



Girls Inc. of Orange County's College Bound Program is an intensive and comprehensive college-readiness program in Orange County for 12th grade girl, girl-identifying students and/or gender expansive individuals who feel our pro-girl environment is the best fit for them. It will run from **September 17th-December 10th, 2026**. Its purpose is to support participants in establishing, and expanding, their personal and academic goals to be a competitive college applicant.

This highly valued program is **free of charge** and designed to expose participants to the breadth of majors, colleges, and career opportunities available to them and to cultivate a college-going mindset for *every* participant, regardless of circumstance. The College Bound: Grad Lab Program will be a hybrid model. Virtually through Zoom, students will participate in interactive live group lessons twice a week and complete application-related assignments using Google Classroom. There will also be in-person events such as office hours, work sessions, submission days, and celebrations!

Program Topics and Benefits include:

- College Essay Mentors
- Application Fees Financial Assistance
- College Panels & Guest Speakers
- Individual College Advising & Mentorship
- College Shower Graduation Celebration & Gift
- Access to Girls Inc. OC exclusive scholarship opportunities up to **\$25,000!**



Questions? Contact the College & Career Team, collegeboundgioc@gmail.com
or Laura Chavez, Senior Program Success Coordinator, lavachez@girlsinc-oc.org

Qualifications to Apply:

- Must be in 12th grade in the 2026-2027 school year.
- Able to commit to all or most of the required dates and times listed in table below.
- Reliable internet access and computer use during scheduled program meeting times.
 - If you are unable to access the internet and/or a computer during scheduled program meeting times, please contact the team.
- Submit a completed College Bound Program application by Sunday, September 13th, 2026 before 11:59 PM. Please complete the Google form application electronically:



Participation Requirements:

- Participate in two live Zoom sessions per week from September 17th-December 10th
- Complete assignments designed to progress college applications
- Option to attend weekly Office Hours
- Attend in-person opportunities

Program Schedule:

September 17, 2026 - December 10, 2026	College Bound: Grad Lab Live Sessions <i>(Required)</i>	Every Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm-6:15pm on Zoom and monthly in-person opportunities.. <i>*Detailed program schedule will be shared with participants upon acceptance.</i>
January 2027 - June 2027	Monthly Senior & Cohort Advising <i>(Optional, Highly Recommended)</i>	Schedule sign-up times
March 2027	GIOC Scholarship Application opens	Students will fill out our scholarship application for a chance to receive up to \$25,000
May 2027	College Shower <i>(Required)</i>	Date TBD

Absence Policy

- Participants are allowed two excused absences throughout the duration of the program
- All virtual Zoom sessions will be recorded & available to participants should they be unable to attend.
- Participants must notify their cohort lead of their excused absence as soon as possible, or at least 24 hours in advance.
- Participants will be required to complete all missing assignments and/or activities.
- Continuous unexcused absences may result in release from the College Bound: Grad Lab program.



Support Plan

- Participants who have special circumstances that prohibit them from completing participation requirements may be eligible for a support plan.
 - Special circumstances are defined as participation/obligations to activities that interfere with program schedule. This can include student athletes, working students, etc.
 - Support plan students are required to participate in the program asynchronously and check in with their cohort lead at a time that is mutually agreed upon twice a month.
 - Please contact the College & Career team if you feel a Support Plan may be the best fit for you.



Grad Lab Testimonials

"I deeply value the encouragement and expertise provided by the Girls Inc. team. This program not only prepared me for college but also reinforced my confidence and sense of accomplishment during a pivotal time in my life. Thank you for creating such a meaningful experience!"

-Arianna I.

"My favorite Grad Lab memory was working with my writing coach. She helped me so much to be able to improve my essays and helped with any questions I had. With her help I was able to get into my dream school and so many others. I have encouraged many seniors to join Grad Lab as it was a very beneficial program that helped me through my college journey."

-Ciara C.

Girls Inc. College Bound Alumnae attend top colleges and universities, including... *Stanford University, Chapman University, USC, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside, UC Merced, Princeton University, UPenn, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State San Luis Obispo, Biola University, University of Notre Dame ... and more!*

See the Grad Lab experience for yourself, check out our YouTube video!

[Girls Inc. of Orange County's College Bound: Grad Lab - Just the Beginning - YouTube](#)

Submitting Your Application

- Please complete all required sections of the form.
- 2 required short essays (no more than 200 words)
 - *Prompt: Why would you like to participate in the College Bound: Grad Lab Program? Discuss your college and personal goals. Are there particular circumstances, school experiences, or persons that influenced your preparation and/or motivation to attend college? (200 words or less)*
 - *Prompt: College Bound Grad Lab is an intensive 12-week program that requires consistent attendance, communication, and deadlines. Please describe how you plan to complete the program successfully and what makes you a dedicated student. (200 words or less)*

Application Deadline: Sunday, September 13th, 2026

LINK:

- *Students will be notified of their acceptance within two weeks of their application submission. Please contact the team if you do not hear back within that timeframe.*