



#collegelife

#Chafee

#education

#scholarships

#BetterMakeRoom



College Journal

Senior Year

FAFSA #FAFSA



Updated for the Class of 2023

#financialaid

California DreamAct #CADreamAct



Division of Instruction
Los Angeles Unified School District

Welcome to your Senior year!

You have worked hard to get to this point and we want to make sure you finish strong. We hope you have been exploring your options for life after high school and your postsecondary options.

We know you have questions – What college is right for me? How do I apply? How do I pay for college? To help in your journey, this workbook has been created just for you. This is going to be an exciting year for you and LA Unified is here to support you. If you have any questions about your options after graduation, please see your counselor or email our team at GPS@lausd.net

Have a happy, productive and inspiring Senior year!

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The Path To College

Fall senior year game plan

- **Review** your career plans and decide which type of postsecondary school is best for you.
- **Check** your Naviance messages to find out when college representatives will visit your high school.
- **Take** the SAT/ACTs, if you have not already, or if you want another chance to increase your score. The last dates for seniors to take the SAT and ACT are in December.
- **Set up** your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID (your parent will need one too) and start gathering information so you can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA)- They open October 1st.
- **Attend** a Cash for College workshop for help with the FAFSA or CADAA.
- **Complete** your Naviance Resume or Brag Sheet.
- **Ask** for letters of recommendation from teachers and counselors.
- **Submit** your applications for Early Decision or Early Action.

- **Complete** the CSS Profile (used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for aid).
- **November 30** is the last day to submit UC and CSU applications! **Double check with your counselor to see if the application deadline has been extended.**

Goals

Notes

- You should set up a "professional" email address now (i.e., firstname.lastname@mailexchange.com) because your District email will be deactivated upon graduation.
- Also check with your counselor to make sure your name and address on file with the district are right. If not, you might have delays with college or financial aid applications.

The Path To College

Winter senior year game plan

Goals

- **Submit** private school applications. January 1st is a common deadline, each school has its own deadline.
- **Request** official transcripts for any college courses taken during your high school years. You should request a copy for your counselor and a copy for the college you plan to attend.
- **Send** your high school transcript to the colleges you applied to.
- **Research** and apply for other financial aid, including grants and scholarships.
- **Do not let senioritis** get in your way of finishing strong during the last semester of high school.

Notes

- The deadline to submit your FAFSA or CADAA to be eligible for Cal Grants is March 2.

The Path To College

Spring senior year game plan

Goals

- **Acceptance letters** go out March/April, so be on the lookout for emails and check your portal REGULARLY.
- **Research deadlines**, e.g., housing applications; school-specific financial aid applications and orientation.
- **Take your AP Exams**: If you've been taking AP classes, scoring a 3 or higher on the AP exam may earn you college credit or advanced placement.
- **Compare financial aid packages** before making your final decision.
- **Commit and pay deposit** by May 1st - the decision deadline for colleges and universities in the U.S.

Notes

The Path To College

Summer senior year game plan

Goals

- **Register** for a Summer Bridge program.
- **Talk with your family** about your plans, expectations, hopes and fears - whether commuting or living on campus, it will be good to share your feelings about this big change.
- **Research** about campus life at your new school- find student clubs and activities to join.
- **Relax and enjoy** your time at home before school starts.
- **Prepare for the new adventures** that await you on campus!

Notes

Naviance-it can change your college game plan

Your first stop for college and career planning should be Naviance. Naviance is a web-based College Access application that the District provides free for students and teachers. The goal of Naviance is to provide an in-depth tool for students to begin the process of self-discovery, career research and college matching. Throughout this workbook, you will find references to Naviance tasks. Naviance contains college planning and career assessment tools, ways to identify your potential college options and manage your college applications. It is designed to help you streamline every step in the college going process.

Included in your 12th grade resource packet, you will find:

If you follow this link <https://bit.ly/Naviance4Seniors> you can access your senior resource packet, with Naviance activities that can be completed at home on a computer, phone, or iPad with internet connection and a username and password.

- 1 Introduction to Naviance letter to students and families
- 2 A grade specific Naviance Scope and Sequence with assigned tasks and supplemental lessons
- 3 Directions and screenshots for how to navigate, find, and complete your grade level tasks
- 4 Additional resources toolkit and frequently asked questions



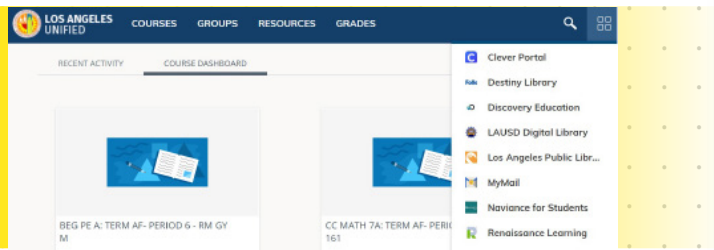
Senior Year Task Checklist:

- Complete "Do What You Are"
- Complete "Build a Resume"
- Create a preliminary college list in "Colleges I am Thinking About" (Only add colleges you are considering)
- Finalize your list in "Colleges I am Applying To" (Only add colleges where you have decided to apply)
- Are you applying to schools on the Common App? (Check with your counselor on syncing your Common App to Naviance)

How LAUSD Students Login to Naviance:

Option A

1. Login to your Schoology account.
2. Click on the "waffle" to see available apps.
3. Click on "Naviance for Students".
4. If prompted, use your SSO to login.



(OR)

Option B

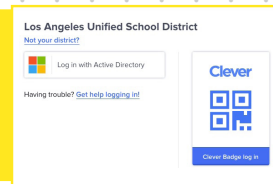
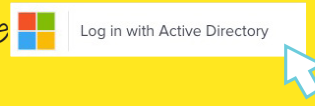
1. Go to the webpage for the Division of Instruction Guiding Postsecondary Success (GPS) <https://achieve.lausd.net/GPS> and select "Naviance"



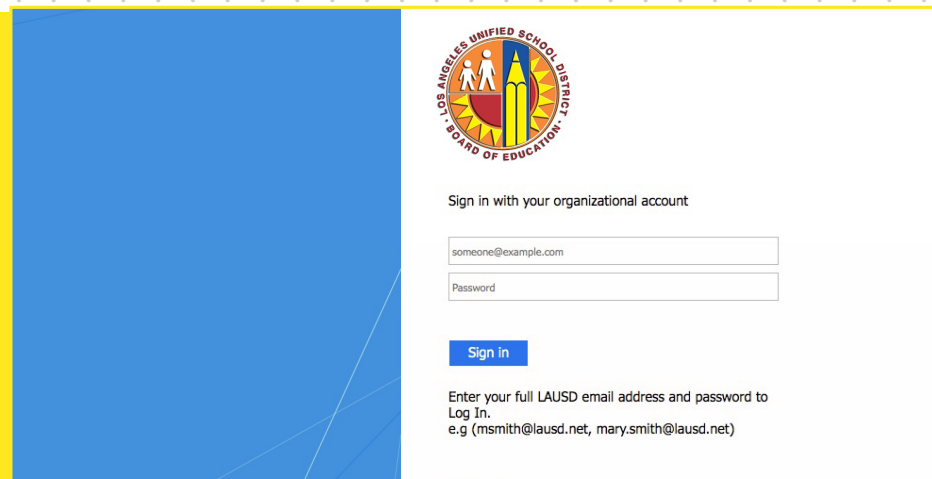
2. Scroll down to the Naviance login links. Select Naviance Student login.



3. On the Clever LA Unified page, select login with Active Directory.



4. Enter your LAUSD Single Sign-On information.



6. After clicking on Next, you will be on the Naviance Student landing page.

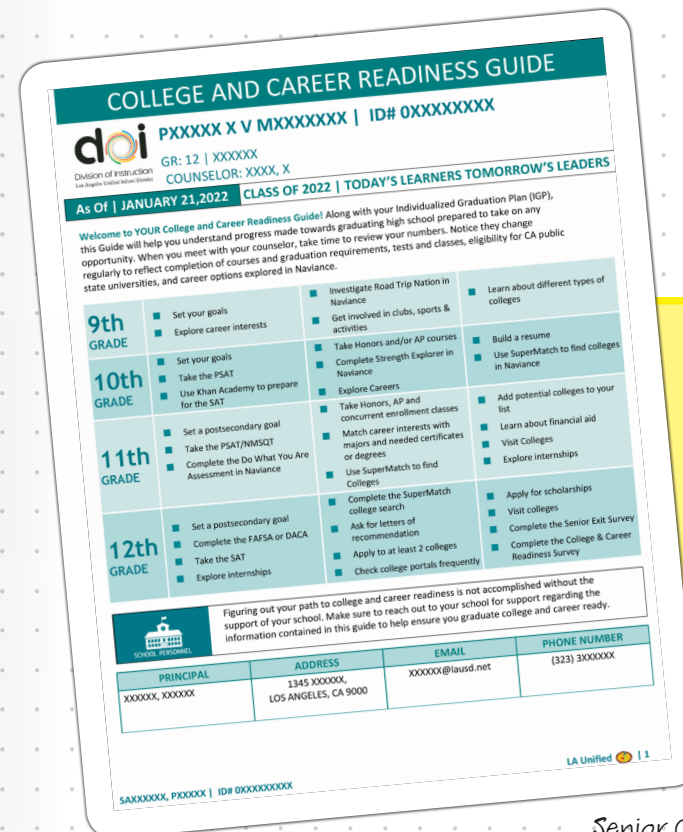
Being on track for graduation

While this book is designed to make sure you are ready to apply for and enroll in college in your senior year, you first need to graduate from high school. Answer the questions below to determine if you are on the right track for high school graduation.

Circle "Yes" or "No" to Each Requirement Below

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Yes | No | I am taking and passing all the required courses for the state and the District, and completing all the a-g required courses. Note - Earning grades of C or better in a-g required courses will make you eligible to apply to four-year colleges. |
| Yes | No | I am completing the mandatory requirement of submitting my Service Learning Project. |
| Yes | No | I have selected my career pathway. |
| Yes | No | I am on track to meet the 210 credits needed to graduate. |
| Yes | No | I am completing the health and physical education courses needed. |

If you answered NO to any of the above questions, see your counselor to make sure you get back on track.



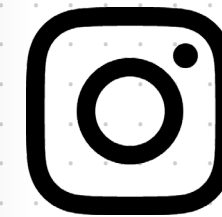
The District has a new **College & Career Readiness Guide** - personalized to your progress. It allows you to track your completion of required courses, your performance on standardized tests and college entrance exams. It is available in your LAUSD app or the parent app You can also ask for it from your counselor.

Finding your college match and fit

We know you are spending time looking to see what colleges want from YOU, both academically and financially. But have you considered what you want from a college? You should spend time thinking about how a school “fits” you, because students are more likely to complete college if they attend a school that fits their social, academic and financial needs.

It can become overwhelming to select schools where you want to apply. When thinking about which college might “fit” you best, consider some of the factors below:

Your rating	Read the 7 factors below and rate them in order of importance for you. Remember, a good college fit is when a college meets your needs and wants academically, socially, and financially!
<input type="text"/>	Location & distance from home Do you want to live close to home or live far away? In a rural area, in the heart of a large city, or at least have access to a larger city? This is very important when you consider traveling home for holidays and breaks.
<input type="text"/>	Size of school Do you learn better in a smaller setting or would you like to be in a large lecture hall?
<input type="text"/>	Academics Consider the majors and honors programs each school has to offer. Does the college have the supports and services you need?
<input type="text"/>	Campus culture Consider the diversity of the campus, residence halls, campus clubs, organizations, fraternities and sororities, religious programs and other opportunities.
<input type="text"/>	Overseas study opportunities Are you interested in studying for a semester or year in another country?
<input type="text"/>	School stats What percentage of students finish their degree in four years? Does the career center assist students in finding a job or career?
<input type="text"/>	Cost/financial aid What financial aid or scholarships are offered? Will you qualify for any institutional scholarships or work study? Don't just look at the sticker price of a school - often times private colleges have more flexibility in how they provide aid to students.



What your social media says about you

Your social media presence can affect your college admissions as more schools are reviewing prospective students' social media posts. Avoid being denied admission, or worse, having your acceptance rescinded. Inappropriate social media posts can be the reason for this. Ask yourself the following questions:

- When others look me up online, what do they see?
- What impression would they have of me after looking at my profile online?
- Am I easy to find?
- What is my overall online presence – polished or questionable?



Remember that when applying to college, it is vital for you to show your best, authentic self in both your college application and online. Below are some tips to help you manage your digital presence from The Princeton Review:

- 1 Watch the name – keep it simple and professional
- 2 Check your privacy settings - monitor your privacy settings so that you know who can look you up, see your wall, tag you in pictures, and more
- 3 Curate your online photo libraries - any sort of illegal or objectionable behavior deserves a delete!
- 4 Google yourself - Search for your name on Google—you might be surprised what shows up on the first few pages. While you cannot always delete the results, you can be proactive about what you post online



Watch your social media posts - college admission officers are!

Taking care of yourself!

It is very important that you take time to care for yourself. Your senior year can be very stressful and no one likes to be stressed out, especially when we know it can be linked to poor health. Learning how to manage your moods can be a small change with a big positive impact on your physical and mental health.

Stress is a normal part of life. You can feel stress when you have too much to do, when you have not slept well, or you are worried about relationships, money, or health issues. Applying to college can also add to your stress level. There are a lot of things for you to decide, conversations to with your family, worries about money... all while trying to enjoy your last year of high school.

Consider using an app to help you find some calmness in your life – below are a list of four for you to consider. You can also check out this helpful Mediation Tips handout:

➔ https://success.oregonstate.edu/sites/success.oregonstate.edu/files/LearningCorner/Tools/50_ways_to_take_a_break.pdf



Meditations for different topics including stress, anxiety, self-esteem, and sleep.



HEADSPACE

Dancing, yoga videos, mindfulness activities, and other fun ways to move.



Dancing, yoga videos, mindfulness activities, and other fun ways to move.



Teaches mindfulness using fun characters, stories, and sounds to help listeners calm down, focus, connect, and sleep.

If you feel like you need to talk to someone, consider calling one of the hotlines below.

- LA County Department of Mental Health (800) 854-7771
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-TALK (8255)

➔ Here is the page to the mental health crisis and supports: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/12129#spn-content>

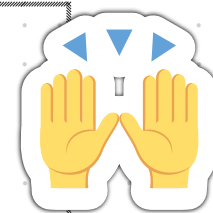


Take a break and remind yourself of all the richness in your life. Fill out this sheet with all the things that make you happy and calm.

Activities I enjoy



People I can depend on for support



Music that helps me relax



Places I can go to feel happy and calm



Positive affirmations to remind myself of my value



Preparing To Apply

All about your GPA... it's calculated from the final marks from courses completed in high school.

UNWEIGHTED
Takes all of your courses from grades 9-12 into account and is measured on a scale of 0 - 4.00

YOUR GPA

WEIGHTED
Takes your courses from grades 9-12, but provides augmented points for course difficulty (Honors and AP/IB). This GPA is used to determine class rank, Superintendent Honor Roll, valedictorian, salutatorian, high honors, and honors designation.

YOUR GPA

CSU
You must have a GPA of 2.50 or higher. This calculation only uses grades earned in a-g courses from the summer after 9th grade to the summer before 12th grade. Freshman year grades are listed on the application and used to determine if a-g course requirements are met, but they are not used in this calculation. Some campuses will admit GPA 2.00 to 2.49 using Supplemental Factors (see page 18)

YOUR GPA

This shows different GPAs and an explanation of how each is calculated. GPA is one of the most important pieces of information colleges will consider in your application.

UC
You must have a GPA of 3.00 or higher. It is calculated using grades earned in a-g courses from the summer after 9th grade to the summer before 12th grade. Grades earned in 9th grade are not counted in the GPA, but may be used to meet subject requirements if completed with a grade of C or better. This modified weighted GPA caps the number of Honors or AP/IB courses to eight semesters, with no more than four coming from 10th grade.

YOUR GPA

FINANCIAL AID
Your unweighted GPA uses academic course work from the summer after 9th grade to the summer before 12th grade. It excludes P.E., Reserve Officer Training Corps and intervention coursework. Failing grades are included, unless you retake the course. For Cal Grant A eligibility you must have a Financial Aid GPA of 3.00; Cal Grant B requires a minimum of 2.00.

YOUR GPA

What's your academic profile?

To find out your best fit schools - those that admit a large percentage of students whose academic profiles are similar to yours - start with your own academic credentials.

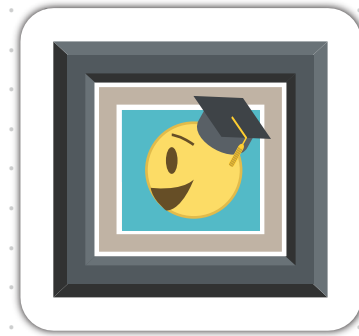
My a-g GPA

My SAT/ACT Scores:

English:

Mathematics:

Total Scores:

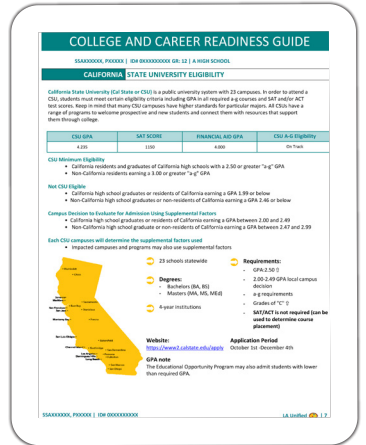


Notes to Self

Am I happy with my test score?

Yes No

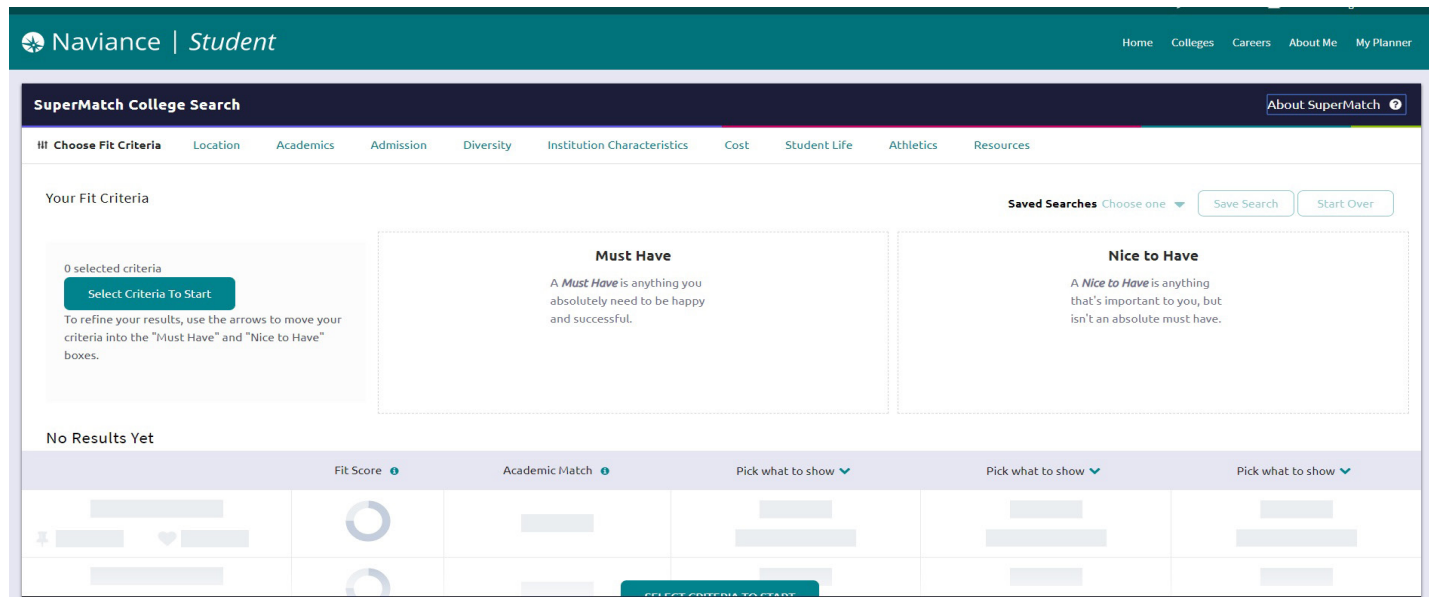
If not, ask your counselor about free study help and retaking the test



Remember to check your College and Career Readiness Guide to find out all your stats

Naviance Connection- SuperMatch College Search

What is important to me when searching for colleges? To help narrow down your list, complete a SuperMatch College Search!



1 SuperMatch College Search lets you search for schools using criteria to find out the best fit. You must enter criteria preferences, but know that not all fields are required.*

2 Pin schools you want to compare and favorite those you want to add to your "Colleges That I'm Thinking About list."

How to complete a SuperMatch College Search:

- 1** After logging in to Naviance, go to "My Planner"
- 2** Click on "Tasks"
- 3** Click on "Complete a SuperMatch College Search"

For a more accurate match, identify the selected criteria as "Must Have" or "Nice to Have". Results update in real time as you select criteria, showing a "Fit Score" for each school. The more thorough you are, the more accurate your results will be. If your list is too small, go back and change the less important criteria first. You can choose what information to see in your results.

Your college options

Getting to know your college options Check with your counselor or college center to find out about upcoming college rep visits and sign up for their presentations. Many schools are also using Naviance to schedule college rep visits. Check to see if this is the case at your school by logging in to your Naviance profile.

Keep track of colleges that will visit your school - don't forget about virtual visits

1	College	Date	Time	Location

2	College	Date	Time	Location

3	College	Date	Time	Location

4	College	Date	Time	Location

5	College	Date	Time	Location

Use this chart to jot down your likes and dislikes about each school you 'visit' in Naviance.

1 Go to the "Colleges" tab

2 Click on "Research Colleges"

3 Scroll down to "College Visits" and a list of colleges will appear

Jot down your impressions

Rate these areas from 1 to 5

Student Union 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Dorms/residence hall 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Academics 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Food 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Rec center/gym 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Social life 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Overall feel 1 2 3 4 5

Notes

Notes

Colleges I'm interested in

For each type of college below, list up to 3 schools from your research in Naviance and your "SuperMatch College Search"

"Safety/Back-up" Colleges - schools in which your academic credentials are above average and admission is highly likely

"Target/Good Match" Colleges - schools in which your academic credentials make you competitive for admission and fall within the average range. You have a realistic chance of being admitted

"Reach" Colleges - schools you have a chance of getting admitted, but your academic credentials are below the school's profile average range

College entrance exams

COVID 19 Testing updates as of August 2022



UC

Check this UC site for updates:

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/coronavirus>

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. From:

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/exam-requirement/>

CSU

Check for CSU updates:

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

The California State University (CSU) no longer uses ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses effective March 2022. First-time freshmen must meet the following eligibility requirements: be a high school graduate or equivalent; complete the 15-unit comprehensive "a-g" pattern of college preparatory course; and earn a qualifying "a-g" grade point average (GPA) as described here:

<https://www.calstate.edu/apply/freshman/Pages/first-time-freshman-guidance.aspx>

Private Universities

Each private university will have its own requirements. Make sure you visit the school's website to keep up to date on the testing policy.

For students applying to colleges requiring the SAT/ACT, here are the main differences:

Exam	SAT	ACT
Areas	Critical Reading, Math, Writing Essay (optional)	English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing Section (optional)
Scoring	1600 (+ separate essay score)	36 (+ separate writing score)
Cost	\$60	\$63 \$88 (with writing)
Register	collegeboard.org	actstudent.org
Fee waiver: 2 free ACT Exams, 2 free SAT Exams, and 2 free SAT Subject Tests.		

LA Unified is offering Seniors an opportunity to take the SAT for free at your school, during the School day. Your school will have more information about how to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

Test-flexible colleges may not require an ACT/SAT score for admission. However, consider taking the tests because colleges can be competitive and this is a way to stand out. You don't have to submit your scores if you are not happy with the results. **Double check** college admissions requirements as **you are responsible for knowing colleges' policies regarding submission of test scores**. The National Center for Fair and Open Testing maintains a database of test flexible schools. For more information visit:

➔ <https://www.fairtest.org/university>

What scores to share?

Most college bound students will take the SAT or ACT more than once. So, which scores should you send to the colleges on your list? **It all depends on the schools and their test score policies.** Some schools consider all test scores; some consider your highest overall score from a single test date; and some consider a composite of your highest scores from all test dates.

What is a SuperScore test result?

Some schools allow a student to mix and match their highest test scores in a test section from across multiple test dates. This typically yields a "superscore" that is higher than an composite or score from a single sitting.

Learn more here:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/sat-act-superscore>



Testing dates and registration info

Your counselor can help you sign up!

- **Seriously** consider taking the SAT- even if it isn't required for admissions to the UC or CSU. It can determine your course placement or access to competitive programs.
- **Decide** if you want to complete the Student Search Service, which helps you connect with nearly 1,900 eligible colleges, universities, scholarships and other educational programs that are looking for students like you. This isn't required, but it is worth it if you want colleges and scholarship organizations to find you.

Test Dates

SAT www.collegeboard.org

To make sure you get the most up-to-date SAT test information, please visit the College Board site directly. You can also check with your counselor.

ACT www.act.org

To make sure you get the most up-to-date ACT test information, please visit the site directly. You can also check with your counselor.

When registering for either test, make note of these important tips

- Provide your full legal name & make sure it exactly matches the info on your photo ID.
- Know your High School Code
- Upload a photo (check to make sure it meets test specific photo requirements).
- Check out, pay (if you are not eligible for a fee waiver) and take a screenshot of your Admission Ticket.
- Be sure to check test type, test date, and test location before you submit!



How to send your SAT scores

- Send your SAT score to a UC Campus.
- Send your SAT score to a CSU - if you list one CSU campus as an SAT score report recipient, your scores will automatically be sent to all campuses to which you've applied. You can also use the CSU systemwide institution code (3594).

After registering for the test:

You can still send four free score reports to colleges up to nine days after the test- after that there's a fee for sending score reports unless you're eligible for an SAT fee waiver.



How to send your ACT scores

There are different types of ACT score reports.

Free: Whenever you register for the ACT, you have the option to send four free score reports. This might not be the best option since you will not know your scores or which colleges you want to apply to yet.

Paid: Regular reports are sent after the free score report period and cost extra per test date per school. It will take about one week for them to process and send to your school of choice. Unfortunately, there is no fee waiver available for these score reports, but many colleges will allow you to use Score Choice which allows you to send only your best score and avoid extra fees.

Notes

Highlighting your accomplishments

Grades and test scores don't tell the whole story about you... so you should plan on creating a resume in Naviance or in your LAUSD student app. It is a great way to organize your accomplishments for writing college essays, scholarship applications, and describing your extracurricular activities. It is also a very helpful tool to give someone when asking for a letter of recommendation.

First of all, think about all you have done during your high school years - both in and out of school.

- Going beyond the academic basics is important. Think about the electives and college courses you took - peer counselor class, leadership class, or take any classes where you earned certificates (Adobe/Microsoft, First-aid, CPR, etc.)

School:	Course name
When did you take the course?	
Did you receive a certificate/credits?	

- Extracurricular, include sports, clubs and band. Did you join JROTC, Aca Deca, or a band/acting group?

Activity name:	What did you do?
Year(s) of Involvement:	
Hours per week:	



- Volunteer and community service activities can include food drives, fundraisers, and services to others. Do you help out at your local recreational center, library, hospital, or even tutor after school? Are you in Girl/Boy Scouts, a running club, martial arts, or did you join a church group?

Organization:	Description of the organization and your responsibilities
Year(s) of Involvement:	
Hours per week:	



- Work experience can be either paid or unpaid...summer jobs or interning, weekend work, or even helping at home or with family can count too - for example, babysitting younger siblings is a big responsibility.

Where did you work?	Description of the organization and your responsibilities
Year(s) of Involvement:	
Hours per week:	



- Educational preparation programs count, too. It is important to share if you are a part of GEAR UP, College Match, Questbridge, SAT Prep, AP Readiness, MESA, AVID, Upward Bound, etc.

Program:	Description of the program and what activities in which you participated
Year(s) of Involvement:	
Hours per week:	



- Awards and Honors can be for athletics, academics, contests, scholarships, community service certificates, and those received for being in leadership positions. Generally, you want to use your most impressive awards - think big to small. The bigger the competition for the award, the more impressive your resume will be.

Name of award or honor:	Why did you earn this award or honor?
When did you receive it?:	
What type of award/honor? school; city; state; regional; national; international:	



Applying To College

The CSU System



➔ 23 schools statewide

➔ **Degrees:**
 - Bachelors (BA, BS)
 - Masters (MA, MS, MEd)

➔ 4-year institutions

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

GPA note
 The Educational Opportunity Program (page 25) may also admit students with lower than 2.50 GPA.



➔ **Requirements:**
 - GPA: 2.50 ↑
 - 2.00-2.49 GPA local campus decision
 - a-g requirements
 - Grades of "C" ↑
 - **SAT/ACT is not required (can be used to determine course placement)**

Application period
 October 1st - November 30th
 (Check if deadline has been extended)

Ready to Apply?

As you get ready to apply to the CSU, you will come across some new terms that explain important factors you need to know before applying.

Local Admissions Area – Every CSU campus gives priority to applicants who attend high school in the University's Service area. That means if you are applying to a CSU in northern California, you will NOT receive priority admission since you are not attending a high school in northern California.

Redirection – If you are rejected from every campus to which you applied, you can select "redirection." This allows you to select a non-impacted, first- and second-choice campus without having to reapply.

What You Need

- A copy of your current high school and college transcript.
- Social Security Number (if you do not have one, skip this step).
- Professional email account.
- The application fee can be paid with a check, money order, or credit card. Check with your counselor to see if you qualify for a fee waiver.

Impacted – when a CSU receives more applications from qualified applicants than available spaces, the school is declared "impacted." Impaction can affect the entire campus, or a program. Students who apply from "Local Admission Areas" are given priority admission. Before you apply to a campus, be sure to check the CSU website for changes.

Additional CSU Program

The CSU system has a program called the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). This program provides assistance through mentorship, academic programs, financial assistance, counseling/advising, and other campus support services to those who are first-generation college students, and/or from low-income and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Once admitted as an EOP student, you may be eligible to enroll in an EOP summer program to strengthen your math, reading, or other skills.

If you marked "yes" to EOP when submitting your CSU application, there are additional steps for you to complete. All EOP applicants must submit the application materials requested by both the Admissions and the EOP Offices. Orientation sessions are provided to help you learn about campus services and programs.

Please read the entire EOP application carefully. Deadlines vary from campus to campus.

Note in addition to the above, some programs may require additional supplemental information and/or an EOP interview. Consider submitting as soon as possible as EOP admissions numbers vary by campus. You will need two recommenders for your EOP application.



1	Recommender	School/Organization:	Position:	Location

2	Recommender	School/Organization:	Position:	Location

The following questions must be answered as part of the EOP application. Answer all parts of each question:

1 List any volunteer, extracurricular activities, or work experience in which you are or have been involved in the past two years.

2 Why would you like to attend college? Discuss your career and personal goals. Are there any particular circumstances, school experiences, or persons that influenced your preparation or motivation to attend college (e.g., cultural/financial background, family, teachers, schools you attended)? Please explain.

3 Briefly discuss your academic background. Did you utilize any additional support at your high school, such as tutoring? Do your grades in high school and/or college reflect your academic ability or potential?

4 Briefly describe your family's economic background. Include information about your financial challenges.

5 Is there any additional information you would like EOP to consider in determining your admission to the program?

University Of California system

UC San Francisco is a GRADUATE SCHOOL and is not an option for graduating high school seniors.



→ 9 campuses open to undergrads

→ 4-year research institutions

→ Degrees:

- Bachelors (BA, BS)
- Masters (MA, MS, MEd)
- Doctorates/professional degrees

→ Requirements:

- GPA: 3.0
- a-g requirements
- Grades of "C" ⬆
- SAT or ACT (not required but recommended)
- Honors & awards
- Extracurricular activities/ community service
- Personal Insight Questions

Website

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply>

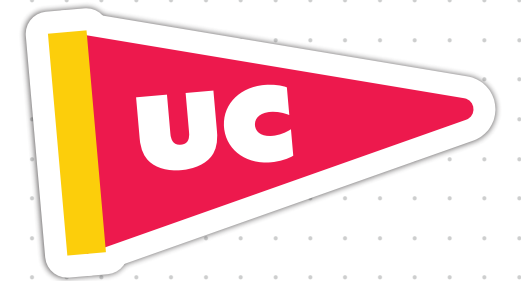
Application period

August 1st - November 30th
(Check if deadline has been extended)

Ready to apply?

Checklist of materials to complete your UC application:

- A copy of your current transcript
- Social Security Number (if you do not have one, skip this step)
- Professional email account
- The application fee can be paid with a check, money order, or credit card. Check with your counselor to see if you qualify for a fee waiver
- Have your resume from Naviance or brag sheet to help fill out your extracurricular activities
- Personal Insight Questions (you should type these in a separate document so you can copy and paste into the application)



If you decide to work on your college application on your own, PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT until you have your counselor double check your application information.

UC Personal Insight Questions (PIQ)

- You must respond to 4 of the 8 questions.
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- Which questions you choose to answer is entirely up to you.
- You should select questions that are most relevant to your experience and that best reflect your individual circumstances.
- All questions are equal and are given equal consideration in the application review process, which means there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.
- There is no right or wrong way to answer these questions. It is about getting to know your personality, background, interests and achievements in your own unique voice.

- 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.

My Ideas

Things to consider: A leadership role can mean more than just a title. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or taking a lead role in organizing an event or project. Think about your accomplishments and what you learned from the experience. What were your responsibilities? Did you lead a team? How did your experience change your perspective on leading others? Did you help to resolve an important dispute at your school, church in your community or an organization? Your leadership role doesn't necessarily have to be limited to school activities; for example, do you help out or take care of your family?

- 2 Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically. Describe how you express your creative side.

My Ideas

Things to consider: What does creativity mean to you? Do you have a creative skill that is important to you? What have you been able to do with that skill? If you used creativity to solve a problem, what was your solution? What are the steps you took to solve the problem? How does your creativity influence your decisions inside or outside the classroom? Does your creativity relate to your major or a future career?

- 3 What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

My Ideas

Things to consider: If there is a talent or skill that you're proud of, this is the time to share it. You do not necessarily have to be recognized or have received awards for your talent (although if you did and you want to talk about it, feel free to do so). Why is this talent or skill meaningful to you? Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent? Does your talent or skill allow you opportunities in or outside the classroom? If so, what are they and how do they fit into your schedule?

- 4 Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

My Ideas

Things to consider: An educational opportunity can be anything that has added value to your educational experience and better prepared you for college. For example, participation in an honors or academic enrichment program, or enrollment in an academy that's geared toward an occupation or a major, or taking advanced courses that interest you — just to name a few. If you choose to write about educational barriers you've faced, how did you overcome or strive to overcome them? What personal characteristics or skills did you call on to overcome this challenge? How did overcoming this help shape who are you today?

- 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?

My Ideas

Things to consider: A challenge could be personal, or something you have faced in your community or school. Why was the challenge significant to you? This is a good opportunity to talk about any obstacles you've faced and what you've learned from the experience. Did you have support from someone else or did you handle it alone? If you're currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now, and does that affect different aspects of your life? For example, ask yourself, "How has my life changed at home, at my school, with my friends, or with my family?"

6 Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

My Ideas

Things to consider: Many students have a passion for one specific academic subject area, something that they just can't get enough of. If that applies to you, what have you done to further that interest? Discuss how your interest in the subject developed and describe any experience you have had inside and outside the classroom — such as volunteer work, internships, employment, summer programs, participation in student organizations and/or clubs — and what you have gained from your involvement.

7 What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

My Ideas

Things to consider: Think of community as a term that can encompass a group, team or a place — like your high school, hometown, or home. You can define community as you see fit, just make sure you talk about your role in that community. Was there a problem that you wanted to fix in your community? Why were you inspired to act? What did you learn from your effort? How did your actions benefit others, the wider community or both? Did you work alone or with others to initiate change in your community?

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?

My Ideas

Things to consider: If there's anything you want us to know about you, but didn't find a question or place in the application to tell us, now's your chance. What have you not shared with us that will highlight a skill, talent, challenge or opportunity that you think will help us know you better?

California independent colleges and universities

- 83+ schools statewide
- Vary in size, prestige, and cost
- Degrees:
 - Associate (AA, AS)
 - Bachelors (BA, BS) Masters (MA, MS, MEd)
 - Doctorates/Professional Degrees
- Requirements vary by school
 - GPA: 2.5 and above
 - a-g requirements (check individual school requirements)
 - Some schools may require the SAT or ACT, or use the scores to determine your course placement
 - Most schools have requirements similar to the UC system

Application process: When you decide to apply to a private college or university, you have a few choices of WHEN to submit your application.

- Applying Regular Decision (RD) is when a student applies for a college under the regular admissions timeline.
- Applying Early Decision (ED) means if you are accepted, you must attend the college. Remember that you can apply regular admissions to other colleges, but you must withdraw those applications if you are accepted ED.
- Applying Early Action (EA) is not binding. You will receive an early response to your application, but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

ALERT: Be sure to talk to your counselor about submitting credit for AP, IB, or concurrent enrollment courses. Some private colleges will only give credit for AP test scores of 5, or they may not allow transfer credit for college courses taken during high school.

Admission to most independent colleges is very competitive. In addition to the typical admission requirements (subjects, grades, and test scores), independent colleges usually take a closer look at individual students by requiring letters of recommendation, application essays, and sometimes, personal interviews.

There are great differences in sizes, educational purposes and emphasis among these institutions. Some colleges focus on a specific interest or student population.

Educational purposes

College

Arts colleges

Specific interest/Focus

These colleges provide training in areas such as photography, music, theater or fashion design and can offer degrees in fine arts or specialty fields.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

These colleges and universities focus on educating African American students.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI)

At these colleges, at least 25 percent of the full-time undergraduate students are Hispanic.

Single-sex colleges

These colleges are specifically for men or for women.

Religiously affiliated colleges

These colleges are connected to a religious faith. Visit their website to find out how this connection may affect campus life.

Requesting Letters of Recommendation

If your school is using Naviance, you can track your applications and letters of recommendation requests online. Be sure to submit your request to your counselor and teachers two weeks before deadlines. This will be even earlier if you decide to apply Early Decision or Early Action.

- 1 Complete your resumé in Naviance or brag sheet as soon as you can. Update throughout your senior year as needed.
- 2 Request letters of recommendation in person from 2 teachers and your counselor by the deadline. Double check the Common App to see how many letters of recommendation you will need.
- 3 Make sure your Common App has all of the colleges listed that you're applying to.
- 4 Once teachers and your counselor say "Yes!" and your school is using Naviance - you must log into Naviance to request your letter of recommendation electronically TWO WEEKS prior to the deadline.



When writing to describe your activities, consider using these **STRONG** word choices.

- ★ Trained in
- ★ Responsible for
- ★ Selected
- ★ Organized
- ★ Planned
- ★ Assisted
- ★ Participated
- ★ Prepared
- ★ Developed
- ★ Contributed
- ★ Founded/Co-founded
- ★ Established
- ★ Produced
- ★ Motivated
- ★ Tutored
- ★ Raised
- ★ Collaborated
- ★ Commitment
- ★ Managed
- ★ Promoted
- ★ Competed
- ★ Interacted
- ★ Mentored
- ★ Supervised
- ★ Influenced
- ★ Guided
- ★ Interacted

Independent colleges cost how much?

The cost of independent (privately supported) institutions can vary wildly. A search in Naviance can help you in finding private schools that are the right fit for you. You will notice the cost to attend can be high, but many schools also provide generous need-based financial aid packages. When looking at the cost of college, make sure to visit the individual college website to check out the Net Price Calculator. This allows you to enter information about yourself to find out what students like you paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into consideration.

Our partners at One Voice have put together this list of the top colleges and universities that meet at least 95% of demonstrated need. Your Demonstrated Need is determined by subtracting your Family Contribution from the Cost of Attendance.

Amherst College	Grinnell College	Princeton University
Barnard College (Women's College)	Hamilton College	Reed College
Bates College	Hampshire College	Scripps College (Women's College)
Bowdoin College	Harvard University	Skidmore College
Boston College	Harvey Mudd College	Smith College (Women's College)
Brown University	Haverford College	St. Olaf College
Bryn Mawr College (Women's College)	College of the Holy Cross	Stanford University
Bucknell University	Johns Hopkins University	Swarthmore College
California Institute of Technology	Kalamazoo College (High GPA)	Trinity College
Carleton College	Kenyon College	Tufts University
Carnegie Mellon University	Knox College	University of Chicago
Case Western University	Lehigh University	University of Pennsylvania
Claremont McKenna College	Lewis and Clark College (High GPA)	University of Rochester
Colby College	Lycoming College	University of Southern California
Colorado College	Macalester College	Union College
Columbia University	Middlebury College	Vanderbilt University
Connecticut College	MIT University	Vassar University
Cornell University	Mount Holyoke College (Women's College)	Wake Forest University
Dartmouth College	Northwestern University	Wellesley College (Women's College)
Dickinson College	Notre Dame University	Wesleyan University
Duke University	Oberlin College	Whitman College
Franklin and Marshall College	Occidental College	Williams College
Georgetown University	Pitzer College	Yale University
Gettysburg College	Pomona College	

How to apply to independent colleges

There are over 600 member colleges and universities nationwide. Check out the links below for some places to research. Ask your counselor if the Common App is integrated with Naviance at your school. That will allow you to apply directly through Naviance, and can be a major time saver!

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities

Students can find information on over 80 unique colleges through the AICCU website, in addition to planning tips for independent college admissions for freshman or transfer students. Check with each college to determine any additional writing requirements.

➔ <https://aiccu.edu/>

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

This program has over 160 member colleges in 16 Western states. Their mission is to offer substantial discounts on tuition costs, enabling eligible students to experience attending an out-of-state college for an affordable price. Students who live in a WUE state can apply to any member college through the college's own application process. Check with each college to determine any additional writing requirements.

➔ <https://www.wiche.edu>

Common Application

The Common App is a tool that allows students to apply to nearly 900 colleges and universities across the U.S. and in 20 other countries. Students can access Common App through Naviance to research and build a list of colleges, and practice writing application statements using the Essay Prompts (Listed here for you to review)

➔ <https://www.commonapp.org>

The 2021-2022 Common Application Essay Prompts are as follows:

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. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you.

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.

Community colleges in California

- 116 colleges statewide
- 2-year institutions
- Degrees/Services
 - Technical or vocational certificates
 - Associate Degrees (AA/AS)
 - Transfer to a 4-year university
- Requirements
 - 18 years or older
 - Students under 18 must have a high school diploma or GED

Community college must-knows

- Students can attend a community college to build their career skills, earn a certificate, receive an Associate's degree or prepare to transfer to a four-year college or university.
- The California College Promise Grant can waive enrollment fees for qualified students. You need to apply for the FAFSA or CA Dream Act to determine eligibility.
- Each campus offers many student services to help you choose your path and stay on it, including academic counseling, financial aid, tutoring, and mentoring.

LA College Promise participants receive priority in enrollment, registering for required math and English classes, counseling and other benefits. To qualify, applicants must be first-time college students and California Residents or qualify for AB54. View the brochure for the LA College Promise here

➔ https://bit.ly/LACCD_LA_COLLEGE_PROMISE

To apply to the Los Angeles College Promise, you need to complete the following steps

- 1 Apply to your LACCD college of choice at <http://www.laccd.edu/Students/opencccapply/Pages/default.aspx>
- 2 Complete the LA College Promise Interest Form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PWGTGZL>
- 3 Complete FAFSA or CADAA <https://www.csac.ca.gov/how-apply>
- 4 Complete, Orientation, Counseling and summer bridge

Many students attend a community college and transfer to a four-year college. Please check out these steps to make sure you are on track for transferring.



Have a transfer plan:

- Make an appointment to talk to your counselor at your community college.
- Complete the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).
- Use a transfer planner tool to track progress towards meeting the CSU/UC transfer requirements.
- Join programs that help the transfer process:

Honors Program: Students enjoy enhanced transfer consideration to partner universities and access to special scholarships and housing priority.

Transfer Admissions Guarantee (TAG): Six UC campuses offer guaranteed admissions to Community College students if they meet campus-specific requirements. UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, and UC San Francisco do NOT offer TAG.

UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP): Enhances student's ability to transfer to UCLA from a Community College through access to a variety of resources offered exclusively to TAP students. Students are also given priority consideration for admission to UCLA College of Letters and Science.

Educational Opportunities Programs and Services: Outreach program that help students successfully complete community college and may also provide financial assistance.

Notes

United States Service Academies

There are five service academies and entrance is highly competitive. Applicants for every academy but the Coast Guard require a nomination from the vice president or a member of Congress.

Academies	Why to Attend	Website	Cost
Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, Colorado	Provides a world-class education that combines athletics, character and leadership development, and military officer training.	www.usafa.af.mil	None!
Coast Guard Academy New London, Connecticut	The U.S. Coast Guard is a life-saving organization. It is the only military branch entrusted with law enforcement and regulatory authority. As Guardians first, almost all Coast Guard men and women are stationed in the United States, its territories and possessions.	https://www.uscga.edu/admissions/	Full U.S. Government scholarship, including tuition, room and board. Students also receive a stipend to meet cost of books, supplies, uniforms, and personal expenses.
Merchant Marine Academy Kings Point, New York	Trains students for military and civilian careers. New graduates have two choices. They can join the Navy or the Coast Guard as an officer. Or they can get a job in the civilian maritime industry at sea or ashore.	www.usmma.edu	In return, you agree to spend the next several years as a military officer.
Military Academy West Point, New York	Trains future Army officers. It's also known as "West Point" for its location in West Point, NY.	https://www.usna.edu/homepage.php	
Naval Academy Annapolis, Maryland	Trains future Navy and Marine Corps officers. It's also known as "Annapolis" for its location in Annapolis, MD.	www.usna.edu	

Admission timeline

Contact the appropriate liaison officer for specific requirements for any academy.

SOPHMORE YEAR	Contact an academy representative. An early contact with the academy representative may help in developing plans to meet all requirements.
JUNIOR YEAR	Take the PSAT and apply for ROTC scholarship early cycle competition. Apply for a nomination through your Congressman, Senator, Vice President or President. Check with the counselor for other avenues. Take the SAT and/or ACT exams.
SUMMER AFTER JUNIOR YEAR	Apply for the ROTC scholarship. Take the SAT and/or the ACT exams. Take medical and physical aptitude tests as directed.
SENIOR YEAR SPRING SEMESTER	Graduate from high school and enter academy.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Student athletes who plan to participate in sports at Division I or Division II colleges should begin the NCAA certification process no later than the end of their junior year. For further information on NCAA Eligibility Center check the website at www.eligibilitycenter.org

What are the steps?

- Complete your NCAA National Collegiate Athletic Association registration form during your 11th grade year.
- It's your responsibility to meet requirements and make sure the Eligibility Center has the documents (Signed Student Release form, fee, official transcripts, and test scores) to certify you. See your Athletic Director or counselor for more details.
- Graduate from high school. You should apply for certification before graduation. If you appear to meet NCAA requirements, NCAA will issue a preliminary certification report. After you graduate, the NCAA will review your final transcript to make a final certification decision.
- Earn a GPA of at least 2.30 for Division I, or 2.20 for Division II schools in NCAA approved core courses completed successfully during grades 9 through 12.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT. List the NCAA Eligibility Center (Code 9999) as a score recipient. NCAA uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPA to determine eligibility
- The NCAA is reviewing testing policies (some campuses will be test flexible). The eligibility center to keep up to date.
- Core courses required for NCAA certification

Paying For College

How do I afford college?

College can be expensive. Most students use multiple types of funds to afford college. To help you start thinking about paying for your college education, here is a brief intro to help you and your family. But remember you should always submit the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application first. Make sure to accept grants, scholarships and work-study before taking out any student loans.

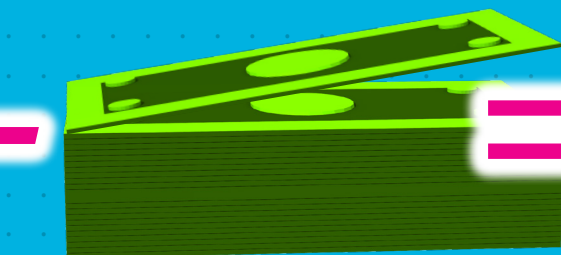
Sticker price vs net price

There are two prices for every college degree: the sticker price and the net price. The sticker price is the what you see on the website. The net price is that very same number AFTER considering grants and scholarships. It is what you actually pay. Every college has a "Net Price Calculator" on their website that can help you figure out what you might pay. You enter some basic information about yourself to find out what students like you paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.



Sticker Price

The college's published tuition and fees



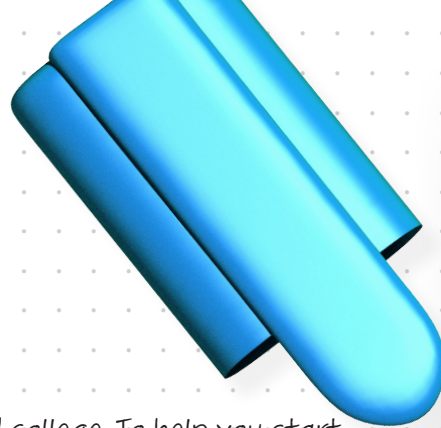
Gift Aid & Tax Benefits

(free money you don't have to work for or pay back) plus education tax benefits



Net Price

The difference between the two: the real amount your family pays (typically using loans, saving and income)



Types of financial aid

Grants	Free money from the state, federal government, and/or the university, based on financial need. Grants do not have to be paid back.
Scholarships	Free money awarded to students for academic achievement, interests, special talents, financial need, or a combination of different factors.
Work Study	Federal program which funds part-time student employment to help pay for college. The amount awarded to each student is based on their individual need.
Loans	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.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	California DREAM ACT Application (CADAA)
<p>Who should file a FAFSA? U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident with valid social security (not DACA). For current and former foster youth who were dependent or ward of the court may qualify for the Chafee Grant. Talk to your counselor for more details.</p>	<p>Who should file the CA Dream Act Application? Undocumented students with or without a DACA social security number or with Temporary Protection Status (TPS). Student must meet AB 540 criteria. https://dream.csac.ca.gov/application/NewUserAccess.aspx</p>
<p>Deadline: To apply for FAFSA or Dream Act you must submit an online application between October 1st and March 2nd of your senior year. This is the priority deadline for consideration for the Cal Grants.</p>	

FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov	California DreamAct https://dream.csac.ca.gov
<p>What will I need to apply?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. citizens - your Social Security Number (SSN) <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent resident - your SSN & Green Card Number <input type="checkbox"/> Student Date of birth <input type="checkbox"/> Parent 1- Date of birth and SSN <input type="checkbox"/> Parent 2 (if applicable) - Date of birth and SSN <input type="checkbox"/> Date(s)- Parent married, remarried, divorced, or widowed (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) total cash, savings, checking account value <input type="checkbox"/> State disability received (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Child support amount received/paid (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> On December 27, 2020, the FAFSA Simplification Act was enacted. It eliminated the requirement for male students to register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for Title IV aid. 	<p>AB540 Eligibility Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a California high school for 3 or more years <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate with a High School Diploma or GED equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Enroll in an accredited higher education institution in California <input type="checkbox"/> Must file an affidavit stating that the filer will apply for legal residency as soon as possible <input type="checkbox"/> "U" Visa holders may qualify <input type="checkbox"/> Students are not eligible if they hold a non-immigrant visa (A, B, E, J, H, O, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> On December 27, 2020, the FAFSA Simplification Act was enacted. It eliminated the requirement for male students to register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for Title IV aid. <p>For more information on AB68, which can expand AB 540 visit https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_SB-68-Quick-Guide.pdf</p>

Financial aid for California students

Whichever form you fill out, OCTOBER 1st is when the application opens. Some financial aid is awarded on a first come, first served basis so make sure you apply early! Check with your school to find out about free events to help you complete your application.

Having an understanding of the in-state funded grant and scholarship awards process is key to getting money to pay for college and vocational training in California. The first part is completing the right application form (FAFSA or CADAA). Mistakes made during the filing process can always be corrected after the deadline by working with your high school or college financial aid administrator.

4-year eligible students need to file the FAFSA/CADAA by March 2nd - the state priority deadline to be eligible for entitlement grants. Helpful tips to avoid common mistakes.

- You should list ALL colleges you are considering on your application. The order in which you list the colleges will not impact your eligibility for state aid programs.
- You should list your current high school on the application. This helps the California Student Aid Commission match you to your high school.

FAFSA Filers

Information changes rapidly and we strongly suggest you check with your counselor and visit the official website for the FAFSA.

1 If you are filling out the FAFSA, visit

➔ <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid>

2 You must register for your FSA ID. The FSA ID is the username and password you use on federal student aid websites such as fafsa.gov, [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov).

- Students: You will need your own FSA ID in order to electronically sign your FAFSA form.
- Parents: A dependent student will need to have one of his or her legal parents sign the student's FAFSA form, so the parent needs an FSA ID as well. Parents also need one to apply for a Direct PLUS Loan on [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov). If you are a parent who doesn't have a Social Security number (SSN), you won't be able to create a FSA ID (which requires an SSN). This means you'll have to select the option to print a signature page when you get to the end of your child's FAFSA form.

If you have questions about whose income you should declare on the FAFSA, refer to "Who Is My Parent When Filing the FAFSA."

➔ <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources/fafsa-parent-text>

In-state tuition exemptions and AB540

California has several options for qualifying students that will help you avoid paying non-resident tuition (higher than resident tuition). You can find more information using the Immigrants Rising California in-state Tuition Tool. This tool will help you figure out if you have the requirements to qualify for in-state tuition in California, aka, AB540. Visit their website to determine your eligibility status.

<https://immigrantsrising.org/qualifier/>

CADAA Filers

If you are filling out the CADAA, visit

➔ <https://www.csac.ca.gov/>

Information is only used to check whether you qualify for financial aid and is not shared with federal and/or immigration authorities.

Below are the types of financial aid AB540/SB68 eligible students can apply for in California. You must complete the CADAA and meet the GPA eligibility to qualify for these types of aid.

TYPES OF CA FINANCIAL AID FOR UNDERGRADS	AB 540/SB 68 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
In-State Tuition	YES
Federal Aid	NO
UC University Grant	YES
CSU State University Grant	YES
California College Promise Grant	YES
EOP Services	YES
EOP&S Services	YES
Cal Grants; Chaffee, Middle Class Scholarship	YES
State Loans CA & Dream Loan	YES
Private Loans	NO
Federal Work Study	NO
Private Scholarships	YES
Institutional aid & scholarships from your college or university	YES

What is the Cal Grant Program?

Cal Grants are the largest source of aid for California students. To qualify for a Cal Grant, there are several requirements. Make sure to visit the official website for the California Student Aid Commission

→ <https://www.csac.ca.gov/cal-grants>

Cal Grants are divided into three different awards, — A, B and C — but you don't have to figure out which one to apply for. Your eligibility will be based on your FAFSA or CADAA responses, your verified Cal Grant GPA, the type of California colleges you list on your FAFSA, and whether you're a recent high school graduate

Grant	Cal Grant A	Cal Grant B	Cal Grant C
GPA Minimum	3.00	2.00	No GPA
Degree Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 year program • AA or Bachelor Degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year program • Certificate, AA, or Bachelor Degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 4 months in length
Award Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years of tuition & fees at eligible CA schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 years of tuition & fees at eligible CA school • \$1,672 Access Award for 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupation / technical program
Award payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UC - \$13,104 • CSU - \$5,742 • Private - \$9,358 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,656 + Tuition and fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use up to \$2,462 for tuition and fees and \$547 for books, tools, and equipment at any Cal Grant Eligible vocational, occupational, or technical program for up to two years.

Your financial aid GPA is calculated on an unweighted 4.00 scale. It includes all of your academic course work from your sophomore year, the summer following the sophomore year, the junior year, and the summer following the junior year. It excludes PE, JROTC and remedial courses. Failing grades are included in the GPA calculation unless the course has been repeated.

Remember, in order to qualify for Cal Grants (state money for college you don't have to pay back), you must have a minimum 3.00 financial GPA for Cal Grant A and a 2.00 GPA for Cal Grant B.

Note: The CSAC has additional funds for students with special circumstances.

Other types of state aid

Middle Class Scholarship

(MCS) provides undergraduate students, including students pursuing a teaching credential, with family incomes and assets up to \$191,000 a scholarship to attend University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses. MCS are not set amounts and vary by student and institution.

Complete the FAFSA or CADAA to be considered

- Must enroll at a UC or CSU
- Must be enrolled at least 1/2 time
- Must be pursuing 1st bachelors degree
- Can receive aid between 10% - 40% of tuition and fees

California Chafee Grant

The California Chafee Grant is free money for current or former foster youth to help pay for college, career or technical training that you don't have to pay back. You may also be able to use your grant to pay for child care, transportation and rent while you're in school.

Eligibility Requirements:

A current or former foster youth who was a ward of the court or living in foster care for at least one day between the ages 16-18

- Submit the FAFSA or CADAA (every year)
- Submit the Chafee Application form (one-time)

Award:

- Up to \$5,000 per year
- Renewable until the age of 26
- Can be used in eligible schools in or outside California

Trimming costs

Going to college can be expensive. Looking at college websites can be scary, too - you can see some pretty high costs there. However, some students don't pay those prices because grants and scholarships cut their real costs by thousands of dollars.

Check out the tips below for ideas on how to get the most money and trim your costs.

Check out the college stats

Don't think about just the first year cost of college - if you pick a college where your major is impacted and it takes you longer to earn your degree, it could cost more. For example, a college that costs \$20,000 per year, but has a high percent of 4-year degree completion, can be less expensive than a college that costs \$16,000 a year, where students generally take 6 years to complete their degree.

Still not enough financial aid?

If you applied to a private school but don't think you can afford it, call the financial aid office. You can even submit an appeal and file a request for more need-based aid. You should share why you are having trouble with the amount of aid you are receiving and be sure to discuss any major financial issues that weren't reported on your FAFSA/CAADA, especially if your parent has lost a job, or someone in your family has had recent financial hardships.

While in college:

Textbooks are expensive - make sure you check the course syllabus to see what you need and search online for used books, or consider renting. This can save you a lot of money.

Manage your meal plan - you can sign up for a cheaper meal plan than the one offered, but make sure you eat healthy. You need your energy for all your schoolwork.

Think about extracurricular activities - before signing up for sports or Greek life, find out if there are extra costs to join. If you do join and live in a fraternity or sorority house, you might save on room and board.

Remember travel costs - if you are moving away and need to go home for holidays and breaks, you should plan early as costs for air, bus, and trains are more expensive the later you book. If you can't go home during the break, consider finding seasonal work on campus. You can pick up a little extra cash and gain valuable work experience.

After applying

Don't ignore your college portals!

Once you have submitted any college application, you must check your email (you may need to search the junk folder) for information about setting up your portal.

- Be on the lookout for emails from the campuses you have applied to and read each email carefully.
- The email may contain an ID number to use in order to create an account and login. It also may contain the link to the website to create that account, which may be different from the link provided to login once you have set up that account ... it just depends on the campus.

What are portals?

They are a link to each campus' online system. This is how the colleges communicate with you.

- Be aware that you are assigned email addresses for each campus and each college has its own specific password requirements. Develop a system to track all your new usernames and passwords.
- Make sure to check your portals weekly to see if your applications are complete. You might be missing something or be asked for additional information.
 - Test Scores - sometimes scores get lost or sometimes you think they were sent, but weren't.
 - Submitting a transcript - it isn't usually necessary, but if you are asked to submit a transcript and don't, you can be denied admission. If additional information is requested, make sure to submit it by the deadline.
 - Check your admission status, and if you were admitted, the portal is where critical information about orientation, registration and other activities for new students will be posted.

Your spring timeline

Congratulations on submitting your applications! Applying is just one of the first steps on our path to attending college. It will take a few months before you hear back from the college or university, **but there is still a lot to do.**

Here is a step-by-step guide for all the things you can do while you wait to hear back.

- If you haven't already, fill out your FAFSA/CADAA - remember that some financial aid is first come, first served, so the sooner you apply, the better.
- Check your most recent award letter and online college portal to see if there are additional steps you need to take to apply for aid and access your funding.
- Keep checking Naviance for new scholarships. You can also check with your counselor and your local community to find out more scholarship opportunities.
- Talk to your parents about setting up a bank account. You are going to need one when you are at college.
- Keep your grades up - it's exciting to submit your application, but remember that colleges will want to see your final transcripts from senior year. A "D" or "F" can jeopardize your acceptance.

To Do's

Digging into your financial aid award letters

Once you are accepted to a college, you will receive a **Financial Aid Award letter** (this is usually emailed to your college portal). This is where the colleges let you know the **Cost of Attendance (COA)**, what aid they can provide (loans and scholarships), and your ability to pay (your **Expected Family Contribution**).

You need to decide which school provides you with the best award package, but comparing offers can be a challenge. Every letter includes different wording, formatting and content. Before accepting any offer, talk to your counselor for help.

What's in your financial aid package?

Terms to Remember

Cost of Attendance (COA)

College grants

College scholarships

Expected Family Contribution

Federal work-study

Federal student loans

Definitions

is an estimate of what you can expect to pay for one year of school. This includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and even personal expenses.

are typically need-based and can be given by state or federal governments.

can be based on financial need, academic merit, or specific interest and are awarded by a school, company, or private organization.

is what the federal government — taking into account your family's finances — thinks you can contribute towards college costs. That estimated number is then used by your school to determine how much federal financial aid you might receive.

is a program run by the school where you will work to earn your financial aid.

let you borrow money directly from the federal government; you pay this financial aid back with interest. Your Financial Aid Award Letter may also list the amount you can borrow with a credit-based loan like the federal Direct PLUS Loan or a private student loan.

Helpful resources and links

We know how confusing financial aid can be – lots of terms, deadlines, and big decisions. Add in the fact that you are committing to spend or borrow lots of money... and you can get lost. The following are links for you to visit to learn more details about the different aspects of financial aid.

Interpreting Financial Aid Award Letters

Big Future, The College Board - Webinar: It's Time! Comparing Financial Aid Award Letters and Making the Best Decision for You. This webinar provides information and tools needed to analyze award letters and understand the financial impact of each award. The site features resources used in the webinar, including sample award letters.

→ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/webinar-its-time-comparing-financial-aid-award-letters>

Edvisors, How to Read Financial Aid Award Letters. Edvisors provides an explanation of how to read and interpret award letters. The site includes several examples and infographics related to analyzing award letters.

→ <https://www.edvisors.com/fafsa/after-submitting/award-letter/>

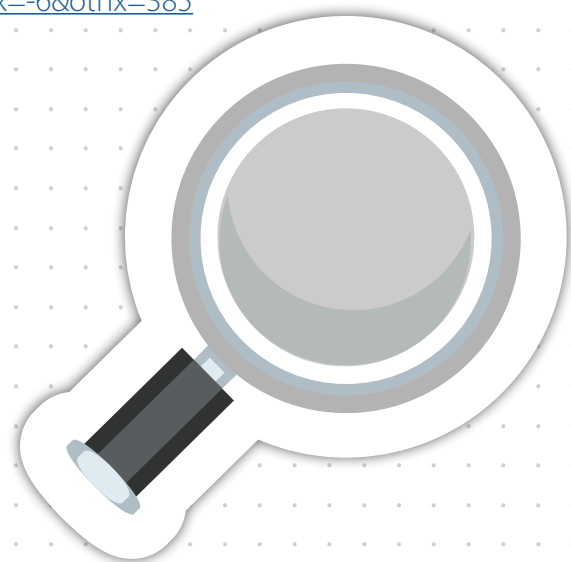
Sallie Mae, Financial Aid Award Letters. This website contains a video that explains how to compare award letters and links to resources that explain other aspects of analyzing a financial aid package.

→ <https://www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college/financial-aid/financial-aid-award-letter/>

Evaluating Loans

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Compare Financial Aid Offers. This webpage contains a database that compares college costs and financial aid offers. It allows comparison of up to three schools at a time.

→ <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/your-financial-path-to-graduation/?houx=826&fdx=340&clhx=87&trnx=324&hltx=121&entx=94&retx=22&taxx=-6&othx=385>



Tuition Bills and Payment Options

The College Board has a detailed website with tools and calculators to help you fund your college plans.

→ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators>

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Repay Student Debt. This webpage includes information on repaying federal, private, or combination student loans. Students answer questions about what type of loans they have, and, based on their answers, the website provides advice for repayment.

→ <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/repay-student-debt/>

Nerd Scholar. Nerd Scholar offers articles that help students navigate loan repayment options and manage their debt. Options include student loan basics, repayment options, avoiding loan pitfalls, and planning for the future.

→ <https://www.nerdwallet.com/nerdscholar/pay-off-loans>

FAFSA Completion and Verification Process

Federal Student Aid, FAFSA Application. FAFSA.ed.gov contains the link to complete the FAFSA and links to additional resources, like deadlines, school code searches, and FAFSA filing options.

→ <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Federal Student Aid, Student Aid Deadlines. This tool can be used to search federal and state FAFSA filing deadlines.

→ <https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm#>

Federal Student Aid (FSA) Videos. This collection of short videos produced by FSA includes topics related to the financial aid process.

→ <https://www.youtube.com/user/FederalStudentAid>

Searching for Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships are awarded for all types of students. Search broadly but think specifically about your personal attributes, both general and unique. Examples of attributes can include: beliefs; activities; interests; background, ethnicity, academic strengths. Search for scholarships using the search terms: [characteristic]+ [scholarship]. To narrow the search, include the state, local community, or an organization. Scholarships can be awarded by both philanthropic organizations and private companies.

→ <http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/ScholarshipCategory.asp>

College Grants. The College Grants Database contains information about grants, such as where to look, how to apply, and what to include in applications. It also lays out grant options for women and compares grants to loans.

→ <http://www.collegegrant.net/>

Nerdwallet Includes a scholarship search engine with over 2,000 verified scholarships, based on school year and GPA.

→ <http://www.nerdwallet.com/nerdscholar/scholarships/>

CareerOneStop Includes a scholarship search engine with over 7,000 scholarships, fellowships, loans, and other financial aid opportunities.

→ <http://www.careeronestop.org>

When searching for scholarships, research by award type, residence preferences, study level, affiliation restrictions, or keywords:

Example characteristic terms include:

- community service
- first generation college student
- nontraditional student
- woman
- future leader
- Hispanic
- math
- knitting
- athlete

Comparing your financial award offers

You can track your options on the worksheet from the workbook *Fund Your Future*, (<https://www.csac.ca.gov/fund-your-future>) a publication of the California Student Aid Commission. The goal is not always to choose the cheapest option - think about which option best suits you, your situation, and your needs.

COLLEGE:	
COST OF ATTENDANCE	
Tuition and fees	
Room and board	
Books and supplies	
Computer allowance	
Other fees	
Other costs	
Total college costs (A)	
GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP AID	
Federal Pell Grant	
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	
TEACH Grant	
Cal Grant	
Other grants	
Scholarships	
Institution-based aid	
Middle Class Scholarship	
Total grant/scholarship aid (B)	
Your net costs (A - B)	
LOANS	
Federal subsidized Stafford loan	
Federal unsubsidized Stafford loan	
Federal Perkins loan	
Federal PLUS loan	
Private loan	
Total loan aid (C)	
Total Financial aid (B + C = D)	
Your out-of-pocket costs (A - D)	

Housing, classes, academic supports and more

From signing up for summer bridge to registering for courses, navigating college can be quite daunting for a new college student. Particularly in the summer after senior year and during your first few months of college, you may need support getting through your college's specific administrative processes. This section provides links to specific help on key steps in the college enrollment and registration process.

Student housing

If you are attending colleges with on-campus housing, you will receive housing information and directions for applying for on-campus housing once you have accepted your college's offer of admission. Room assignments for first-year students may occur on a first-come, first-served basis. It is important for you to be aware of the deadline(s) for the housing application and deposits, if any.

The best source of information about a specific school's student housing options and process is the "residential life" webpage for the college. There, you will be able to find information on the type of housing available, housing policies and procedures, and who to contact for help with housing questions.



Course Registration

You need to register for courses each term (e.g., semester, quarter). For new students, registration for your first semester typically occurs during new student orientation. Popular first-year courses and course sections often get filled quickly, so register early. Learn about the general education or program core requirements at your college, as well as any prerequisites. Whether you have chosen a program major or not, many colleges have course requirements for all students or for students in certain clusters of majors (e.g., "Liberal Arts") that are best taken freshman year. Requirements for your college major should be considered during the course selection process.

Things to do...

- Scheduling, preparing for, and attending a meeting with your academic advisor.
- Creating a course schedule to make sure selected courses do not overlap. You should also choose alternative classes in the event that your first choices are full when you register.

Big Future, The College Board - 8 Tips for Choosing College Classes. This webpage contains a list of 8 tips for choosing college classes.

➔ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/academic-life/8-tips-for-choosing-college-classes>



Big Future, The College Board - College Majors. This webpage provides a collection of articles under the topic of College Majors published by The College Board. Articles include: "The College Major: What It Is and How to Choose One"; "8 Video Tips for Finding Majors and Careers"; and "Reading Major Profiles."

➔ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/college-majors>

Academic supports

You may find that the academic demands of college pose challenges you did not encounter in high school. This may require you to connect with available campus academic supports and adopt new study and time management habits.



Big Future, The College Board - College Course Work Help is Available. This website contains tips on resources to help manage college course work, through study support, academic advising, and transfer advising. It contains a brief video about a student's experience.

➔ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/academic-life/college-course-work-help-is-available>

Big Future, The College Board - Campus Services: There is Support When You Need It. This website provides information about on-campus supports for common personal, social, health, financial, and other issues that students face. It also contains a short video.

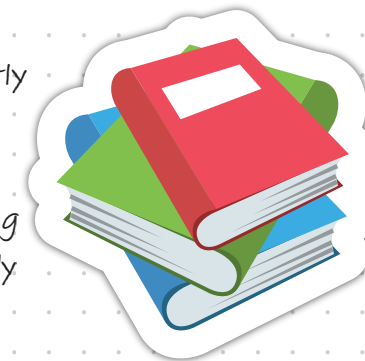
➔ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-life/campus-services-theres-support-when-you-need-it>

College Parent Central - Eight Campus Resources Your College Student Should Know. This article contains a list of eight campus resources new college students can access to get help, including the advising office, tutoring/writing center, academic support center, career service office, and others.

➔ <http://www.collegeparentcentral.com/2012/05/eight-campus-resources-your-college-student-should-know/>

Study Skills

There are many strategies that you can adopt to help you study more efficiently and effectively. You may benefit from looking into online resources to learn more about developing a study plan, taking meaningful notes, using reading comprehension strategies, improving concentration and memory, and employing test-taking strategies. You may need some additional support identifying study strategies that work best for you.



HowToStudy.com. Howtostudy.com provides 14 chapters of study topics including how to create a detailed study plan, maximize the time spent on studying, take meaningful notes, and save time when preparing for exams.

➔ <https://www.intelligent.com/how-to-study/>

Oregon State University, Academic Success Center. This website contains several resources to help students develop their academic skills. Categories include reading, note-taking, time management, and studying.

➔ <http://success.oregonstate.edu/learning-corner/all-tools-worksheets>

Study Stack (Free Tool). Study Stack provides free flashcards across subject areas including geography, history, math, science, business, languages, and medicine. Users must create an account to create or use sets of shared flashcards. Registration is free.

➔ <http://www.studystack.com/>

Time Management

College students face a number of competing priorities for their time. These can include classes, homework, studying, work, academic and social clubs and activities, and socializing with friends. Maintaining a healthy balance of school, work, and life, and learning what to prioritize is an important skill for college success and beyond.

Big Future, The College Board - 8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time. This webpage provides a list of 8 tips and strategies [to](#) help students manage their time, such as making to-do lists and creating a dedicated study time.

➔ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/8-ways-to-take-control-of-your-time>

AcademicTips.org, Time Management. This article begins with a Personal Time Survey that estimates how time is spent. Then it provides a Study Hour Formula to help calculate how many study hours to allocate per class based on difficulty level. The article provides tips on how to prioritize activities.

➔ <http://www.academictips.org/acad/timemanagement.html>



Commit to your college

May 1st – why it matters!

This is the official “College Signing Day”. While you can commit for a 4-year college before this date, May 1st is the last day you can commit to your college choice. It is an exciting day – don’t forget to mark your calendar! Often schools celebrate the day with graduating seniors to recognize the hard work you put into your educational career.



Senior Exit Survey

The Senior Exit Survey is a Naviance Task for 12th graders that becomes available May 1st. The Senior Exit Survey asks you questions that can help counselors and schools learn more about what assistance you might need when transitioning to college.



Questions the survey asks include:

- Did you receive enough financial aid to cover the cost of your tuition, fees and housing?
- Have you paid your enrollment deposit or was it paid through an enrollment deposit fee waiver?
- How worried are you about paying your tuition and fees next year?
- Have you registered for a summer bridge program at your college?

College and Career Readiness Survey

The College and Career Readiness Survey is a place for you to share your experiences about your senior year relating to graduating college and career ready.

All Class of 2023 students will receive an individualized link sent to their LAUSD student mymail account.

Transitioning to college and avoiding “Summer Melt”

What is “Summer Melt”?

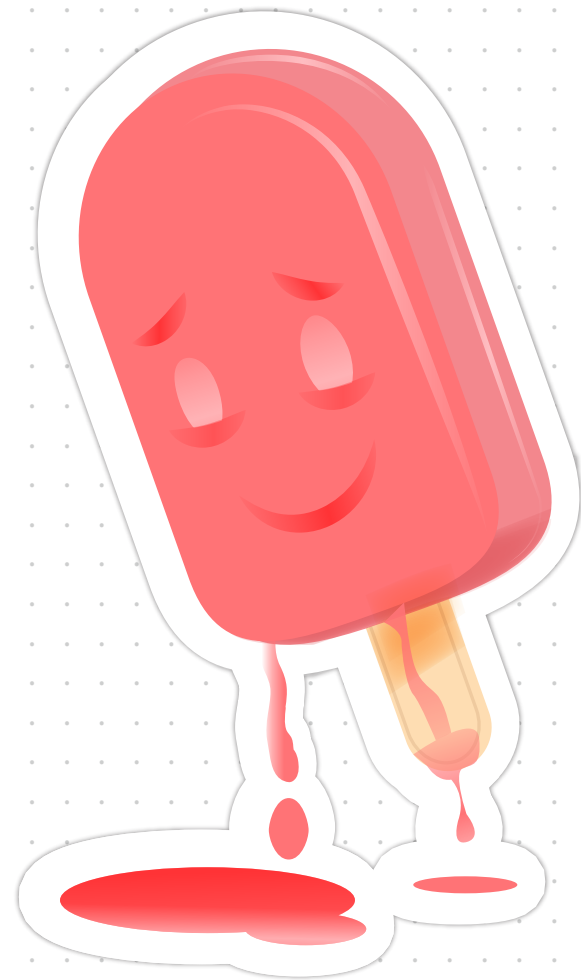
Summer Melt refers to the situation where students who have accepted an offer at a college and paid a deposit, don't end up enrolling in the fall.

What stops students from going in the fall?

According to research by Benjamin L. Castleman and Lindsay C. Page, co-authors of **Summer Melt**, as many as one in five high school graduates who have been accepted and intend to enroll in college don't arrive on campus in the fall. This is referred to as “Summer Melt” as these eligible students, many of whom are low-income or first generation, “melt” away due to challenges they weren't expecting.

Students who do not have a lot of support or information on the transition to college may find the summer after high school extremely difficult to navigate, as there are many important steps that need to be taken.

- Check your college email/portal ALL THE TIME!
- Make sure to check in with your high school counselor and college advisor - all the time!
- Keep on top of deadlines!
- Ask questions!
- Don't be afraid to keep trying!
- Complete Senior Exit Survey
- Complete the College and Career Readiness Survey



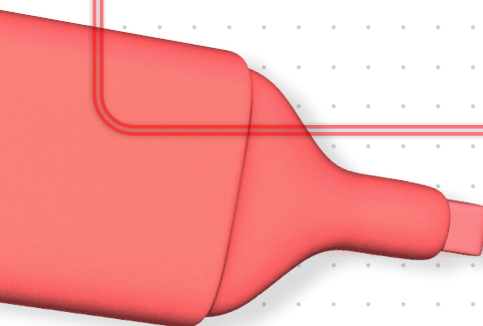
Use this checklist to help you enroll and transition to the college/program of your choice. It is important to complete each of these tasks to make a successful transition.

- Make an appointment to meet with a financial aid counselor at your college to finalize funding, grants, and loans.
- Know your options for health insurance. Your college may charge you for health insurance but if you already have it you may be able to apply for a waiver.
- Register for your college's orientation! Most colleges hold required summer orientations for first-year students and these are required. Register ASAP, as many college orientations are early in summer. Check your college's website for what documents you are required to bring to the orientation as well as for orientation fees.
- Make an appointment to meet with an academic counselor at your college.
- Make an academic plan and enroll in classes.
- Explore new subjects – in college you have the opportunity to take unusual classes and learn some pretty cool stuff.
- Take time to learn how to budget – as an adult, you are responsible for managing your money and financial commitments.
- Ask for help – college is different than high school and everyone struggles to balance academics, social and family responsibilities.
- Take care of yourself - college is the time to explore and express yourself in a new environment, but don't forget to develop healthy eating and rest habits.

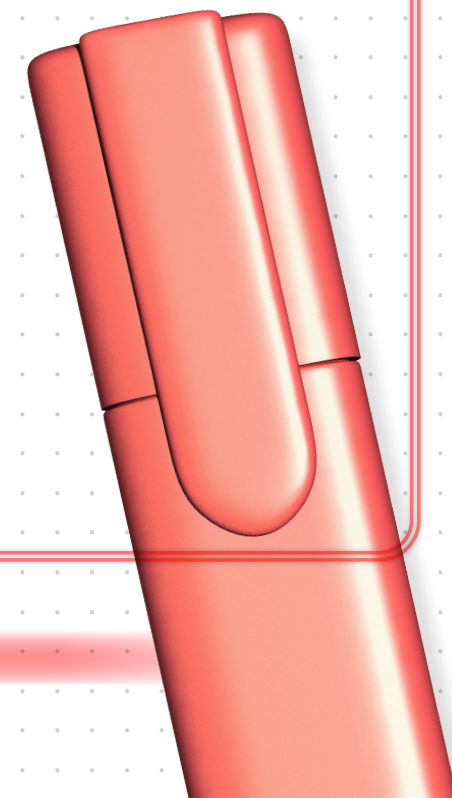




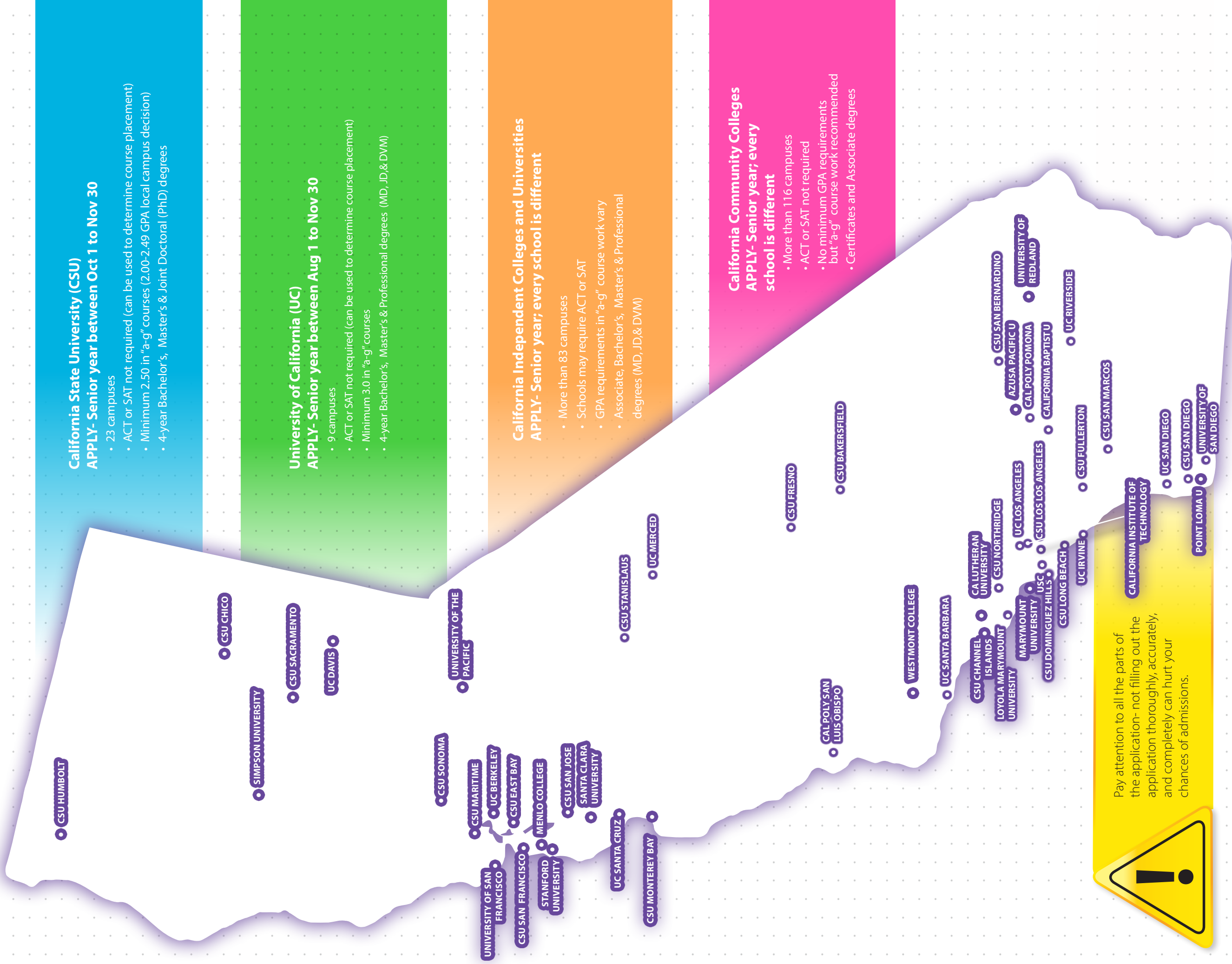
What is some advice you have received from others?



My Next Steps



UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS



• CSU HUMBOLT

• CSU CHICO

• SIMPSON UNIVERSITY

• CSU SACRAMENTO

• UC DAVIS

• CSU SONOMA

• CSU MARITIME

• UC BERKELEY

• CSU EAST BAY

• MENLO COLLEGE

• CSU SAN JOSE

• SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

• UC SANTA CRUZ

• CSU MONTEREY BAY

• CSU STANISLAUS

• UC MERCED

• CSU FRESNO

• CSU BAKERSFIELD

• WESTMONT COLLEGE

• UC SANTA BARBARA

• CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS

• LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

• MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

• USC DOMINGUEZ HILLS

• CSU LONG BEACH

• UC IRVINE

• CSU FULLERTON

• CSU SAN MARCOS

• UC LOS ANGELES

• UC NORTHRIDGE

• UC LOS ANGELES

• CSU LOS ANGELES

• CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

• UC RIVERSIDE

• CSU SAN BERNARDINO

• AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

• CAL POLY POMONA

• UNIVERSITY OF REDLAND

California State University (CSU)

APPLY- Senior year between Oct 1 to Nov 30

- 23 campuses
- ACT or SAT not required (can be used to determine course placement)
- Minimum 2.50 in "a-g" courses (2.00-2.49 GPA local campus decision)
- 4-year Bachelor's, Master's & Joint Doctoral (PhD) degrees

University of California (UC)

APPLY- Senior year between Aug 1 to Nov 30

- 9 campuses
- ACT or SAT not required (can be used to determine course placement)
- Minimum 3.0 in "a-g" courses
- 4-year Bachelor's, Master's & Professional degrees (MD, JD, & DVM)

California Independent Colleges and Universities

APPLY- Senior year; every school is different

- More than 83 campuses
- Schools may require ACT or SAT
- GPA requirements in "a-g" course work vary
- Associate, Bachelor's, Master's & Professional degrees (MD, JD, & DVM)

California Community Colleges

APPLY- Senior year; every school is different

- More than 116 campuses
- ACT or SAT not required
- No minimum GPA requirements but "a-g" course work recommended
- Certificates and Associate degrees



Pay attention to all the parts of the application- not filling out the application thoroughly, accurately, and completely can hurt your chances of admissions.

College entrance exams

COVID 19 Testing updates as of August, 2022

<h2>UC</h2> <p>Check these UC sites for updates</p>	<p>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. From https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/exam-requirement/</p>
<h2>CSU</h2> <p>Check for CSU updates https://www2.calstate.edu/coronavirus</p>	<p>The California State University (CSU) no longer uses ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses effective March 2022. First-time freshmen must meet the following eligibility requirements: be a high school graduate or equivalent; complete the 15-unit comprehensive "a-g" pattern of college preparatory course; and earn a qualifying "a-g" grade point average (GPA) as described here https://www.calstate.edu/apply/freshman/Pages/first-time-freshman-guidance.aspx</p>
<h2>Private Universities</h2>	<p>Each private university will have its own requirements. Make sure you visit the school's website to keep up to date on the testing policy.</p>

