COLLEGE PLANNING HANDBOOK

2020 - 2021

Mater Dei High School
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College Preparation Timeline

Major College Planning Dates and Deadlines

Junior Year:

- Meet with College reps during lunch
- Visit college campuses
- Grades are important
- Take the most rigorous curriculum you are capable of balancing
- Test Prep (if desired)
- Parents and students meet with Counselors in spring to start planning for college
- Take the SAT or ACT tests (in spring) students are encouraged to take the tests with essay
- Register with NCAA Eligibility Center if not yet completed and submit transcript and test scores
- Consider taking the Summer College Application Workshop at Mater Dei
- Write an essay draft during summer - Common Application and UC
- Complete your Counselor Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire (if you are needing Letters of Recommendation)

Senior Year:

- Sign up for a one on one college appointment with your counselor
- Create an appropriate non Mater Dei email address to be used for college applications
- Visit with college reps during lunch
- Attend “ Life After High School” – College Night (Sept – Oct)
- Re-take the SAT and ACT as necessary (August – December)
- Students are responsible for sending test scores directly from the testing agencies
- Begin out of state applications, UC’s and Common Application as early as August
- Check for early action/ early decision deadlines (usually in November)
- Apply to the California State Universities (CSU) – Available October 1 – November 30
- Apply to the University of California (UC’s) – Available August, Submit November 1 – 30
- Complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or California Dream Act Application – Opens October 1st - March 2nd
- Some private schools require a CSS Profile – check websites and complete the CSS Profile
- Check your email - this is how colleges will communicate with you
- Notify colleges of your intent to register by May 1
Senior Timeline

Seniors will meet with their counselors individually at least once a semester. Counselors 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 their counselor.

YEARLONG

- Eat well, exercise and get enough sleep
- Educate yourself on all of the colleges you are applying to
- Research and update your scholarship list. Make sure you have an action plan to meet deadlines
- Register for the ACT plus Writing/ SAT with Writing/ SAT Subject Tests for fall exams
  - Check with the schools you are applying to for the latest acceptable date
- Apply for scholarships (see the MD website for resources)
- Connect with your counselor and communicate with your teachers regularly about deadlines

SUMMER/ AUGUST

- Begin narrowing your list of colleges
- Register to take the SAT with Writing and/or ACT plus Writing tests as necessary
- 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

SEPTEMBER

- Meet with College Admissions Reps during lunch in Shamrock Plaza
- Begin to create a master calendar with important college application deadlines
- Retake the SAT or ACT, if necessary
- Begin meeting with your counselor
- Begin personally asking teacher(s) for letter(s) of recommendation

OCTOBER

- Finalize your college choices
- Prepare Early Decision and/or Early Action, if needed
- Ask a teacher/counselor to review essay drafts
- Attend Senior Workshops during Office Hour
- Attend College Night
- FAFSA opens 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

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
DECEMBER/ JANUARY
- Continue to complete applications
- If you are applying to a WUE college, most deadlines are in December in order 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 up (if you were accepted early)

FEBRUARY
- No Senioritis!!!! Accepting colleges do look at second semester senior grades
- If you submitted your CSS profile, check your acknowledgement 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 and/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 you intent and ask how to strengthen your application
- Hand write a Thank you note to everyone who wrote you a letter of recommendation or otherwise helped with your college/scholarship applications
## College Application Requirements

*Apply broadly to safety, match/target, and reach schools*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>California State University (CSU)</th>
<th>University of California (UC)</th>
<th>Private Colleges and Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High School Academics (minimum requirements)</strong></td>
<td><strong>High School Graduation</strong></td>
<td><strong>“A- G”</strong></td>
<td><strong>“A- G”</strong></td>
<td>**College Prep Classes **&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a) History (2)years</td>
<td>a) History (2)years</td>
<td>History (2-3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) English (4)years</td>
<td>b) English (4)years</td>
<td>English (4) years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c) Math (3, incl. Alg 2)years</td>
<td>c) Math (3, incl. Alg 2)years</td>
<td>Math (4) years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>d) Science (2)years</td>
<td>d) Science (2)years</td>
<td>Science (3-4 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>e) World Language (2)years</td>
<td>e) World Language (2)years</td>
<td>World Language (3-4 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>f) Visual/Performing Art (1)year</td>
<td>f) Visual/Performing Art (1)year</td>
<td>Other, depends on school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>g) Elective (1)year</td>
<td>g) Elective (1)year</td>
<td>9–12th GPA Considered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum 2.0 GPA (10-11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum 3.0 GPA (10-11)</td>
<td>&lt;sup&gt;∗&lt;/sup&gt; Classes depend on college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standardized Tests</strong></td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>SAT or ACT</td>
<td>SAT w/ Essay or ACT w/ Writing</td>
<td>SAT w/ Essay or ACT w/ Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* requirements depend on campus/ major</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests are not required and will not be considered</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests &amp; AP Tests not required, but considered</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests &amp; AP Tests not required, but considered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extracurriculars</strong></td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Important</td>
<td>Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Statement</strong></td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Not considered</td>
<td>Choose 4 of the 8 Personal Insight prompts to write short essays (each 350 words max)</td>
<td>Choose 1 of 7 essay prompts (650 words max) Supplemental Essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Letters of Recommendation</strong></td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Not Considered</td>
<td>Not Considered</td>
<td>Varies by School: 2 High School Teachers 1 School Counselor (# Required/Optional/Other)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit: Oct 1 - November 30</td>
<td>Submit: Nov 1 - November 30</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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
- **We recommend applying to 7-10 schools. 3 Reach, 3 Target, 3 Probable**
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 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 1st 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 his/her 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
- Is applying early only because friends are
- Needs a strong senior fall semester to bring grades up
- Has not put any time or energy into the Resume or Counselor Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire
# THE SAT VS. THE ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>THE SAT</strong></th>
<th><strong>THE ACT</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>SAT</strong> 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 <strong>NOT</strong> factor into the total score.</td>
<td>The <strong>ACT</strong> 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 <strong>NOT</strong> factor into the composite score.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Evidence – Based Reading and Writing Test:</strong> Writing and Language: 4 passages/ 11 questions each (35 minutes)</td>
<td><strong>1 English Section:</strong> 75 questions (45 minutes) 5 passages/ 15 questions each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong> 52 questions (65 minutes) 1 Literature passage 1 Social Science passage 2 Science passages 1 Great Global Conversation passage</td>
<td><strong>1 Reading Section:</strong> 40 questions (35 minutes) 1 Prose passage 1 Social Science passage 1 Humanities passage 1 Natural Science passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Mathematics Test:</strong> No Calculator: 20 questions (25 minutes) Calculator allowed: 38 questions (55 minutes) Contains student –produced response questions Includes formulas to reference Specification and Range of Math: • Advanced Algebra • Interpretation of Data • Geometry and Arithmetic • Trigonometry</td>
<td><strong>1 Mathematics Section:</strong> 60 questions (60 minutes) Calculator allowed No student-produced response questions Does not include formulas to reference Specification and Range of Math: • Geometry • Algebra • Arithmetic • Basic Trigonometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>50 Minute Essay Test (Optional)</strong> 3 Sub Scores: • Reading • Analysis • Writing 2- 8 points each section</td>
<td><strong>40 Minute Essay Test (Optional)</strong> 4 Sub Scores: • Ideas and Analysis • Development and Support • Organization • Language Use and Convections 2- 12 points each section (2 -12 Points total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Answer Choices for Multiple Choice Questions:</td>
<td>4 Answer Choices for Multiple Choice Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total length: 3 hours and 50 minutes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Length : 3 hours and 35 minutes</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.collegeboard.org  
www.actstudent.org
Testing: SAT, ACT, AP, SAT Subject Tests

SAT Date | Registration Deadline
--- | ---
August 29, 2020 | July 31, 2020
September 26 | August 26, 2020
October 3, 2020 | September 4, 2020
November 7, 2020 | October 7, 2020
December 5, 2020 | November 5, 2020
March 13, 2021 | February 12, 2021
May 8, 2021 | April 8, 2021
June 5, 2021 | May 6, 2021

ACT Date | Registration Deadline
--- | ---
September 12, 2020 | August 14, 2020
September 13, 2020 | August 14, 2020
September 19, 2020 | August 14, 2020
October 10, 2020 | September 17, 2020
October 17, 2020 | September 17, 2020
October 24, 2020 | September 17, 2020
October 25, 2020 | September 17, 2020
December 12, 2020 | November 6, 2020
February 6, 2021 | January 8, 2021
April 17, 2021 | March 12, 2021
June 12, 2021 | May 7, 2021
July 17, 2021 | June 18, 2021

Fee Waiver Eligibility Criteria

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2018-19

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD</th>
<th>TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME (including head of household)</th>
<th>TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME (in preceding calendar year)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$22,459</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$30,451</td>
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<td>$38,443</td>
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<td>$46,435</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$54,427</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$62,419</td>
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</table>

Register for SAT & Subject Tests at www.collegeboard.org
MD School Code: 053240
MD Test Site Code: 05-757

Register for ACT at www.actstudent.org
MD School Code: 053240
MD Test Site Code: 189530

- 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 requirements 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”.
- The SAT code for the CSU system is 3594. By reporting your scores to this code, all CSU campuses will receive your scores.
- 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)
  - UC’s 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 UC’s and the other campuses will have access to your scores.
- Some private and selective colleges require up to three SAT Subject Tests. Check the college websites directly for their requirements.
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 your 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)
NAVIANCE:  [https://student.naviance.com/mater](https://student.naviance.com/mater)

**Username:** Student’s MD email address

**Password:**

All MD Students have access to Naviance, a powerful college and career research tool!

- List the colleges you’re thinking about
- Take the Career Interest Profiler
- Watch a RoadTrip Nation video
- Explore college admissions data (Scattergrams)
- Use the College SuperMatch
- Research scholarships and more!

NCAA / NAIA:  Playing Sports at the College Level

1. Register with NCAA / NAIA Clearing House at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) or [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org)
2. Send 6th and 8th semester transcripts to NCAA / NAIA via Parchment.com
3. Send Official SAT / ACT test scores. NCAA: 9999 / NAIA: 9876

Parchment Transcripts:  [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)

Parchment is the service MDHS uses for official transcripts

- Create a Parchment account and add Mater Dei HS and any other high schools you have attended
- If using the Common Application, you must send your transcript through Parchment to the Common Application. This must be done in order for your counselor to upload a letter of recommendation.
- **COUNSELORS DO NOT SEND TRANSCRIPTS**
- Deadlines vary: Check with each college you plan to apply to and carefully read the requirements and instructions for each school.
- Check whether a mid-year report and transcript are needed and send an official transcript after 1st semester senior year if needed, once grades are available.

Letters of Recommendation

- You must ask your counselor in person to write you a letter of recommendation at LEAST 3 weeks before your first application is due.
- Counselors must receive your Counselor Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire in order to write your letters of recommendation. ([place updated link](#))
- You must send your counselor an invitation on the Common Application. Invite your counselor in the “My Colleges” Section of the Common Application > Recommenders and FERPA
- You must to WAIVE YOUR RIGHTS to accessing your letters of recommendation and school reports.
- Counselor and Teacher letters of recommendation can only be sent directly to the college or program and will not be given to the student or parent.
Military Academies & ROTC

Military Academies
Securing an appointment: You must be nominated by your Senator or Congressional Representative to be considered for all Military Academies except the Coast Guard. You should consider starting this process during the spring of your junior year or summer before senior year. Plan to complete your application by the end of October, in order to be interviewed in November. You should be notified of nomination by February. The Academy will contact candidates for evaluation and extend the final offer of appointment by May 1. Evaluations are based on the “Whole Person” concept and take into consideration your academic, leadership and physical abilities. Most academies and congressional offices require: official transcripts, SAT/ACT scores sent directly from the testing agency; your resume of activities, leadership positions held, academic and athletic awards; a copy of your birth certificate; and a small, recent photograph (optional). Each representative has their own nomination application and procedure. Do not wait for your Congressional Appointment to begin your application to the academy to which you will apply.

Admissions Contact Info:

**US Merchant Marine Academy**
Attn: Director of Admissions
300 Steamboat Road,
Kings Point, NY 11024
www.usmma.edu

**US Air Force Academy**
Attn: Admissions Office, HQ USAFA/RR
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2300
USAF Academy, CO 80840
www.academyadmissions.edu

**US Coast Guard Academy**
Attn: Director of Admissions
31 Mohegan Ave
New London, CT 06320
www.cga.edu

**US Military Academy**
Attn: Director of Admissions
600 Thayer Rd, Bldg. 606
West Point, NY 10996
www.usma.edu/admissions

**US Naval Academy**
Attn: Admissions
52 King George Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
www.usna.edu

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
Military financial aid is offered to officer candidates in the form of tuition assistance and monthly pay in return for the student’s promise to serve as an officer in the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps. Most of these scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who go directly to college. The benefits consist primarily of reduced or free tuition and an allowance of $100 - $150 per month if the student is enrolled in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC).

**Air Force ROTC**
866 – 423-77682
www.afrotc.com

**Army ROTC**
888-550-2769
www.goarmy.com/rotc

**Navy ROTC**
800-NAV-ROTC
www.nrotc.navy.mil
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
*San Jose State        *Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcript</th>
<th>Letter of Rec.</th>
<th>Essay/Personal Statement</th>
<th>Test Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Transcript/ When contacted</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Required/Send</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 eligibility index (use equation)

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

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/degrees-certificates-credentials/Pages/impacted-degrees.aspx
University of California

https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/

Application Opens: August 1
Submit Application: November 1 - November 30

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcript</th>
<th>Letter of Rec.</th>
<th>Essay/Personal Statement</th>
<th>Test Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Transcript/When contacted</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required/Send</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to Apply Online:
http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/apply-online/

How Applications are Reviewed/14 Factors:
http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/how-applications-reviewed/index.html

UC Personal Insight Questions:

You must respond to only 4 of the 8 questions. Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/freshman/index.html
UC Application Activities & Awards Section

“You’ve told us what you did inside the classroom, and now you’ll have the opportunity to tell us about what you’re most proud of outside the classroom. We’re looking for quality, not quantity [...] make sure to focus on the [activities and awards] that are most important to you. Choose experiences that demonstrate commitment, responsibility, leadership, and most of all, genuine interest.” Use this worksheet to prepare a concise description of your most significant awards and activities. You may list up to 20 total activities and awards. The character count for each activity description is 350 characters, and the character count for award requirements, use of work earnings, and organization descriptions is 250 characters.

Tips:
- Brainstorm your activities or refer to your resume: Were you involved in clubs, athletics, band? Did you work or volunteer? Did you have family responsibilities caring for siblings or other family members?
- Your activities do not need to be through organized, school-sponsored programs.
- Describe the activity and your role. Refrain from using acronyms.
- If you did not have the time/opportunity to participate in school/community activities, or volunteer/paid employment, it is helpful to application readers to know why. Explain how else you used you time and if it was a choice or a requirement (for example: caring for siblings and/or children, eldercare, commitment to doing homework, research projects, full-time employment, etc.)

### Awards or Honors

We want to know about the awards and honors you’ve received that mean the most to you.

Examples: most valuable player of varsity lacrosse team, second place in Academic Decathlon Super Quiz competition, Best of Show in state fair art competition.

- Academic (for example: Honor societies, academic competitions & programs, grade-based & department awards)
- Non-academic (for example: Athletics, leadership, volunteering/community service)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Award/Honor</th>
<th>Level of Recognition</th>
<th>Type of Award</th>
<th>When Received?</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
<th>What did you do to achieve this award or honor?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>For example: How are award recipients chosen? How many people are selected to receive the award? Is there an application or nomination for the award?</td>
<td>We'd like to understand what it took - on your part - to achieve this award. For instance: Were there multiple competitions that you had to participate in? How much time did you dedicate to winning this award?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City/Community</td>
<td>Non-academic</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State/Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td>11th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National</td>
<td></td>
<td>12th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Educational Preparation Programs

Any programs or activities that have enriched your academic experiences or helped you prepare for college. Such programs may provide information, counseling, tutoring or other service or offer academic enrichment, research opportunities or special study opportunities, such as study abroad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Description of the Program</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Time spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Think about the program’s main focus, your experience, and what you accomplished and learned while participating in the program.</td>
<td>9th, 10th, 11th, 12th</td>
<td>Hours/Week: _____ Weeks/Year: _____</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Extracurricular Activities

Examples: team captain of varsity soccer team, student body president, school yearbook editor, first chair of high school symphony orchestra, lead actor of high school play, JROTC Leadership Education Training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Activity</th>
<th>What did you do?</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Time spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Think about your experience, and what you accomplished and learned. We’d also like to know if you’ve held a leadership role, which can mean more than just a title - it can mean being a mentor to others, acting as a point-person in charge of a specific task, or taking a lead role in organizing an event or project.</td>
<td>9th, 10th, 11th, 12th</td>
<td>Hours/Week: _____ Weeks/Year: _____</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Coursework
Add and briefly describe any courses you have taken since ninth grade, other than those required for UC admission, that demonstrate a particular focus or interest.
Examples: a CTE nursing careers course, a Spanish immersion program, weekend Chinese school, a nontransferable community college course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Time Spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What program or school offered the course? Also, think about describing the major themes or topics the course covered, as well as what knowledge or skills you learned.</td>
<td>❑ 9th  ❑ 10th  ❑ 11th  ❑ 12th</td>
<td>Hours/Week: ___ Weeks/Year: ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Lifestyles</td>
<td>Studied life skills with an emphasis placed on vocation as God’s personal call to each of us and our response.</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Hours/Week: 5 Weeks/Year: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies I, II, III</td>
<td>A high school graduation requirement. Studied sacred scripture and tradition, the mission of Jesus Christ, the Paschal Mystery, prayer, liturgy, sacraments and ethics.</td>
<td>9th, 10th, 11th</td>
<td>Hours/Week: 5 Weeks/Year: 36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteering/Community Service
These are activities you’ve donated time and effort to without getting paid. Add and briefly describe any unpaid volunteer work and community service you have performed beginning in ninth grade. Note any leadership positions you have held.
Examples: unpaid math tutor for elementary school students, youth leader at church, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, hospital volunteer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization, Program, School or Group</th>
<th>Describe the organization, program, school or group</th>
<th>What did you do?</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Time Spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider what kind of work the organization does: What’s the reason the organization exists today? How does it help a certain community or population?</td>
<td>Think about your experience, and what you accomplished and learned while volunteering. We’d also like to know if you’ve held a leadership role, which can mean more than just a title - it can mean being a mentor to others, acting as a point-person in charge of a specific task, or taking a lead role in organizing an event or project.</td>
<td>❑ 9th  ❑ 10th  ❑ 11th  ❑ 12th</td>
<td>Hours/Week: ___ Weeks/Year: ___</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work Experience (Paid Work)
This is for telling us about any paid jobs/paid internships you’ve had.
Examples: Academy of Science paid internship, summer lifeguard, restaurant hostess.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization, Program, School/Group</th>
<th>Describe the company or organization</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>What were your job responsibilities?</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Do you still work at this job?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider what kind of work the organization does: What’s the reason the organization exists today? How does it help a certain community or population?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>❑ 9th  ❑ 10th  ❑ 11th  ❑ 12th</td>
<td>❑ School year ❑ Summer Hours/Week: ______</td>
<td>❑ No  ❑ Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 mid-year report and transcript
  - Potential Short Answers and Essays
  - Test Scores
  - Application Fee: Varies per school
  - Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire (Counselor and Teachers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcript</th>
<th>Letter of Rec.</th>
<th>Essay/Personal Statement</th>
<th>Test Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Send via Parchment to “Common App”</td>
<td>Required (Varies by school)</td>
<td>Required (Varies by school)</td>
<td>Self-Report &amp; Send Official to Individual College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To set up your Common Application:

- Create Common Application account at 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 7 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.
Common Application Activities & Honors

You can report up to 10 activities. For each Activity, there is a 50 character limit for the position/leadership description and organization name, and a 150 character limit for the description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Position/Leadership description and organization name, if applicable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Years of Participation</th>
<th>Hours/Week</th>
<th>Weeks/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9th 10th 11th 12th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can report up to 5 Honors. For Awards/Honors, there is a 100 character limit to name and describe each one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award or Honor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Level of Recognition: State, National, School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9th 10th 11th 12th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Essay or 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.
Activities List Tips & Examples

From: www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/guide-college-activities-list-common-app-example-application

1. **State role and organization name in top box, so you don’t waste characters in the lower, 150 character box.**

   Instead of: (top box) School Newspaper (description box) I am the editor for the school newspaper (And don’t repeat words!)

   Try: (top box) Editor of International Column, School Newspaper (description box) Responsible for brainstorming, revising, and supervising articles by other writers for my column.

2. **Emphasize tangible, measurable impact.**

   Whom did your activity help? How many people? How much money did you raise?

   Instead of: Raised money for children in Africa.

   Try: Raised $3,000 to provide three uniforms and scholarships for students attending the Joseph Waweru Home School in Kenya (http://www.exop.org/home_school.html).

3. **Use active verbs to explain what you actually did (list your tasks).**

   Instead of: Worked at a clinic doing different things.

   Try: Organized patient diagnosis notes, sterilized tools for surgeries, assisted with x-ray analysis.

4. **To fit in more info: use lists, don’t use complete sentences, and cut extra words.**

   Instead of: I raised money to donate to a school in Ghana by selling t-shirts and bracelets.

   Try: Arranged advertising events, organized fundraisers, and gave presentations at school meetings.

5. **Use the present tense if it’s something you still do.**

   Instead of: I helped tour visitors around the campus and presented some information on school history and student life.

   Try: I give campus tours, providing info on school history, student activities, boarding life.

6. **Aim for variety in your list, making sure your verbs aren’t redundant.**

   Instead of: Instructing, helping, teaching children tennis (how are these three different?)

   Try: Instructing in proper technique, while imparting lessons in sportsmanship, health and integrity.

7. **Include any responsibilities you had to demonstrate leadership skills.**

   Instead of: I swim on the swim team.

   Try: Responsible for leading swim practices, planning fundraising events; assisting in recruiting process.

8. **What if there isn’t much to say, or it was a one-time event?**

   Explain the significance of the activity: who did the event matter to and why?

   Rather than: Tutored students.

   Try: Provided support to fourth graders with particularly difficult math concepts.

9. **Avoid extreme language.**

   Instead of: to help all those in need (or) to end poverty in the world

   Try: to help those in need (or) to aid in the fight against global poverty.

10. **Use bigger words.**

    Instead of: “Come up with” (or) “told people about”

    Try: Develop, brainstorm (or) advertised, marketed.
Other Applications and Information

The Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success:

A diverse group of 90+ colleges and universities that are committed to providing college access to students of all backgrounds. The Coalition will provide an application fee waiver that applies to most member institutions. Students will be able to determine their eligibility for the fee waiver by answering a brief series of questions while creating their Coalition profile, which will give an early indication of their ability to qualify for the application fee waiver. Students who receive free or reduced lunch in school, participate in a TRIO program, and/or qualify for fee waivers from the ACT, College Board, and/or NACAC will be eligible for the Coalition application fee waiver. Students who qualify will automatically bypass the payment screen when they submit their Coalition application to a Coalition waiver–participating member school.

www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Apply Texas

ApplyTexas was created through a collaborative effort between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the colleges and universities represented on the site. The goal of the project is to offer a centralized means for both Texas and non-Texas students to apply to the many outstanding postsecondary institutions available in Texas.

On ApplyTexas you can accomplish a multitude of tasks including:

- Apply for admission to any Texas public university, as well as to participating community and private colleges.
- Apply for undergraduate, international and graduate admission.
- Copy a submitted application to another institution.
- Submit your application essays online.
- Apply for scholarships from participating universities.
- Search for and view both general and university specific information.

https://www.applytexas.org

Community Colleges

There are 110 publicly supported community colleges located throughout the state of California. They offer low-cost education to more than 1.3 million students annually. To be eligible for admission to a community college, a student must be 18 years of age or a high school graduate. At the community college, students who plan to transfer to a four-year college as a junior will take regular lower division college classes, completing their general education requirements before beginning work in their major at the four-year institution. Students may also earn a terminal Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree, or complete a certificate program in vocational training. Severally community colleges offer study abroad programs and Honors programs which enrich academic opportunities.

California Community Colleges

www.cccapply.org/apply
www.openccc.net

The Community College may be a good choice for you if:

- You plan on four years of college, but for financial or other reasons, you prefer to stay at home for the first two years.
- You plan on four years of college, but you haven’t met the academic requirements to directly enter a four-year college.
- You know you want to attend college, but you are unsure of where to attend or what your career focus should be, so you want to complete your general education requirements first with fewer costs.
- You wish to attend a college that will train you in two years for a vocation.
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 course work.

3. Solid scores on 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 showing 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, even if they are well known, are rarely given much weight.

10. Anything special that 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.
College Fit Factors

Adapted from [https://www.moneycrashers.com/factors-choose-college/](https://www.moneycrashers.com/factors-choose-college/)

**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
Financial Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>SCHOLARSHIPS</th>
<th>WORK STUDY</th>
<th>LOANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free money from the state, federal government and /or the university, based in financial need. Grants do not have to be paid back.</td>
<td>Free money awarded to students for academic achievement, interests, special talents, financial need or a combination of different factors.</td>
<td>Federal program which funds par-time student employment to help pay for college. The amount awarded to each student is based on their individual need.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**How do I apply for this money?**

| FAFSA 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 25, must register for selective service | DREAM ACT 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. | **Deadline:** 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. | ---------- |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VISIT: <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a></th>
<th>VISIT: <a href="https://dream.csac.ca.gov">https://dream.csac.ca.gov</a></th>
<th><strong>VISIT:</strong></th>
<th><strong>AB540 Eligibility Criteria</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFORMATION NEEDED:</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1.</strong></td>
<td>Attend a California High School for 3 or more years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2.</strong></td>
<td>Graduate with a High School Diploma or GED equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3.</strong></td>
<td>Enroll in an accredited higher education institution in California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4.</strong></td>
<td>Must file an affidavit, stating that the filer will apply for legal residency as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5.</strong></td>
<td>Must not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, E etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Males between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for selective service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>What will I need to apply?</td>
<td>Please see list to the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DOCUMENTS NEEDED:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Having trouble completing your application?**

**VISIT:** https://fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm

**Visit:** 

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 fafsa.ed.gov). Some colleges 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 cssprofile.org. 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
www.cssprofile.org

Cal Grants

Cal Grants at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cal Grant A</th>
<th>Cal Grant B</th>
<th>Cal Grant C</th>
<th>Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.0 high school GPA required</td>
<td>2.0 high school GPA</td>
<td>2.0 high school GPA</td>
<td>2.4 Community College GPA required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $12,294 at University of California</td>
<td>• $1670 living allowance for your first year, plus tuition and fee award beyond first year in the same amounts as Cal Grant A</td>
<td>• $547 for books, tools and equipment for a technical or career education.</td>
<td>• Same as Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $5472 at California State University</td>
<td>• $4000 at qualifying non WASC accredited for profit institutions</td>
<td>• $2462 for tuition (if not attending a California Community College)</td>
<td>*** 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $9084 at qualifying private California colleges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you attend a California Community College, your grant is held in reserve until transfer</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mater Dei High School will submit Cal Grant GPA Verification
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Aid Websites</th>
<th>Scholarship Resource Websites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> – the official Financial Aid website where</td>
<td><a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a> – the calculator featured in this site is a great tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>students can complete the application and find additional information.</td>
<td>for finding our exactly how much you will need in scholarships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and parents can apply for their PIN. The PIN is a four digit numeral code that</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jackierobinson.org">www.jackierobinson.org</a> – Jackie Robinson Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serves as the security code to access the application and electronic signature to</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scholarships.com">www.scholarships.com</a> – a free college scholarship search and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>submit the application online.</td>
<td>financial aid resource. It provides links to contests that offer scholarship awards up to $10,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov">www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov</a> – Provides an early</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a> – This site offers a free scholarship search along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personalized eligibility estimate for federal student aid and estimated family</td>
<td>with other resources for college students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expected contribution.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucf.org">www.ucf.org</a> – United Negro College Fund - provides resources and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions_paying-for-uc/index.html">www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions_paying-for-uc/index.html</a> - Financing your UC education</td>
<td>scholarships for African American students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><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</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apiasf.org">www.apiasf.org</a> – Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.calgrants.org">www.calgrants.org</a> - California Cal Grants</td>
<td>Fun – provides resources and scholarships for Asian American Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.lacashforcollege.org">www.lacashforcollege.org</a> – Los Angeles county Cash</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hsf.net">www.hsf.net</a> – Hispanic Scholarship Fund – provides resources and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for College website</td>
<td>scholarships for Latina/Hispanic students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.scholarshare.org">www.scholarshare.org</a> – California 529 scholarship</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bue.edu">www.bue.edu</a> or <a href="http://www.collegefund.org">www.collegefund.org</a> –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>savings plan</td>
<td>Bureau of Indian Education and the American Indian College Fund – Provides resources and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><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.</td>
<td>scholarships for Native American students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.wiche.edu/wue">https://www.wiche.edu/wue</a> - With WUE, out of state students</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov">www.chafee.csac.ca.gov</a> – California Student Aid Commission –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay no more than 150% of in state tuition at participating schools, compared with</td>
<td>Chaffee Grant for Foster Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonresident rates that can exceed 300% of in state rates</td>
<td><a href="http://www.Raise.me">www.Raise.me</a> - With RaiseMe, anyone can earn money for college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>starting in 9th grade based on their achievements in school and life.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSA ID - Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>FSA ID - Parent</td>
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<table>
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<th>Username</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Password</td>
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</table>

Cal Grant/WebGrants 4 Students: [https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/](https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/)

**University Scholarships:** Check individual colleges

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

**Outside Scholarships:** [student.naviance.com/mater](http://student.naviance.com/mater)

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QToodUulq1BQVZAAYPaldtvxuURlZyTI-ur6Y59T5gk/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QToodUulq1BQVZAAYPaldtvxuURlZyTI-ur6Y59T5gk/edit#gid=0)
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 co-ed. 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.
# College Campus Visit Check List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHERE TO GO</th>
<th>WHAT TO ASK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CAMPUS QUAD   | □ How friendly and welcoming is the campus?  
□ How easy is it to get around campus?  
□ How easy is it to get from campus to the nearest town or city?  
□ What is the relationship between the school and the neighboring community?  
□ Where do students do their shopping (groceries, dorm essentials, clothing?) |
| DORMS         | □ What is the campus crime rate?  
□ Is there any sort of late night shuttle service?  
□ How many dorms are there and how do they differ?  
□ What is the dorm’s security protocol like?  
□ What are the off campus living options, and what do they typically cost? |
| LIBRARY       | □ What’s the academic vibe on campus?  
□ What are midterms and finals like?  
□ How many computer labs are available to students, and is there IT assistance?  
□ How many quiet spaces are there for studying?  
□ Does the school have access to any additional library connections (local or other school libraries) |
| STUDENT UNION | □ What is the social vibe on campus?  
□ What's the campus like on weekends?  
□ How involved are students in extracurricular activities?  
□ Which activities are most popular?  
□ Are there any art or music practice spaces available to non-majors?  
□ What's Greek life like, and how do students feel about it?  
□ What do students do for fun on campus and off campus? |
| GYM           | □ How popular is the gym, and how late is it open?  
□ Do non-varsity players have access to all athletic facilities?  
□ How active is the student body in terms of sports?  
□ How engaged are student fans in campus sporting events? |
| DINING HALL   | □ How is the food?  (Try it!)  
□ Are meal plans required?  
□ What other dining options are there on and around campus?  
□ Do they cater to food allergies or other special dietary needs? |
| ACADEMIC CENTER | □ Do teaching assistants ever teach class?  
□ How accessible are the professors?  
□ What student-faculty research opportunities exist for undergraduates?  
□ What kinds of mentoring and advising relationships do students and faculty have?  
□ What tutoring services are available to students?  
□ How do class sizes compare between freshman/introductory courses and upper level classes? |
| CAREER CENTER | □ Where have students interned?  
□ How long does it typically take recent grads to find a full time job in their career field?  
□ Are there any formal internship agreements with companies in the area?  
□ What kind of career advisement is offered?  
□ Do students have access to these services after they graduate?  
□ What networking or career fairs are held each year?  
□ How involved are alumni?  
□ What kinds of campus or local part-time jobs are available? |
| WELLNESS CENTER | □ What services does the health center offer?  
□ How do students typically pay for wellness center services and treatment?  
□ What kinds of counseling and/or mental health services are available on campus?  
□ Are any stress-relief initiatives offered during midterms and finals? |
College Admissions Glossary

Application Plans:

**Early Action (EA):** A nonbinding admission plan with deadlines typically between Mid-October and late November. EA decisions are normally released in December or January.

**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.

**Early Decision (ED):** A binding agreement where a student will commit to enrolling if admitted.

**Regular Decision (RD):** The standard admission plan with deadlines usually in early January or February and notification in late March.

**Rolling Admissions (RA):** A decision notification program whereby colleges inform applicants of admission decisions throughout the year on a “rolling” basis, rather than by a specific date. Students who apply to a college with a rolling admission program usually learn the admission decision with 4-6 weeks after the application is submitted.

Decisions

**Acceptance/Admit:** An offer of admission to a college or university

**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.

**Deferral:** A delayed admission decision for candidates who apply early through EA or ED application plans. Often an updated transcript/academic form and/or an update on involvement is required or recommended when a student is deferred.

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

**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.

**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.

**Wait List:** Neither an acceptance or denial, this means an applicant is potentially admissible but that the college will keep the students on hold in the applicant pool for later consideration based on enrollment numbers. They must claim a spot on the colleges wait list for later consideration.

**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 1st, also known as the SIR (Student Intent to Register/Decision Day)
Financial Aid:

Cost of Attendance: The total cost for an academic year: the amount of money that a student will pay for a year of college, including tuition and fees, room and board, as well as average costs for books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Reporting this is a federal requirement. Financial aid cannot exceed the cost of attendance.

CSS PROFILE: College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Form required by many (mostly private) colleges in addition to the FAFSA.

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

Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC): The amount of money that the federal and institutional aid formulas determine a family can afford to pay for college.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid is a requirement for any form of federal financial aid, as well as state aid (in most cases). It is also used by many colleges/universities to determine eligibility for institutional (school based) aid.

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.

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: A combination of federal, state and institutional grants/scholarships, loans and other financial assistance offered to a student based on their ability to pay for their education, as determined by the FAFSA (and CSS PROFILE, for schools that use it).

Net Price Calculator: A federally mandated tool that each school has on their financial aid website. This resource allows families to see an estimated financial aid package for which they might be eligible.

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.

Testing:

ACT: A standardized test used in college admission. With four primary sections: reading, writing, science and math. Each sub score has a maximum score of 36 and the highest total score composite a student can earn is 36.

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 MDHS is 053240. You will need this number every time you register for an SAT, ACT or apply to college.

SAT Reasoning Test: (Formerly the SAT I) A standardized test used in college admission, with two primary sections: evidence-based reading and writing and math. Each sub score has a maximum score of 800 for a total possible score of 1600.

SAT Subject Tests: (Formerly the SAT II) One hour subject specific standardized tests used by a small subset of highly selective colleges and universities.
**Super scoring:** The use of individual sub scores from different test administrations to represent the highest combined score.

**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.

**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.

**Other Terms:**

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

**Associate’s Degree:** An Associate of Arts (AA) degree is traditionally earned in two years at a community college.

**Bachelor’s Degree:** BA – Bachelor of Arts, BS- Bachelor of Science. A diploma earned after successful completion (traditionally in four years) of required courses at a college or university.

**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.

**College:** The term commonly used to describe any institution of higher education. This is usually an institution that grants a Bachelor Degree. A college may also be one part of a university. For example, undergraduates apply to Harvard College, not Harvard University. Columbia College is the undergraduate division of Columbia University.

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

**Common Application:** A universal undergraduate application for admission used by over 800 public and private colleges and universities.

**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.

**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 degree at a college.

**Graduate School:** Usually part of a University, graduate school is an institution for students who have already earned the bachelor degree.
**Greeks or Greek Life:** At a college campus, the collective term for members of sororities and fraternities.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Major:** The field of concentration or specialization for a college undergraduate. Usually students are asked to declare a major by the end of their sophomore year. A student normally spends one quarter to one third of their total undergraduate work in their major field.

**Minor:** A secondary area of academic concentration, but requiring fewer courses than a major, which may or may not be required by an institution.

**Selectivity:** A term used by admissions offices to describe the ratio of admitted applicants to the total number of applicants at a given institution.

**Transcript:** The complete official listing of a student’s academic record (course, grades, credits). In the college admission process, this document is traditionally given the most weight.

**Undergraduate:** A college student who is a candidate for a Bachelor’s Degree or a program of study leading to a Bachelor’s Degree.

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

**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**

Keep your User names and Passwords in a convenient place for college applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA</th>
<th>USERNAME</th>
<th>PASSWORD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAL STATE APPLY</td>
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<td>common app</td>
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