

# COLLEGE 101

Mustang  
University

# AGENDA



## College Options

CSU/UC, Private or Out-of-State,  
Community Colleges

## Graduation vs. College Entrance Requirements

What's the difference?

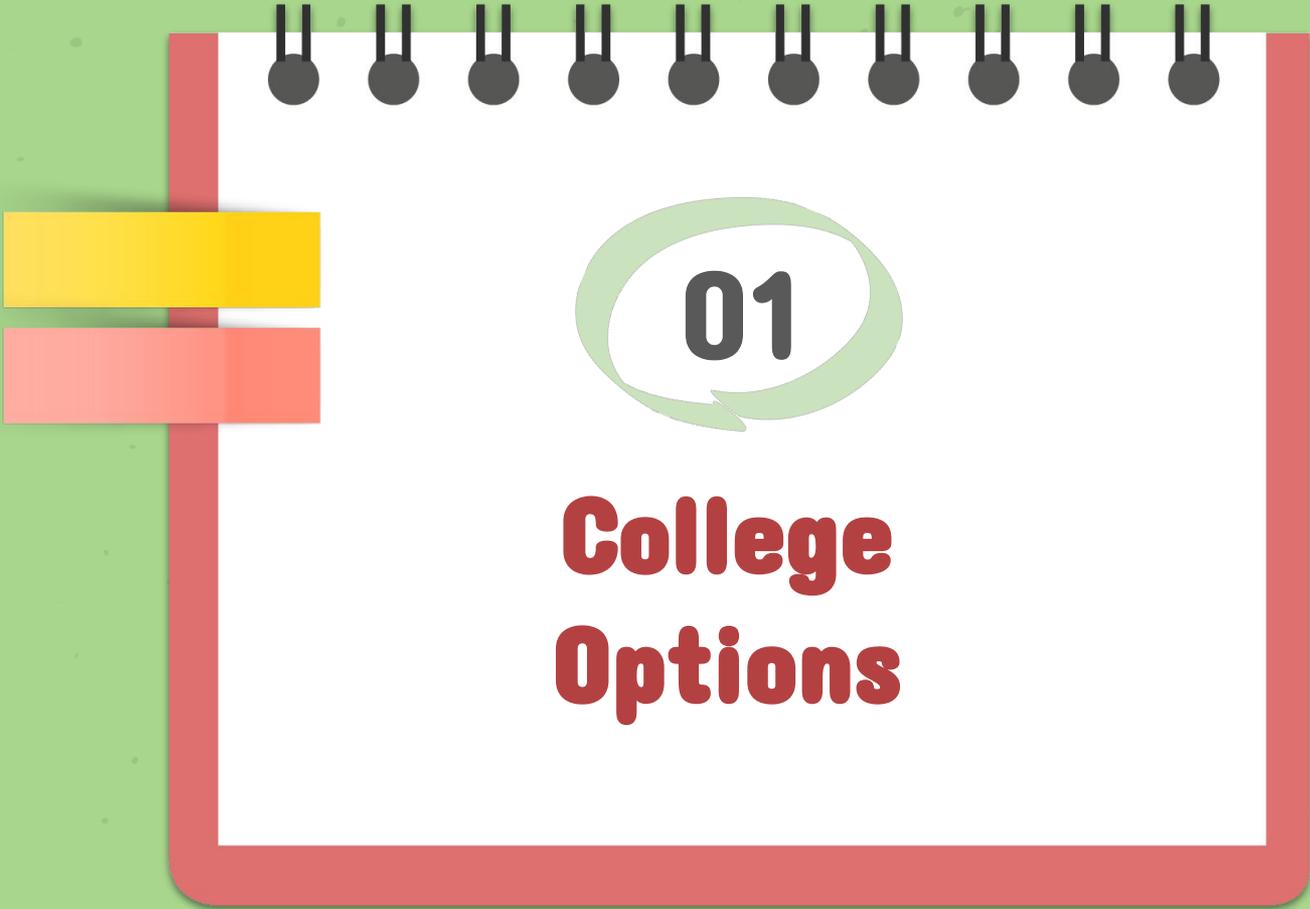


## College Timeline

A guide for each year of  
high school

## Advice from a Counselor

Find Your Fit

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a red cover. The spiral binding is at the top. On the left side, there are two overlapping sticky tabs, one yellow and one pink. In the center of the page, the number '01' is displayed in a large, bold, black font, enclosed within a light green circular arrow graphic. Below this, the words 'College Options' are written in a bold, dark red font.

01

# College Options

# UC Schools

- \*10 Campuses
  - Nine of these campuses offer both undergraduate and graduate education. \*UC San Francisco is a graduate and professional school only.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Emphasis on theory and research
- [admission.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu)

## SAT/ACT not required

UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships.



If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after you enroll.

# CSU Schools

- \*23 Campuses
- Minimum GPA of 2.5
  - Any California high school graduate or resident of California earning a GPA between 2.00 and 2.49 may be evaluated for admission based upon supplemental factors.
- Practical
- [calstate.edu/apply](http://calstate.edu/apply)

## SAT/ACT not required

The California State University (CSU) no longer uses ACT or SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses.

If accepted to a CSU campus, ACT or SAT test scores can be used as one of the measures to place students in the proper mathematics and written communication courses.

## Private or Out-of-State Colleges

- Requirements vary widely
- Recommended to check school website → freshman admission requirements
- Similar to CSU/UC requirements
- Check SAT/ACT requirements on [fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org)



Announced by  
Dartmouth

Feb 5, 2024

"Dartmouth will reactivate the standardized testing requirement for undergraduate admission beginning with applicants to the Class of 2029."

*What does this mean for your student?*

Please check the colleges you are applying to for their latest testing requirements!

# Community Colleges



Fullerton College



- 116 campuses in California
- Transfer Programs
  - **TAG, TAP**
- Vocational Programs
- Can take classes while still in high school
- High school diploma or 18 years of age to be eligible
- No SAT/ACT required
- 2 years of free tuition for students who complete the FAFSA
- **cccapply.org**

02

## **Graduation vs. College Entrance Requirements**





|  | PYLUUSD Grad Requirements  | University of California (UC) Requirements   | Cal State University (CSU) Requirements                                       | NCAA Requirements   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
|  | Grade of "D-" or better  | Grade of "C-" or better in all 15 <a href="#">approved courses</a> (11 courses completed prior to senior year)   |   | 16 <a href="#">core courses</a> (10 courses completed prior to senior year)                   |
| Social Science/History                     | 3 years<br>World History<br>US History<br>Gov/Econ   | A. 2 years<br>World History<br>US History  | A. 2 years<br>US History<br>World History OR<br>Social Science Elective       | 2 years<br>World History<br>US History  |
| English                                    | 4 years<br>Lang Art 1<br>Lang Art 2<br>Lang Art 3<br>Lang Art 4/LA Elective                                      | B. 4 years<br>Lang Art 1<br>Lang Art 2<br>Lang Art 3<br>Lang Art 4/LA Elective (Not including ELD)               |   | 4 years<br>Lang Art 1<br>Lang Art 2<br>Lang Art 3<br>Lang Art 4/LA Elective                   |
| Mathematics                                | 2 years<br>Algebra 1<br>Other Math Course  | C. 3 years<br>(4 years recommended)<br>Algebra 1<br>Geometry<br>Algebra 2  |   | 3 years<br>Must include Algebra 1   |
| Science                                    | 2 years<br>Life Science<br>Physical Science  | D. 2 years<br>(3 years recommended)<br>Biology<br>Chemistry or Physics   | D. 2 years<br>(3 years recommended)<br>Biological Science<br>Physical Science | 2 years<br>Natural Science<br>Physical Science  |
| World Language/Language Other Than English | 1 year of<br>World Language<br>OR<br>Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA)<br>OR<br>Career Technical Education (CTE) | E. 2 years of the same language<br>(3 years recommended)   |   |   |
| Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA)          |  | F. 1 year<br>(2 semesters of the same discipline: Dance, Interdisciplinary Arts, Music, Theatre, or Visual Arts) |   |   |
| Electives                                  | 80 credits<br>Any class above the minimum req  | G. 1 year<br>Any approved class from A-G categories  |   | One additional year of<br>English, Math, or Science   |
| Physical Education                         | 2 years<br>PE 1<br>PE 2 or PE Elective   |  |   | Students must register through the <a href="#">NCAA Eligibility Center</a>                    |
| Other                                      | 1 semester/1 semester<br>Health Ed/Career Exploration<br>40 hours of Community Service                           | SAT or ACT<br>Both with Writing<br>(Optional during COVID)   | SAT or ACT<br>(Optional during COVID)   | Four additional years of<br>English, Math, Science,<br>Social Science, or Foreign<br>Language |
| Minimum GPA                                | Total of 230 credits<br>(210 for Alternative Ed)   | 3.0  | 2.0   | 2.3   |

For all courses and descriptions, see the [PYLUUSD Course Catalog](#)

[PYLUUSD  
Course  
Catalog](#)

# University of California

## Apply Online

Application period  
October 1 - December 2



## Most Selective Campuses

UCLA and UC Berkeley



## Average GPA



3.8 (> 4.0 for UCLA  
and UC Berkeley)

## The Big 5



1. GPA (Academic 10-11)
2. Strength of Schedule
3. PIQs
4. Extracurriculars
5. Leadership and Involvement

# California State University



## Apply Online

Application period  
October 1 - December 2

## **Most Selective Campuses**



San Diego State and Cal Poly  
San Luis Obispo

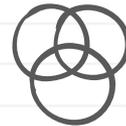
## Admission Criteria



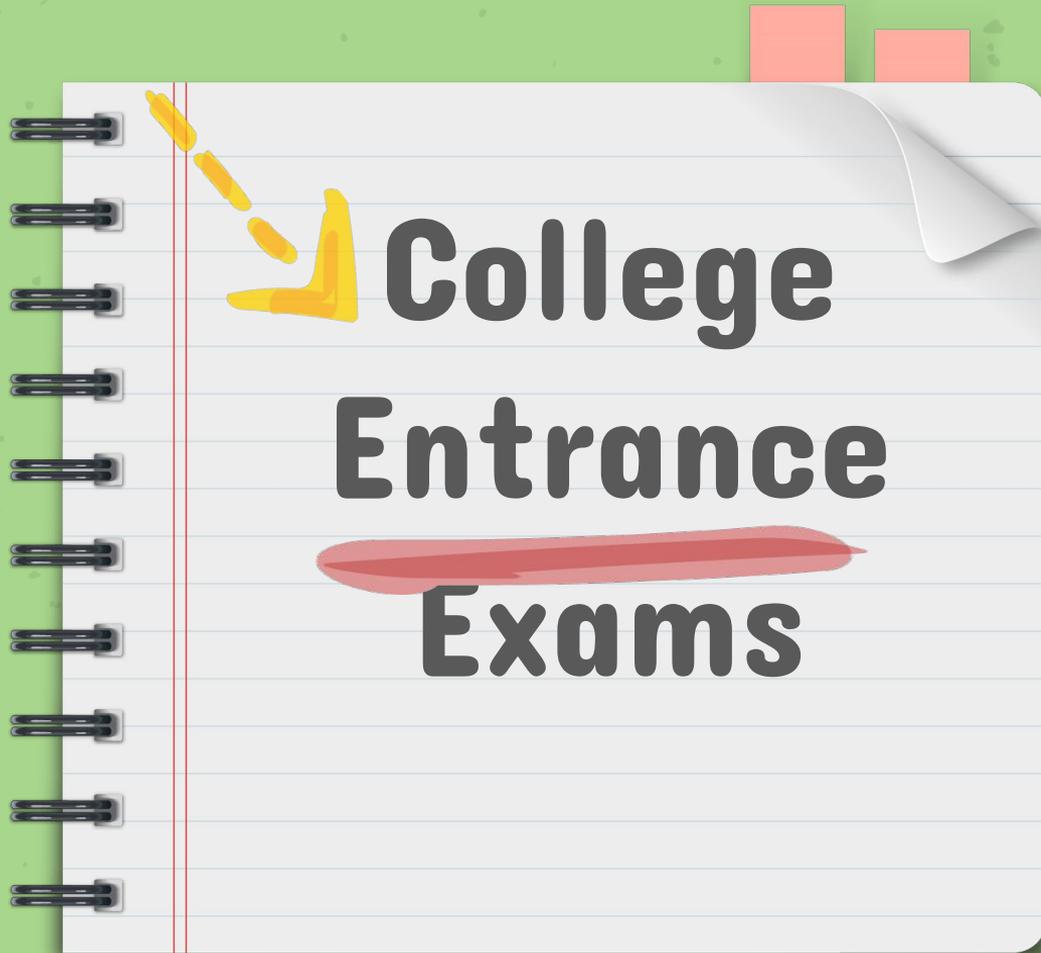
Complete the 15 a-g  
required courses with a  
2.5 GPA or higher



If the 15 a-g required  
course GPA is 2.0-2.49,  
other factors will be  
considered



These factors include  
(e.g. exceeding minimum  
a-g requirements,  
household income,  
extracurricular  
involvement, and other  
available information  
that would inform the  
campus admission  
decision)



**College  
Entrance  
Exams**

# SAT

Score is based out of 1600.  
800 for Math. 800 for  
Evidence Based Reading.

No wrong-answer penalty.  
Calculator not permitted for  
all math sections.

3 hours.

# ACT

Composite Score of 1-36. 4  
sections: English, Reading,  
Math, and Science Reasoning.

Optional Writing (students  
need to sign up for writing).

Calculator allowed for all  
math problems.

3 hours. 40 minutes with  
optional writing.

# What is a “good” SAT/ACT score?

## SAT:

A good SAT score is generally considered to be 1210 or higher, which would put you in the top 25% of all test takers.

In 2023, the national average score earned on the SAT was 1028, and a “perfect” score on the SAT is the maximum score of 1600.

Every college and university has its own unique SAT score range which should be consulted when determining what a “good” score is for you.

Your SAT score does not determine if a college will accept you, but a high score can make you a more competitive applicant. (Kaplan, 2025)

## ACT:

Average Score Range: 17-24

Above Average Score Range: 25-36 (ACT.org)

College Board Big Future

**What are the benefits of taking  
the SAT/ACT if the college  
doesn't require it?**

**FREE MONEY!**



Many colleges, including test-optional schools, will use SAT/ACT scores to award merit scholarships for incoming students. If you do well on the test, your scores could benefit your financial aid greatly!

Research shows up to 60% of scholarships required an SAT/ACT score to be submitted as part of the application process.

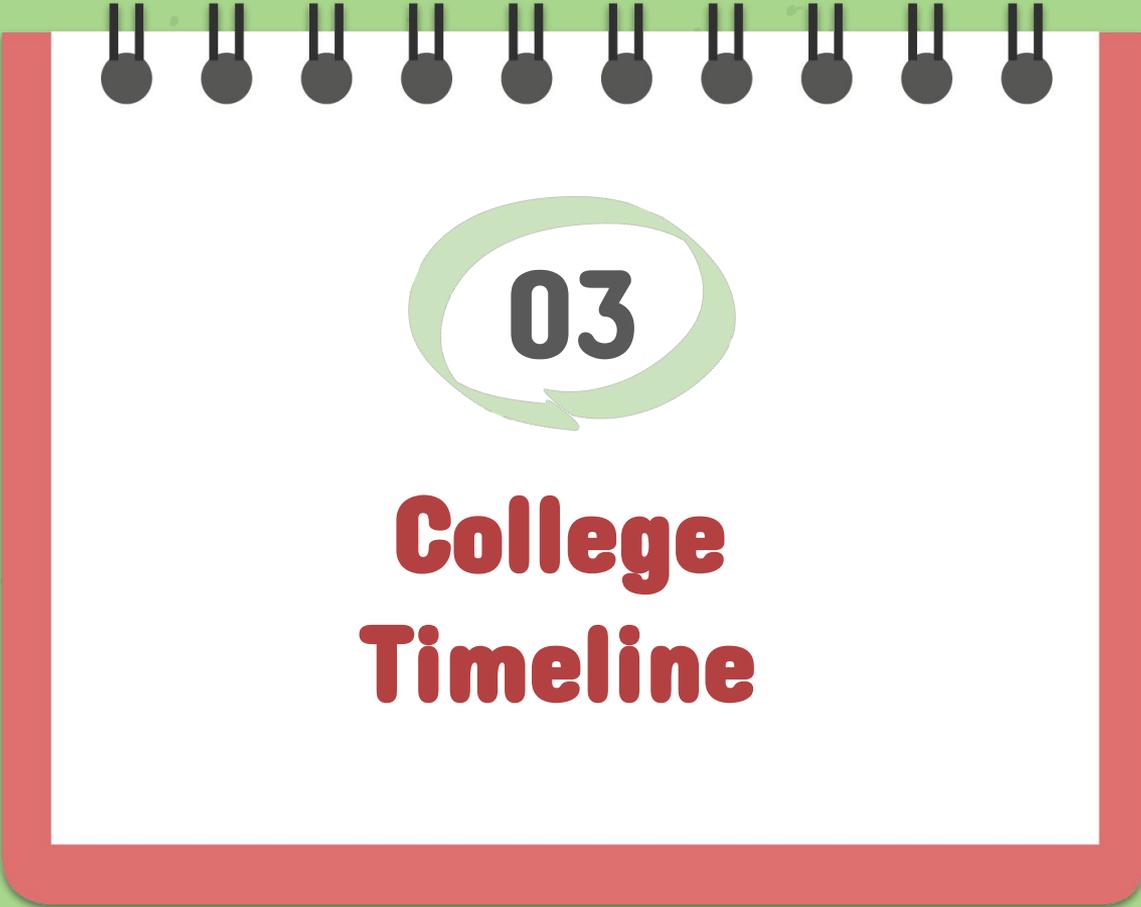


## What does “test-optional” mean?

Test-optional schools will let you decide if you want to submit your test scores. If submitted, the school will take SAT/ACT scores into consideration, but may focus on other parts of the application more.

Test-flexible schools will allow you to submit scores for the SAT/ACT, OR a different test in their place (e.g. SAT Subject Test or AP Test).

Test-blind schools will not consider any scores, even if you include them in the application.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a red border, set against a green background. The spiral binding is at the top. The page contains the number 03, the text 'College Timeline', and a green circular arrow icon.

03

**College  
Timeline**

9<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Take strong college preparatory classes
- **Get good grades**
- Start community service hours
- Participate in various clubs/athletics/activities
- Start an activities/volunteer log

10<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Take strong college preparatory classes
- **Get good grades**
- Continue with community service
- Club/athletic/ involvement, encourage depth of participation in activities
- Consider taking the PSAT (preliminary SAT)
- Update activities/volunteer log

|           | Junior year  | Senior year  |
|-----------|--|--|
| September | Take most rigorous classes, update resume  | Ask teachers/counselor for letters of recommendation as needed, sign up for college and scholarships alerts on <a href="http://ylhs.org">ylhs.org</a>  |
| October   | <b>Take PSAT to be eligible for National Merit Scholarship competition- sign ups during August "Back-to-School Days"</b>         | Take SAT or ACT as needed, <b>begin CSU/UC applications, meet with counselor for "Senior Check", attend District College Fairs, Complete FAFSA online</b>  |
| November  | Become familiar with online resources (for example- <a href="http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org">bigfuture.collegeboard.org</a> ) | Take SAT or ACT as needed, <b>finalize personal insight questions for UC's, send applications by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, attend workshops offered by our school, be sure SAT/ACT scores have been sent to colleges</b> |
| December  | Develop teacher/counselor relationships for letters of recommendation  | Take SAT as needed, attend Financial Aid Night, <b>apply to Community College- early admit program</b>   |
| January   | <b>Receive results of PSAT &amp; develop prepping strategy to improve SAT scores</b>   | Continue researching scholarships via the internet   |
| February  | Explore colleges online (e.g. Naviance.com), attend college rep visits at YLHS   | Finish financial aid forms – you will need your 1040 tax info (as current as possible)   |
| March     | <b>Take SAT or ACT, plan a challenging Senior curriculum (an easy schedule can cost you an acceptance)</b>                       | <b>FAFSA form due 3/2, visit schools &amp; attend open houses to help with your decision</b>   |
| April     | Attend National College Fair, <b>Athletes: register with NCAA Clearinghouse if applicable</b>                                    | Congrats on all your acceptances! You must select a school by <b>May 1<sup>st</sup>, apply for housing</b>   |
| May       | <b>Take SAT/ACT, take AP Exams</b>   | Keep your grades up – offers can be rescinded, <b>plan summer employment</b>   |
| June      | Take SAT or ACT, arrange college tours for summer  | <b>Request final transcripts to be sent through Parchment.com on the YLHS website</b>  |



|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

# Start Early

## 9th Grade

- Get good grades
- Start community service hours
- Participate in extracurriculars
- Keep a log of activities

## 10th Grade

- Get good grades
- Continue with community service, clubs, and sports
- Consider taking the PSAT
- Update activities log

## 11th Grade

- Take rigorous classes
- Take PSAT/NMSQT
- Attend college fairs and college visits
- Take SAT/ACT
- Visit colleges in the summer and start applications

# Senior Year

- Ask teachers/counselor for letters of recommendation as needed
- Sign up for college and scholarship alerts on [ylhs.org](http://ylhs.org)

- Take SAT/ACT as needed. Last date to take it is December of senior year
- Complete and submit applications on time

- Research scholarships and complete the FAFSA
- Keep doing well in senior year classes. Colleges will still look at senior year grades!



## Advice from a Counselor



## Data of 2024 Grads - UC Acceptances by

GPA

| UC            | Total GPA   | UC GPA      | YLHS Acceptance based on student report % |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| UC Berkeley   | 4.21 - 4.75 | 3.86 - 4.40 | 29%                                       |
| UC Davis      | 3.36 - 4.75 | 3.25 - 4.40 | 46%                                       |
| UC Irvine     | 3.98 - 4.80 | 3.70 - 4.40 | 32%                                       |
| UCLA          | 4.04 - 4.80 | 3.83 - 4.40 | 12%                                       |
| UC Merced     | 3.15 - 4.47 | 3.00 - 4.12 | 100%                                      |
| UC Riverside  | 3.38 - 4.75 | 3.44 - 4.40 | 86%                                       |
| UC Santa Cruz | 3.38 - 4.73 | 3.54 - 4.40 | 55%                                       |
| UC San Diego  | 4.49 - 4.8  | 4.18 - 4.40 | 29%                                       |



## Data of 2024 Grads - Private / OOS Acceptances by

| PRIVATE               | TOTAL GPA   |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Biola Univ            | 2.82 - 4.11 |
| Cal Baptist           | 2.76 - 4.23 |
| Chapman               | 3.73 - 4.70 |
| Loyola Marymount Univ | 3.22 - 4.20 |
| Pepperdine Univ       | 3.98 - 4.72 |
| USC                   | 4.26 - 4.80 |
| Vanguard Univ         | 3.63 - 4.23 |
| U San Diego           | 4.41 - 4.61 |
| U San Francisco       | 3.60 - 4.41 |



| OUT OF STATE         | TOTAL GPA   |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Arizona State Univ   | 2.81 - 4.30 |
| Auburn Univ          | 3.85 - 3.92 |
| Baylor Univ          | 3.22 - 4.56 |
| Boise State          | 3.02 - 4.70 |
| Boston Univ          | 3.60 - 4.71 |
| Brigham Young Univ   | 3.81 - 4.45 |
| Colorado State Univ  | 2.76 - 4.42 |
| Grand Canyon Univ    | 3.23 - 4.73 |
| Johns Hopkins Univ   | 4.26 - 4.71 |
| Texas Christian Univ | 4.41 - 4.47 |
| U Arizona            | 2.81 - 4.26 |
| U Washington         | 4.00 - 4.65 |
| U South Florida      | 3.88 - 4.64 |
| U Alabama            | 3.63 - 4.41 |



# College Search Tools

## Californiacolleges.edu

All PYLUSD students have a free account

## College Board Big Future

Allows students to search colleges and scholarships based on filters they set

## Niche.com

Allows students to search colleges and scholarships based on filters they set

## College Navigator

A tool designed to help students, parents, high school counselors, and others get information about over 7000 institutions in US

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a red cover, set against a green background. The spiral binding is at the top, consisting of ten black rings. The text is centered on the page.

**Thank You!**

[ylhs.org](http://ylhs.org)

[@ylhs\\_counseling\\_dept](#)

[Sign up for College Rep Visits](#)

# Thanks!

Do you have any  
questions?  
youremail@freepik.com  
+91 620 421 838  
yourcompany.com



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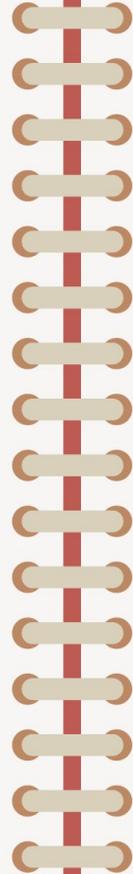
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# Universal Icon Pack





# Alternative resources



# Premium alternative resources

