put your family's financial information in your FAFSA or CADAA application. Then FAFSA or CADAA figures out an estimate for how much money you'll need to pay for college. Learn more about [financial aid](#).

**NMSQT:** The National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is combined with the PSAT, taken in October of the Junior Year. Scoring well on this test is the first requirement toward recognition in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

### **Net Price**

This is the amount one year of college will actually cost after free money, like grants and scholarships. It's how much you'll have to pay to go to college. When comparing college costs, it's better to look at Net Price than Cost of Attendance (COA). Use the [Net Price Calculator](#) to find the Net Price for colleges on your list.

### **Networking**

This is when people try to meet others in their field to support their professional growth.

### **On-Campus Housing (also called Campus Housing or Dorms)**

These are housing options at your college. It's usually dormitories (or dorms). If you want to live in a dorm, you'll need to accept a housing offer from the college and pay a non-refundable deposit.

### **Open Admissions**

This is an admissions process that some colleges use. It means that you'll be admitted no matter what. Community colleges usually use it.

### **Orientation**

This is an event to prepare you for college. Most colleges offer one for first year and transfer students. It supports your transition to that college and helps you get to know the campus.

### **Parent PLUS Loan**

This is a type of federal loan for parents to help them pay for their child's college.

### **Placement Exam**

Some colleges use placement exams to find the right classes for you. They are usually used to place students in math, English, and foreign language classes. Learn more about [college placement](#).

### **Postsecondary Education**

This is a term used to describe the education you get after high school. It's used to describe two-year and four-year colleges. It's also used to describe vocational and technical schools.

### **Priority Registration**

This is a time frame when some students can sign up for their classes earlier than others. It makes sure that you get into the classes you need before they become full. Check with your counselor to find out if you can sign up for priority registration.

### **Private Loan**

This is a loan that is taken out through a private bank, not through your college or the government. They usually have higher interest rates than other loans. Learn more about [student loans](#) and [financial aid](#) before you commit to a private loan.

### **Professional Organization**

This is an organization that supports professionals in a specific field. They offer an insight into the field and great networking opportunities. You can meet a mentor through a professional organization, too.

### **Prospective Student**

This is a student who is still deciding on which colleges to apply and go to.

### **PSAT/NMSQT**

This is a practice test for the SAT. It's usually given to 10th and 11th grade students. Learn more about the [PSAT](#).

### **Public Colleges**

These are colleges that are run by the state or other government agencies that are managed by public boards. [CCCs](#), [CSUs](#), and [UCs](#) are public colleges. Tuition for California residents is more affordable than for students who move from out of state.

### **Registration**

This is when you sign up for your college classes. Students are usually given a specific date and time to register for their classes. If you can, prepare a list of the classes you want ahead of time so that you're ready.

### **Regular Decision**

This is the typical admissions process and deadline for applying to college. Check the college's website to see updates on their deadlines.

### **Repayment**

This is the process of repaying your loans after you've graduated. You'll have a grace period right after graduating before you need to start repaying your loans. Talk with your financial aid office before you graduate to make sure you understand the timeline for repayment. Learn more about [repaying your student loans](#).

### **Residency**

This is a term for where you live. You need to prove where you live to qualify for in-state

tuition at many colleges. For UCs, you'll need to send your Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) to your campus deputy after you send in your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR). Each UC campus has specific instructions for how to fill out and send the SLR. For CSUs and CCCs, your residency is based on your application information. You might need to fill out an additional questionnaire if the college determines you're a non-resident.

### **Restrictive Early Action**

This is a way of applying for a college that you can do if you're confident you want to go there. You can only apply to one college this way. But you can apply to as many other colleges as you want. You don't have to go to a college if you apply with Restrictive Early Action and are accepted, unlike with Early Decision. Your spot is held for you until you hear from all colleges you applied to.

### **Resume**

This is a list of information about your education, work experience, and accomplishments. You use this list of information when you apply for jobs. It's an important part of the job application process. Your resume is usually one page. It shows off your background and personal skills. Learn more about [resumes and interviews](#).

### **Rolling Admissions**

This is an admissions process that accepts applications throughout the year. Colleges with rolling admissions review applications as they arrive. They send decision letters as soon as they are made.

### **Room and Board**

This is the amount of money it costs to live and eat during the academic year. To see estimates for room and board at colleges you're considering, use the [College Search Tool](#). Find the college, and click on the **Costs and Financial Aid** tab.

### **Sanctuary Campus**

This is a campus that is part of a group of schools that reaffirm the constitutional right to education. They protect and create a safe environment for all students. They protect the rights of undocumented immigrants and other vulnerable populations. They limit access to student information with the federal immigration authorities, restrict immigration agents' access to the campus, prevent campus security from collaborating with federal immigration authorities for the purposes of enforcement, and provide resources and information for immigrant students and their families.

### **SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)**

This is a college entrance exam, like the ACT. It's given by the College Board. Learn more about the [SAT](#).

### **SAT Subject Tests (formerly called SAT II)**

These were SAT tests given on specific subjects: English, math, science, foreign language, and history. They're no longer offered. Learn more about the [SAT](#).

### **Scholarship (also called Gift Aid)**

This is a type of financial aid. It's a gift, meaning you don't have to pay it back. They're usually given out by private organizations.

### **School Counselor**

This is someone at your high school who is trained to support you. They can help you choose high school classes, figure out which colleges to apply to, and find the best career.

### **Selective Colleges and Universities**

These are colleges that have a lot of criteria students need to meet. They look at GPA, extracurricular activities, essays, letters of recommendation, and a lot more. These colleges usually accept less than 50% of applicants. Colleges that accept less than 30% of applicants are considered highly selective. If you are applying to highly selective



institutions, you should also apply to less selective institutions.

### Selective Service

This is the U.S. federal agency that facilitates the mobilization of military forces by requiring the registration of males between the ages of 18 and 26 years. Visit the [Selective Service System](#) for more information.

*Note that federal and California financial aid programs no longer require this registration to be eligible for aid.*

### Senior Slump

This is a term for the emotion some 12th grade students feel toward the end of their high school experience. It means they're tired and wanting to slow down the last few months of school.

**Single Choice Early Action:** A nonbinding admission plan where the student may choose to apply to only one private university with deadlines typically between Mid–October to Late November. Decisions are typically released in December or January.

### Specialty Schools

This is a college that has a focus on minority or special populations. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) are two examples of specialty colleges. Use the Specialty Schools filter in the [College Search Tool](#) to narrow your results to HBCUs or TCUs.

**Spring/January Acceptance:** An offer of admission to a college or university with a second semester start date. Often these offers include the opportunity to enroll in a college sponsored program off campus (usually abroad) to earn college credit during the first semester.

### Student Aid Report (SAR)

This is the financial aid report you'll get from your FAFSA application. It lists the information you put in your FAFSA and the schools you want your financial aid information to go to. Make sure to check your

SAR for accuracy and resubmit your FAFSA if you find any mistakes.

### Subsidized Stafford Loan

This is a federal loan for students wanting to go to college or a training program. It's based on your financial need and borrowed money. The federal government pays the loan's interest while you're enrolled at least half time. Once you graduate, you're responsible for paying back the loan and new interest.

### Syllabus

College instructors give students a syllabus as a guide through a class. They usually include course policies, necessary textbooks and materials, a schedule of assignments, and other expectations.

**Test Optional:** Standardized test scores are not required for admission. Note: some colleges will require additional essays or other information if student is not submitting scores.

### Textbooks (also called Books or Texts) and Supplies

These are the books and materials you'll need for a class. It includes the required reading and the things you'll need for assignments. These are usually listed on the Syllabus for each class. Students can buy textbooks new or used. They can also rent them. Some textbooks are available electronically, too. Supplies might be a book bag, notebooks, specific calculators, pens and pencils, paper, and computer software.

### TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

This is a test to see how well a student knows English if it's not their first language. The test has spoken and grammar exercises. Talk with your counselor to see if you should take the TOEFL.

### Transcript

This is a list of the classes you've taken in high school or college. It includes the grades you've gotten in each class and your overall GPA. Colleges look at your transcripts when you apply. They usually ask for a final transcript once you've graduated.

### **Transfer (Transfer of credit)**

This is the process of changing schools. A lot of community college students transfer to a four-year college. Some students transfer from one four-year college to another. Talk to your counselor to see what units you can transfer. Learn more about [transferring schools](#).

### **Tuition**

This is the amount of money it costs to go to a college or university. Public colleges have in-state tuition for residents of California. That can make college much more affordable. Independent colleges charge the same tuition for all students. Each independent college has its own tuition amount.

### **Type of Environment**

This is a term to describe where a campus is physically. Colleges are in cities, towns, suburban neighborhoods, and rural parts of the state. You can use the **Type of Environment** filter in the [College Search Tool](#) to find a college in an area you'll like.

### **UC (University of California)**

This is one of the three public college systems in California CCCs and CSUs are the other two. The UC has nine undergraduate campuses throughout the state. A tenth campus offers professional and graduate programs in the health sciences. Learn more about the [UC](#).

### **UC Application**

This is the online application to go to a UC. You only need to fill out one application for all 10 campuses. Learn more about [how to apply to the UC](#).

### **UC Personal Insight Questions**

These are essay questions that you'll need to answer for your UC application. They're similar to a college essay. Your answers to these questions help the UC learn more about you, your background, interests, and achievements. They're a chance to share your story. Freshmen applicants have to fill out four out of eight possible questions. Transfer applicants have to answer one question about their major and three out of seven possible questions. For writing tips, see [College Admissions Essays](#).

### **Undergraduate**

These are students who are working toward their associate degree, bachelor's degree, or certificate.

### **Undocumented Student**

According to Immigrants Rising, these are students who "(1) entered the United States without inspection or with fraudulent documents; or (2) entered legally as a nonimmigrant but then violated the terms of his or her status and remained in the United States without authorization (as defined by the National Immigration Law Center). Most college-bound undocumented students have lived in the United States most of their lives; been brought to the United States by their parents at a young age; learned English; attended elementary, middle, and high school in the United States; excelled academically in high school and want to pursue a college education; and currently lack a way to become legal residents or citizens in the United States."

**Unmet Need:** Also referred to as "gapping," the difference between a student's financial aid award (gift aid, work-study, need-based loans) and a student's demonstrated financial need. Many private colleges employ this when they are unable to meet the full demonstrated need of all admitted students.

### **Unsubsidized Stafford Loan**

This is a federal financial aid loan. The federal government won't pay the interest for you while you're in school. You don't have to show you have a financial need. You're

responsible for paying back the loan and interest once you graduate.

**University:** A public or private institution that has both undergraduate and graduate programs.

### **Vocational Program**

This is a program that prepares students for a specific career. You don't need an associate degree or bachelor's degree. The programs are in lots of different subjects, like cosmetology or medical assisting. Students graduate from these programs with a license or certificate.

### **Waitlist**

For college admission, this is a list for students who aren't accepted or denied. They're a strong candidate, but there are stronger candidates. They are in limbo until the college knows if there's room for them. You have to either accept or reject your position at that college if you're waitlisted. Some colleges accept or require additional information from waitlist applicants. Other colleges specifically ask you not to send additional information. The college letter will tell you what to do. It should also tell you when you can expect to hear if you are admitted.

For college course registration, this is when you try to enroll in a course that is already full. You might be able to enroll in the course if other students drop or don't show up the first day of class. You have a better chance of getting into a class the higher up on the waitlist you are.

### **Work-Study**

This is a type of federal financial aid where you work part-time during the school year. You're paid a specific amount by the federal government. Each college has specific jobs that are for work-study students. Work-study is given to students based on their needs. The money can be used to pay for any college costs.

**Yield:** The number of students admitted to a

college who ultimately attend that college. The yield is usually extremely high at selective colleges.



# Student Accounts Logins

University Of California	Username
	Password
Cal State Apply	Username
	Password
Common APP	Username
	Password
Collegeboard	Username
	Password
ACT	Username
	Password
California Colleges	Username
	Password
NCAA	Username
	Password
NAIA	Username
	Password
California Community Colleges	Username
	Password
FAFSA	Username
	Password
Fastweb.com	Username
	Password



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