

**COLLEGE
PLANNING
GUIDE**

2019-2020



**TAMALPAIS UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SCHOOL CEEB CODE NUMBERS

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INTRODUCTION

This guide, prepared by the Tamalpais High School District counseling staff and College & Career Specialists, is designed to assist juniors and seniors with college planning. To make the best use of this guide, you should read it from cover to cover.

Use the calendar. Go through it and circle important dates that apply to you. College planning is a time of personal growth, self-understanding and goal setting. Your counselor and College & Career Specialist will work with you. They will help you consider appropriate colleges that will meet your academic and personal needs.

Keep in mind, the primary responsibility rests with you. You must conduct your own career and college search, arrange your schedule of tests, request letters of recommendation, submit applications, send test scores to colleges and ask to have transcripts sent in a timely manner.

TUHSD utilizes Naviance as its primary college, career and scholarship resource. All students and parents have an individual login name and password.

Drake:	https://student.naviance.com/drake
Redwood:	https://student.naviance.com/redwood
San Andreas:	https://student.naviance.com/sanandreas
Tamalpais:	https://student.naviance.com/tamalpais
Tamiscal:	https://student.naviance.com/tamiscal

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Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Information Back Cover

College Planning Calendar

JUNIORS

August/Early September

If you are under 18, obtain or renew your work permit at your school. Use Naviance to research future careers and/or colleges. Begin your list of colleges and add them to your Naviance account so you are notified when those colleges visit your school. Check your school calendar for the date of College Night for juniors.

September

Participate in extracurricular activities, clubs or other organizations. Contact the School-to-Career Liaison for dates of career days, job shadows and internships. Sign up at school to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Attend college representative meetings in the College and Career Center.

October

Explore your interests and skills. Take the PSAT. Attend college representative meetings in the College and Career Center. Begin to familiarize yourself with scholarship opportunities.

November

If you are interested in attending a Service (Armed Forces) Academy, contact a representative this year and plan to explore the Academy's summer program.

December

Consider visiting nearby college campuses during winter break. Attend College Admissions Testing Night this month or in January if your school offers one.

January

Discuss PSAT scores with your counselor and discuss a timeline to take the ACT or SAT. Register for upcoming ACT or SAT and keep track of user names and passwords for these accounts as you will access them multiple times.

February

Use February break to visit colleges. Use PSAT scores to assist with college search. Check scholarships available for juniors. Register for upcoming ACT or SAT. Attend College Planning Workshop(s) throughout the spring if your school offers them.

March

Plan your summer activities: school, work, internship or community service. Register for upcoming ACT or SAT. Check dates for WACAC College Fairs and plan to attend.

April

Register for summer programs on college campuses, summer classes at community colleges or ROP. Start researching summer jobs. Continue researching colleges and consider visiting campuses over Spring Break. Register for upcoming ACT or SAT. Consider a summer internship.

May/June

Get a job and save your earnings. Take AP exams and/or SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests. Research early decision/early action deadlines.

Summer

Tour college campuses during summer vacation. Continue with work, school, ROP or do a community service project. ATHLETES: To participate in collegiate athletics, create an account with NCAA at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>. Begin college essays, if required.

SENIORS

August/Early September

If you are under 18, obtain or renew your work permit at your school. Research early decision/early action application deadlines. Register for ACT or SAT if needed. Continue using Naviance. Consider an internship. Begin working on the Coalition Application, Common Application and UC Application. **If letters of recommendation are required, identify staff who will write strong letters and ask them in person.** Update your resume. Check your school calendar for the date of Senior Night.

September

Check school calendar for Financial Aid Night. Begin to research scholarships and continue to do so throughout the year. Register for ACT or SAT if needed. Continue developing college lists. Attend college admission sessions in the College and Career Center. Meet with your counselor to discuss your post high school plans.

October

File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1 using your 2018 tax information. Register for the ACT or SAT if needed. Research college applications online. Continue developing college lists. Inquire about the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Begin CSS Profile, if required by your colleges. Begin working on CSU application and continue working on UC application. Make a list of all user names and passwords for college applications.

November

Submit online applications to UCs and CSUs by the November 30 deadline. Check housing requirements for individual campuses. Request recommendation letters by your school's deadline. Have your transcripts sent to colleges requesting them. Submit early action/early decision applications, if applicable. Attend Community College presentations at your school or visit individual campuses. **Send official test scores to all colleges requiring them.**

December

This is the last month to take SAT or ACT for UC and most CSUs. Attend school-sponsored meetings on the financial aid process. Be aware of each college's financial aid deadline. Register for spring community college classes. Continue working on college applications. Create portal accounts if requested by colleges.

January

Check Naviance and the College and Career Center for local scholarships. If required by colleges, request that your seventh semester transcript be sent.

February

Ask about scholarships from parents' employers. Continue scholarship search using school resources. File FAFSA no later than March 2 for California public schools; be aware of other deadlines. Follow specific campus guidelines regarding housing. Attend Community College presentations at your school or visit individual campuses.

March

If needed, take placement exams in English and math for community college, making sure deadlines are met.

April

Return intent to register form to your chosen campus before May 1. Notify the colleges you are *not* attending. Start researching summer jobs and begin networking. Use spring break to visit prospective college choices.

May/June

Fill out necessary request forms to ensure that your school sends your final transcript to your chosen college. Return forms for on-campus orientation programs and housing to your college. Complete required Senior Survey on Naviance.

Resources to Help You Plan for College

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The College and Career Center should be the focal point of your college planning. The College & Career Specialist is available to assist you with your post high school plans or at any step along the way. The College & Career Specialist and your counselor have a wealth of information at their fingertips and stay abreast of the latest developments in college admissions by attending annual conferences and meetings with the University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges, private colleges and public universities in other states.

Each of the Tam District high schools offer application and financial aid workshops in a computer lab or in the College and Career Center.

NAVIANCE

Naviance Student is a comprehensive website designed to help students and parents learn about colleges and careers. Naviance also provides need-to-know information specific to your school, including college visits, evening events, and application requirements and deadlines. A link to Naviance is located on each school's website. If you have difficulty logging on, please contact the College & Career Specialist. By utilizing Naviance, you have access to career interest inventories, college data, college research, scholarships, resume building and a variety of other services.

COLLEGE REP VISITS

Representatives from many colleges come to our campuses each year to talk with students and to distribute information. The majority of college reps come during the fall semester. Check school notifications, Naviance, the school website and College and Career Center notices for dates and times. The representatives are an important contact for you with the admissions office; your local college rep may be the first reader of your application.

FINANCIAL AID

The College & Career Specialist is available to guide you through the financial aid process and answer general questions. Check your school calendar to see if your school offers a Financial Aid Night.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

The College and Career Center has information on summer opportunities in the United States and abroad. Many of these opportunities are on college campuses. Check the files in the College and Career Center and attend the Summer Opportunities Fair if your school offers one.

Choosing a College

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does the college have the academic programs I want? For example, does it have independent study programs, study abroad opportunities, January term?
2. Have I met the admission requirements for the schools I am considering?
3. How much can I afford to spend for an education?
4. What type of school do I want? (State or private institution; large university or small college; urban or rural setting)
5. Do I want to go away to college? How far?
6. Religious affiliation or non-sectarian?
7. How diverse is the student body?
8. What are the opportunities for academic and social contact with students and faculty?
9. Are housing accommodations readily available on or near the campus?
10. What are the extra-curricular activities and social life potentials?
11. Does the college offer my special interests such as athletic teams, fraternities and sororities?
12. How competitive is the admissions policy?
13. Does the college have a sports program that fits my needs?

MAKE A LIST

Make a list of schools that interest you. Begin to group your lists into three clusters: reaches, matches and safeties.

Reaches are schools that admit students with grades and test scores substantially above your own.

Matches are colleges that admit students with grades and test scores that are near or slightly above your own. Certain unpredictable colleges, due to large numbers of applicants, may be Reaches even if you meet their median statistics.

Safeties are schools that accept students with grades and test scores notably below your own.

Your largest category should be **Matches**. Make sure that all colleges on your list are

schools you would attend if admitted. Keep narrowing down your choices until you have a list of no more than 8-10 schools where you wish to apply.

THE COLLEGE VISIT

Visiting is one of the best ways to research colleges. You can learn a lot in several hours on a campus. You can schedule visits over the summer or during school vacations. You may also use up to three warranted absence days per year for college visits.

If the college conducts interviews, be sure to arrange one with the admissions office in advance. Take a tour of the campus, ask the students what they like and dislike about the school, sit in on classes and sample the food. If at all possible, try to stay overnight in a dorm by making arrangements with the office of admission or by contacting a student you know at the college. Your counselor or College & Career Specialist may be able to give you the names of former students to contact.

If you are applying for financial aid, consider arranging an appointment with the financial aid office.

OTHER MEANS OF EXPLORING COLLEGES

- You can learn a lot about colleges by talking with alumni, currently enrolled students and Tam District graduates who are attending college. It is particularly helpful to attend events at which local graduates return to talk about their college experiences.
- The internet is full of websites where students can take virtual tours, learn about financial aid, explore majors, visit college sites and more.
- Your parents have a big investment in your college career. You need to share your ideas about college with them and determine what kind of support you can expect.

COLLEGE SELECTION

Do not assume that there is only one right college for you. One of the joys of American higher education is the tremendous breadth and variety in the type, size and location of colleges. There are more than 4,700 two- and four-year colleges in the United States and you could be very happy and receive an excellent education at many of them.

Always remember that you should look for a good “match” between the opportunities provided by the college and your own personal learning style, interests and needs.

Applications

Application	Filing Period	Deadline	Fee	Transcript
University of California (UC)	November 1st - 30th	November 30th	\$70 per campus	Send final transcript only in June (Requires request form in Counseling Office)
California State University (CSU)	October 1st - November 30th	November 30th	\$55 per campus	Send final transcript only in June (Requires request form in Counseling Office)
Common Application (One application that can be submitted to over 700 colleges and universities)	Beginning August 1st	Varied (September - February)	\$25 - \$90 depending on college	Current and Mid-Year transcript sent automatically when counselor invited to the application; Final transcript requires request form in Counseling Office
Coalition for Access & Affordability (One application that can be submitted to approx. 110 schools, but currently only required at 3 colleges)	Open	Varied (September - February)	\$25 - \$90 depending on college (Fee waived for low-income students)	Current and Mid-Year transcript sent automatically when counselor invited to the application; Final transcript requires request form in Counseling Office
Other	Varied	Varied (September - February)	Varied	Generally, but not always, current and final transcript (Requires request form in Counseling Office)

Follow your college's application checklist

Fee Waivers - Fee waivers are available through numerous groups (College Board, ACT, NACAC). Waivers can also be requested from the school to which a student is applying by contacting the admissions office. To inquire about how to qualify for fee waivers, contact your Counselor or College & Career Specialist.

Additional Materials - Schools are more frequently allowing students to submit additional materials in a variety of forms from resumes, online profiles, video essays, and portfolios regardless of the major to which you apply. Make sure to read all your options carefully under admission requirements to each particular school. While many of these materials are optional, they can be beneficial to students who feel they would translate stronger through an alternative medium.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Ask your counselor and teachers for recommendations **well in advance of deadlines; one month is the minimum period**. Teachers and counselors devote considerable time to writing these letters. Choose teachers who know you well and who will write the most positive recommendation.

- Check with your recommenders for what information they need to complete their letter of recommendation.
- If you are asking a person to write more than one recommendation, try to organize all the requests at one time even if the deadlines differ.
- Be sure to fill out the student part of the recommendation request form.
- Complete the FERPA section of the Common Application. We recommend all students waive their rights in this section.
- Most teachers and counselors prefer to submit their recommendations online. If paper forms are required, provide **stamped envelopes addressed to each college's office of admission**.
- About one week before the recommendation is due, drop by to see the teacher or leave a note in his or her mailbox to ask if you could provide further information. This courteous inquiry acts as a gentle reminder of the deadline.
- It takes considerable time to write a recommendation. The person who writes it has taken a special interest in you and the success of your application. When you hear from colleges, be sure to tell the teachers and counselors where you were accepted and which school you will attend.
- Keep records of everything.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers, counselors and others who helped you.

THE ESSAY OR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your essay could be the highlight of your application, perhaps even the factor that tips the scale in your favor.

An essay takes a topic, whether it is earthshaking or an every-day occurrence, whether it is about you or something that is important to you, and examines it in personal terms. Think of the essay as a forum to display your individuality, creativity and above all your ability to communicate. Colleges want to know more about you than they can learn from transcripts or recommendations.

There is no right or wrong answer to an essay question. How you say something is just as important as what you say. Schools want you to tell them how you are different from their other applicants, but they look for well-written expression as well. Make sure to read the directions carefully and answer the prompt completely.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS

Check college websites for portfolio and audition requirements and consider attending the NACAC Performance and Visual Arts College Fair and National Portfolio Day.

THE INTERVIEW

Very few colleges require an interview and for most it does not play a role in determining admission. It is, however, a good opportunity for the college and the applicant to get to know one another better. If you are visiting a campus, you may want to schedule an interview with the admissions office. For tips, see your College & Career Specialist.

ONCE YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION

1. Download a copy of all completed applications to keep for your records.
2. Check your email for first time login information.
3. Create your college specific portals and check them weekly. Most colleges will communicate important information to you via portals.
4. Send your SAT/ACT test scores (where required) to colleges from the testing agency.

FINANCIAL AID

Don't wait to be admitted to apply for financial aid. Note: Some colleges have priority deadlines for specific scholarships. Financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis at many colleges.

Check the financial aid page online for each college or university. Review the necessary forms and determine if there is a priority deadline for filing your financial aid application.

Financial aid can come in three forms: Scholarships/grants, work-study, or student loans that must be repaid after the student is no longer enrolled in college.

THE CSS Profile

The CSS Profile is used by some schools to determine your level of institutional aid. It is your responsibility to determine if your colleges require the Profile and to note all deadlines. You can register online at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. There are fees to process and submit the Profile.

THE FAFSA, CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT, CAL GRANT GPA VERIFICATION FORM

All students applying for federal and state aid must submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA application will become available October 1, 2019. You can apply online at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa>. Check the deadlines for each of your colleges and submit on time. Students attending college in California and ineligible to complete the FAFSA should complete the California Dream Act Application.

In addition to the FAFSA, **all** California schools require the **Cal Grant GPA Verification Form** in order to process the Cal Grant (state aid dollars). Unless you have opted out, your high school will submit an electronic GPA Verification Form on your behalf. Selection for a Cal Grant is based on financial need (as evidenced by the FAFSA submitted) and 10th and 11th grade unweighted GPA. Students should check their Cal Grant status after submitting the FAFSA.

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

WUE is a program providing reduced tuition for many public schools in Western states. See back cover for more information.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

The College and Career Centers maintain a list of scholarships on Naviance. Applications for local scholarships and scholarship resource books are available in your College and Career Center. Many websites are available for scholarship searches as well. See back cover for more information.

10,000 DEGREES

10,000 Degrees maintains a financial aid resource library. Financial aid experts are available to help you research sources of assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.10000degrees.org/>

TESTING

Juniors should begin their college testing in the spring of junior year. All colleges accept either the SAT with Essay or the ACT with Writing.

We recommend taking the SAT with Essay in March or May or the ACT with Writing in April or June. SAT Subject Tests, if required or recommended by your colleges, should be taken in June. In the senior year, consider retaking the ACT or SAT in the fall after additional preparation over the summer. Students may also take tests in November and December (check with specific CSU campuses for exceptions). SAT and Subject Tests cannot be taken on the same day.

The SAT Subject Tests are not required for admission to the University of California. Competitive majors on some campuses may recommend particular SAT Subject Tests to demonstrate subject proficiency. For more information, go to:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html>

Students may take either ACT, SAT or both as all colleges will accept either. We strongly recommend that students take the optional essay or writing test as some colleges require them. Not all schools require admissions tests, and for more information, go to www.fairtest.org

Students register online for the SAT at <https://www.collegeboard.org/> or ACT at www.actstudent.org. Consider taking advantage of the four free score reports that can be sent to colleges at the time of registration or for a few days after the test. Otherwise, there is a fee to send your test scores to colleges. Fee waivers, if applicable, are available from your College & Career Specialist.

See your College & Career Specialist for information regarding practice test opportunities.

SAT Versus ACT: A Comparison

	SAT	ACT
How often is it administered?	Seven times per year	Seven times per year
What is the test structure?	Four-section exam: Reading, Writing and Language, Math, and optional Essay.	Five-section exam: English, Math, Reading, Science, and optional Writing test. An Experimental test is added on certain dates and is clearly experimental.
What is the test content?	Math: up to trigonometry Science: no specific science section Reading/Writing: Evidence based reading, data interpretation, revision of writing in a variety (History, Lit, Science, Humanities) of subjects. Essay: an essay(optional)	Math: up to trigonometry Science: charts, experiments Reading: four passages, one each of prose fiction, social science, humanities and natural science English: stresses grammar Writing: an essay (optional)
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	No	No
How is the test scored?	200-800 per subject, added together for a score of 400-1600 2-8 for the essay in 3 areas: Reading/Analysis/Writing	1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score 1-36 for the Writing test
Are all scores sent to schools?	Yes. However, a score reporting option allows students to choose which scores to release by test date. <i>We encourage students to send all test scores to all colleges they have applied to as colleges will accept the highest</i>	No. Only the score from one sitting is sent at a time Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the school will see.
Are there other uses for the exams?	Scholarship purposes; certain statewide testing programs	Scholarship purposes; certain state-wide testing programs
Best time to register?	At least six weeks before the test date	At least four weeks before the test date
Need more information?	The College Board 1-866-756-7346 https://www.collegeboard.org/	ACT (319) 337-1270 https://www.actstudent.org

California Grants

It costs nothing to apply and does not have to be repaid!

www.csac.ca.gov or call (888) 224-7268

www.calgrants.org

www.dream.csac.gov

CAL GRANT GUARANTEE:

Every high school senior who graduates, meets the academic, financial and eligibility requirements and applies on time, is guaranteed a Cal Grant award to attend college.

Cal Grant A Entitlement awards can be used for tuition and fees at public and private colleges as well as some private career colleges. At CSU and UC schools, this Cal Grant covers up to the full system wide fees of \$5,742 and \$12,570 respectively. If you are attending a private college, it pays up to \$9,084 toward tuition and fees. To get this Cal Grant, you need to be working toward a two-year or four-year degree.

Cal Grant B Entitlement awards provide low-income students with a living allowance and assistance with tuition and fees. Most first-year students receive an allowance of up to \$1,672 for books and living expenses. After the freshman year, Cal Grant B also helps pay tuition and fees in the same amount as a Cal Grant A. For a Cal Grant B, your coursework must be for at least one academic year.

Cal Grant C These awards provide free money to students pursuing an occupational or technical program. Eligible students can use up to \$2,462 for tuition and fees and \$547 for books, tools, and equipment at any Cal Grant eligible private for profit or private nonprofit institution or up to \$1,094 at any California Community College. Funding is available for up to two years, depending on the length of your program and is for occupational or technical training programs of least four months in length.

Cal Grant A and B Competitive Awards are for students who are not eligible for the Entitlement awards. The main difference is that these awards are not guaranteed.

Cal Grant A Competitive Awards are for students with a minimum 3.0 GPA who are from low-and middle-income families. These awards help pay tuition and fees at qualifying schools with academic programs that are at least two years in length.

Cal Grant B Competitive Awards are for students with a minimum 2.0 GPA who are from disadvantaged and low- income families. These awards can be used for tuition, fees and access costs at qualifying schools whose programs are at least one year in length. If you get a Cal Grant B Competitive Award it can only be used for access costs in the first year. These costs include living expenses, transportation, supplies and books. Beginning with the second year, you can use your Cal Grant B Competitive Award to help pay tuition and fees at public or private four- year colleges or other qualifying schools.

All Cal Grant applicants must:

- be a graduating high school senior or recent graduate
- be U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens
- be California residents
- attend a qualifying California school
- meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- submit the FAFSA and GPA Verification by March 2nd
- be enrolled at least half time
- maintain satisfactory academic progress
- have family income and assets below the established ceilings which are set each year
- **not** be in default on any student loan
- **not** owe any federal or state grant refund

For all Cal Grants, you must file the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application. **The GPA Verification Form will be filed electronically by your school unless you have opted out.**

How much does college cost?

Average per-year cost of attendance comparison chart by institution type

2018-19	Community College	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)	Private/ Independent
Registration Fees & Tuition	\$1,197 - \$1,515	\$5,742 + campus-based fees	\$12,570 + campus-based fees	\$31,788 - \$54,090
Books/Supplies	\$2,002	\$2,002	\$2,002	\$2,002
Room & Board	\$5,247 - \$13,779	\$10,587 - \$17,358 On campus housing	\$13,788 - \$17,475 On campus housing	\$13,082- \$19,050 On campus housing
Transportation	\$1,587	\$1,587	\$1,587	\$1,587
Personal Expenses	\$1,480	\$1,480	\$1,480	\$1,480
TOTAL	\$11,513 - \$20,363	\$21,398 - \$30,087	\$31,427 - \$35,114	\$49,939 - \$78,209

- *Registration fees and tuition are based on full-time enrollment for California residents. Fees and tuition are subject to change without advance notice.*
- *The cost of books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses are estimates that may vary campus to campus.*
- *Total expenses may be less for students living at home. Financial aid is available to help students cover some of the college costs.*

What kind of financial aid can I receive?

Financial aid programs for undergraduate students:

How can I apply for aid?

<p>Aid that must be repaid <u>Types of loans:</u> <u>Subsidized:</u> \$3,500-\$5,500 interest is paid for on student's behalf until they graduate or enrolls below half-time <u>Unsubsidized:</u> \$2,000 - \$7,000 student is responsible for paying the interest rate during all periods. <u>Parent PLUS:</u> Awarded up to the cost of attendance. Credit approval required.</p> <p>Scholarships (no need to repay) Aid that does not need to be repaid and is based on your academic achievement and/or other criteria such as community involvement and financial need.</p>	<p>Grants (no need to repay) <u>Sample List of Grants</u> Pell Grant: \$652-\$6,095 SEOG: \$100-\$4,000 Cal Grant A: \$5,742- \$12,630 Cal Grant B: \$7,414-\$14,302 Cal Grant C (Community Colleges/Vocational Programs only): \$1,094-\$2,462 EOP Grant: \$100- \$1,000 Institutional Grant: varies by school</p> <p>Work Study Aid earned through part-time work on campus. Award amounts vary by college and eligibility status</p> <p>Contact the office of financial aid at each college for more information.</p>	<p>File the right application(s): FAFSA or CA Dream Act AND CSS Profile – some private schools and out-of-state publics require the Profile</p> <p>Submit graduation verification For Cal Grant eligibility https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/</p> <p>Submit any follow up documents that your college asks for</p> <p>Annual Priority Deadline: March 2 for UC/CSU/Community Colleges (will vary for out-of-state/private schools); re-apply each year and maintain satisfactory grades.</p>
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COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

You may attend any California Community College in the state. If you have a high school diploma, you are admitted regardless of your age, prior course work or grades. If you do not have a high school diploma, you are admitted if:

- a. you are eighteen years of age or older, or
- b. you have successfully passed the California High School Proficiency Examination, or
- c. you have successfully passed the GED (General Education Development) Examination.

Current high school students who would like to take classes at College of Marin need an enrollment card signed by their parents, counselor and principal.

PLACEMENT TESTING

To assess your basic skill levels and help you select courses that are appropriate to these skills, most community colleges require placement testing of incoming students. These tests generally are in English and mathematics and are administered for placement purposes only.

LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES

College of Marin Campuses:

KENTFIELD, 835 College Avenue, Kentfield 94904-2590; (415) 457-8811
INDIAN VALLEY CAMPUS, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato 94949; (415) 457-8811

Nearby Community Colleges:

BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE, 2050 Center Street, Berkeley 94704-1205; (510) 981-2800
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO, 50 Phelan Ave., E200, San Francisco 94112-1898; (415) 239-3000
LANEY COLLEGE, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland 94607-4893; (510) 834-5740
MERRITT COLLEGE, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland 94619-3196; (510) 531-4911
NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE, 2277 Napa-Vallejo Hwy., Napa 94558-6236; (707) 253-3000
SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, 1501 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa 95401; (707) 527-4011

These community colleges have dorms or off-campus housing.

For details visit <http://www.cccco.edu/CommunityColleges/collegehousing.aspx>

Coalinga	West Hills College	www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga	(559) 934-2373
Eureka	College of the Redwoods	http://www.redwoods.edu/housing	(707) 476-4294
Mammoth Lake	Cerro Coso Comm College	https://www.cerrocoso.edu/	(760) 934-5215
Quincy	Feather River College	http://www.frc.edu/housing/	(530) 283-9414
Redding	Shasta College	www.shastacollege.edu	(530) 242-7739
Reedley	Reedley College	www.reedleycollege.edu	(559) 638-0300
Rocklin	Sierra College	https://www.sierracollege.edu/	(916) 660-7389
San Luis Obispo	Cuesta College	https://www.slostudentliving.com/ www.mustangvillage.com	(805) 544-4540 (805) 783-0184
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara City College	www.tropicanaagardens.com	(805) 968-4319
Sonora	Columbia College	http://californiastudenthousing.net/	(209) 533-3039
Susanville	Lassen College	www.lassencollege.edu	(530) 257-6181
Taft	Taft College	www.taftcollege.edu	(661) 763-7700
Weed	College of the Siskiyous	http://www.siskiyous.edu/lodges/	(530) 938-5237

FAQs about California Community Colleges

1. What is the cost to attend community college?

A: Currently, the fee is \$46 per unit for California residents. There are some additional fees per campus for such things as the Health Center and student body fees.

2. I plan to attend a community college, then transfer to earn my Bachelor's degree from a four-year college. How long will this take?

A: In most cases, you must earn a total of 60 transferable units in required subject areas and maintain the minimum grade point average required by the college you plan to attend. How long this takes is up to you. Some students who take a full-time course load may transfer in two years or less. You don't have to do it in two years. The key to transferring is meeting the specific requirements of the college you are targeting for transfer. Students may transfer to private schools and out-of-state universities with less than 60 units.

3. I was eligible for UC and CSU when I graduated from high school; do I still need 60 units to transfer?

A: It depends. In general, UC campuses will only accept students who transfer with junior standing (60 units). Check each UC and CSU website for lower division transfer information. There is some variance among campuses, but most require students to have 60 transferrable units.

4. Will I need to take the SAT or ACT test to transfer, if I do not take it while in high school?

A: For the UC/CSU systems, no, you will not need an SAT or ACT test score, just the appropriate number of units, required courses and grade point average. If you are looking at private colleges or out-of-state publics, you will need to check with them for their individual testing policies. This policy may differ for students planning to participate in athletics at a four-year college.

5. What is the IGETC?

A: This is an acronym for "Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum." It is a series of courses prospective transfer students attending California community colleges may complete to satisfy the lower division general education requirements at both the UC and CSU systems. However, if you intend to transfer into a major that requires extensive lower division preparation, such as engineering or the physical or natural sciences, you should concentrate on completing the many prerequisites for the major that the college uses to determine eligibility for admission. Please meet with a community college counselor to discuss the IGETC further.

6. Is it easier to transfer to a certain UC, if I attend a community college closer to that UC?

A: All UCs have articulation agreements with all community colleges that outline general education and major requirements. You can find these outlined on the ASSIST website (www.assist.org). When applying to UCs, students from California community colleges have admissions priority over all other prospective transfer students, including those from four-year institutions.

Six of the UCs nine undergraduate campuses offer guaranteed admissions to California community college students who meet specific requirements, under the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program. Students in the TAG program can receive early review of their academic records, early admission notification and specific guidance on major preparation and general education coursework.

7. What if I don't want to transfer but want to learn a certain skill at a community college?

A: California community colleges have a wide range of opportunities for many students. All of them offer what is known as Certificate Programs, where a certain prescribed set of classes is completed and a certificate issued to show a prospective employer that the training in that area has been completed. These programs are far-reaching, from automotive technology to culinary arts to court reporting, and you can search for programs at www.cccco.edu. Some students will earn a certificate AND transfer. The possibilities are endless! For COM Career Education, visit www.marincareers.com.

ABOUT THE CSU

The California State University is the largest system of higher education in the nation. Its 23 campuses and 8 off-campus centers extend from Arcata, located about 300 miles north of San Francisco, to San Diego. The oldest campus is San Jose State, founded in 1857, while the newest is CSU Channel Islands, which was founded in 2002. The **CSU** produces 50 percent more business graduates, computer scientists and engineers than all other California universities and colleges combined. CSU also prepares two-thirds of the state's public school teachers educated in California. The applications are available electronically at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

CSU Bakersfield offers broad educational and cultural opportunities to residents in the southern San Joaquin Valley (9,225 students). <http://www.csub.edu/>

CSU Channel Islands, the newest campus in the CSU system, offers access to many coastal recreation areas. Emphasis is placed on creating a learning centered environment with faculty and staff (6,700 students). www.csuci.edu

CSU Chico, a residential campus and cultural center for north-central California, set in a charming small town atmosphere, provides an emphasis on academic excellence, close interaction with professors and a vast array of co-curricular activities (17,220 students). www.csuchico.edu

CSU Dominguez Hills, a contemporary, tree-shaded campus adjacent to the South Bay area of Los Angeles, offers comprehensive academic opportunities to address the needs of both traditional and nontraditional students (14,635 students). www.csudh.edu

Cal State East Bay, located in the East Bay hills, overlooks the culturally rich San Francisco Bay area. It offers 51 professional or research-based graduate degrees, concentrations and 12 graduate credentials (15,528 students). www.csueastbay.edu

CSU Fresno, located in the rich heartland of the San Joaquin Valley, is a campus on the move. The campus offers instruction in the arts, liberal studies, sciences and agribusiness (24,136 students). www.csufresno.edu

Cal State Fullerton, serves the Orange County area with a full range of academic and cultural programs. It is recognized as one of the five most accessible universities in the nation for students with physical disabilities (38,948 students). www.fullerton.edu

Humboldt State University, located in the bayside town of Arcata, offers a friendly, informal environment in the redwood country of California's northern coast (8,790 students). www.humboldt.edu

CSU Long Beach, a comprehensive urban university is located a short distance from the ocean on a scenic hilltop (36,809 students). www.csulb.edu

Cal State Los Angeles, a contemporary hilltop campus a short distance from the Los Angeles Civic Center, offers diverse academic and cultural opportunities in (24,488 students). www.calstatela.edu

California Maritime Academy, located in Vallejo, is home of the Training Ship Golden Bear. Founded in 1929, it is a small undergraduate college offering degrees and professional licenses in engineering, technology, business and marine transportation (1,149 students). www.csum.edu

CSU Monterey Bay opened in fall 1995 on 1,300 acres of the former Fort Ord Army Base north of Monterey. The campus provides innovative, multidisciplinary programs in five academic cluster areas: visual & performing arts and related

humanities; marine, atmospheric and environmental sciences; languages, cultures and international studies; business, education (7,102 students). <http://csumb.edu>

Cal State Northridge, a large suburban campus in the San Fernando Valley (northwest of Los Angeles) offers a full range of coursework (40,131 students) www.csun.edu

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, located 35 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, specializes in agriculture, business, education, engineering, environmental design, liberal arts, sciences and hospitality management (23,717 students). www.csupomona.edu

CSU Sacramento, with its park-like setting in the state capital next to the American River, offers broad educational programs, including opportunities for experience in state government (30,284 students). www.csus.edu

CSU San Bernardino, offers small classes on a picturesque campus at the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains (20,024 students). www.csusb.edu

San Diego State University, with its mission style architecture, offers a full array of coursework from bachelor's through joint doctoral programs (34,254 students). www.sdsu.edu

San Francisco State University, known for its innovation in teaching, an evolving curriculum and commitment to hands-on teaching is an urban, multicultural university with strong liberal arts and professional programs (30,256 students). www.sfsu.edu

San José State University offers well-regarded academic and professional programs. Numerous SJSU graduates work for Silicon Valley firms (32,773 students). www.sjsu.edu

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo is located in the coastal hills between Monterey and Santa Barbara. Its "learn by doing" approach prepares students for careers in applied and technical fields (20,944 students). www.calpoly.edu

CSU San Marcos, located 30 miles north of San Diego, serves freshmen through graduate students on a state-of-the-art campus (12,150 students). www.csusm.edu

Sonoma State University is a recognized leader in blending technology with liberal arts and sciences. The University offers small classes and emphasizes learning through relationships among students, faculty and the world (9,350 students) www.sonoma.edu

CSU Stanislaus is an intimate yet modern campus between San Francisco and Yosemite in the Central Valley. The area offers access to many year round recreational activities. This campus, recognized for its beauty, tranquility and safety, provides a superb atmosphere conducive to learning. Challenging programs are available in humanities, sciences, education, business and the arts (9,045 students). www.csustan.edu

CSU: First-Time Freshman Admission Requirements

Do I meet minimum eligibility requirements for the CSU?

You are eligible for admission if you:

- Have or will have graduated from high school
- Meet the eligibility requirements with your grade point average and test scores (see the formula below)
- Have or will have completed with a grade of C or better a pattern of courses that total 15 units (see below). A "unit" is one year of study in high school

You may be required to meet higher admission requirements for impacted programs.

What is the eligibility index?

Use this formula to see if your grade point average and test scores meet the required eligibility index.

SAT scores: $(\text{GPA} \times 800) + \text{your SAT Total}^*$
Your high school GPA (All approved college prep "a-g" courses taken in 10th, 11th and 12th grades)

My index is _____

ACT Scores: $(\text{GPA} \times 200) + 10 \times \text{your ACT Composite}^*$
Your high school GPA (All approved college prep "a-g" courses taken in 10th, 11th and 12th grades)

My index is _____

*The CSU currently does not include the SAT or ACT writing scores in the Eligibility Index.

California residents must have a minimum index of 2900 using SAT scores or 694 using ACT scores.

Non-California residents must have a minimum index of 3502 using SAT scores or 842 using ACT scores.

California Resident Eligibility Index Examples

GPA	ACT Composite Score	SAT Total Score
3.0	No minimum score required	
2.8	14	660
2.6	18	820
2.4	22	980
2.2	26	1140
2.0	30	1300

Below 2.0 GPA does not qualify for CSU regular admission.

The complete Eligibility Index tables for California resident and nonresident students are available at www.csumentor.edu. Click on "Plan for College."

What are the 15 units of courses I need?

You must complete with a grade of C or better the following pattern of college preparatory subjects totaling 15 units:

- 2 years: Social science, including one year of U.S. History or U.S. History and Government
- 4 years: English
- 3 years: Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II; or integrated mathematics including these topics)
- 2 years: Science with a laboratory (one year biological and one year physical)
- 2 years: Foreign Language (the same language)
- 1 year: Visual and Performing Arts: Art, Dance, Theatre/Drama or Music**
- 1 year: Elective chosen from the subject areas listed above or approved college preparatory elective courses

**One year of one discipline, e.g., art, drama, dance or music

How do I report my courses if my school is not on the semester system?

If your school uses a calendar other than the traditional semester system (two terms per academic year), report all terms and grades earned. For example, if your school is on a trimester or quarter system, enter the three grades in the three columns. If your school is on a block system and you receive more than three grades for the year, you may enter the fourth

trimester or block calendar, you may need to make an adjustment when you record the total units in each academic area. For example, "Total English" should be translated into a number that will reflect the number of semesters of that subject if it had been completed on a traditional semester calendar. That is, for a full year of study, the number would be 2 for each year and a total of at least 8 for four years of English. Remember, you can count only courses with grades of C or better.

How will the CSU campus know if all admission requirements have been completed?

As a first-time freshman applicant, you are required to submit a final high school transcript after you have completed your senior year of classes. The high school transcript must have a graduation date posted on it. A final review of the transcript will be done to verify that you have completed successfully all required courses and maintained the eligibility index required.

When should I send transcripts?

The campus to which you are applying will inform you when to submit your official high school transcript. Transcripts must be received in sealed envelopes directly from the high school.

Is the foreign language requirement ever waived?

If you can demonstrate competency in a language other than English that is equivalent to or higher than that expected of students who have completed two years of foreign language study, you may be allowed a waiver. For further information, contact the CSU campus where you are applying.

Are students with disabilities expected to complete the 15 units of college preparatory subjects?

All applicants are encouraged to complete the 15 units of college preparatory subjects. If you are unable to complete certain subjects because of your disability, you should contact the Director of Services to Students with Disabilities at the CSU campus you wish to attend to receive further information about your eligibility to attend the university.

Do I have to take any placement tests for the CSU?

The English Placement Test (EPT) and the Entry Level Mathematics Test (ELM) are required of all incoming students PRIOR to enrolling in classes; therefore, you will need to take the tests before you attend the CSU unless you are exempt.

How can I be exempt from the placement tests?

English Placement Test (EPT):

- A score of 500 or better on the SAT (critical reading) or 22 on the English part of the ACT will exempt you from the EPT.*
- A score of "exempt" or "ready for college level English classes" on the CSU Early Assessment of Readiness for College English based upon the 11th grade augmented CST. This test is often called the EAP (Early Assessment Program).

Entry Level Mathematics Test (ELM)

- A score of 550 or higher on the SAT Mathematics or 23 on the Math part of the ACT will exempt you from the ELM.*
- A score of "exempt" on the CSU Early Assessment of Readiness for College Math, or a score of "conditionally exempt" if you successfully completed an approved course in 12th grade. This test is often called the EAP (Early Assessment Program).

Can I take the EPT/ELM tests at any CSU campus?

You may schedule and take the test(s) at any CSU campus. Just indicate on the test form the CSU campus(es) that should receive your scores.

What does my score on the English Placement Test (EPT) and/or the Entry Level Mathematics Test (ELM) mean?

Depending on your scores on the EPT and/or the ELM, you may be required to complete one or more specific remedial courses upon enrollment as indicated by the campus. The classes must be completed satisfactorily within one academic year.

*Other ELM/EPT exemptions are described in individual CSU campus catalogs, the www.csumentor.edu website, or CSU ELM/EPT booklets.

The California State University System and The University of California System

The CSU System
www2.calstate.edu/apply



The UC System
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/

- UC Berkeley www.berkeley.edu
- UC Davis www.ucdavis.edu
- UC Irvine www.uci.edu
- UC Los Angeles www.ucla.edu
- UC Merced www.ucmerced.edu
- UC Riverside www.ucr.edu
- UC San Diego www.ucsd.edu
- UC Santa Barbara www.ucsb.edu
- UC Santa Cruz www.ucsc.edu

University of California Minimum Admission Requirements

Becoming eligible is the first step to UC admission. To be eligible, you must meet the minimum requirements the University has established to ensure incoming students are prepared for University-level work.

UC guarantees a place on one of its campuses to all eligible California residents who apply on time. Keep in mind, though, that competitive campuses and programs look for applicants who exceed the minimum requirements when they select their students.

Freshman Eligibility Requirements

Students can apply to the University as freshmen if they are still in high school or have graduated but not enrolled in a regular session at a college or university. California freshman applicants can become eligible in two ways:

Eligibility in the Statewide Context

Students complete specific course-work and college admissions tests and earn the required GPA and test scores;

Eligibility in the Statewide Context is the path most students take to enter the University. To be eligible, you must earn a high school diploma or equivalency and satisfy the following requirements:

Subject Requirement Complete the 15 yearlong high school courses (known as the “a-g” courses) listed in the box on page 21.

Examination Requirement Submit scores from the following tests: the ACT plus Writing or the SAT with Essay. The scores you report for each section of the ACT or SAT must be from the same sitting.

Eligibility in the Local Context

Students are identified by the University as being in the top 9% of their graduating class at participating high schools.

Regardless of which path you take, all eligibility requirements must be met no later than the date of high school graduation.

Honors courses The University assigns extra points for up to eight semesters of University-certified honors-level courses taken in the last three years of high school: A=5 points, B=4 points, C=3 points. No more than two yearlong UC-approved honors-level courses taken in the 10th grade may be given extra points. A grade of D in an honors course does not earn extra points.

The courses must be certified as honors courses by the University and must be in the following “a-g” subjects: history/social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science, language other than English and visual and performing arts. In these subjects, as well as in computer science, acceptable honors-level courses include Advanced Placement courses, UC-designated International Baccalaureate courses, and college courses that are transferable to the University.

D and F grades Any “a-g” courses in which you earn a D or F must be repeated with a grade of C or better to count toward the Subject Requirement. Only the second grade will be used in calculating your GPA. If you repeat a course in which you initially earned a grade of C, the second grade will not be used.

AT A GLANCE: THE MOST COMMON PATHS TO UC

Statewide Eligibility (Freshman)*

- High school diploma (CHSPE/GED accepted)
- GPA ≥ 3.0 (Nonresident: 3.4)
- 15 UC-approved courses:
 - History/Social Science – 2 years
 - English – 4 years
 - Mathematics – 3 years
 - Laboratory Science – 2 years
 - Language Other Than English – 2 years
 - Visual and Performing Arts – 1 year
 - Elective – 1 year
- SAT with Essay or ACT plus Writing. Students may submit SAT Subject Tests, but not required

Local Eligibility (Freshman)**

- GPA ≥ 3.0
- Must be designated in top 9% of participating high school
- 11 UC-approved courses by end of junior year:
 - History/Social Science – 1 year
 - English – 3 years
 - Mathematics – 2 years
 - Laboratory Science – 1 year
 - Language other than English – 1 year
 - Other “a-g” courses from among the remaining 7 required for eligibility in the statewide context

Community College Junior Level Transfer

- GPA ≥ 2.4 (Nonresident: 2.8)
- 60 semester (90 quarter) transferable units, including:
 - English composition – 2 courses
 - Mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning – 1 course
 - 4 courses from at least 2 of these subject areas: Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Physical and Biological Sciences
- No examination requirement

To see your school's UC-certified course list, visit <http://www.ucop.edu/agguide/>

***Freshmen applicants** are in high school or have graduated from high school but have not enrolled in a regular session at any college. (If you attend a college summer session immediately after graduating from high school, you are still a freshman applicant.)

**ELC students must complete all Subject and Examination Requirements by their senior year to be considered fully eligible.

The Examination Requirement should be completed no later than December of your senior year.

For recommended SAT subject tests by major/campus, click here:

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/>

Scholarship Requirement

California applicants must earn at least a 3.0 GPA (3.4 for nonresidents) in their "a-g" courses to meet the Scholarship Requirement.

Eligibility in the Local Context

This path recognizes students' individual accomplishments in light of the opportunities offered by their particular high schools. If you rank in the top 9% of your California high school's graduating class as determined by UC, and your high school participates in the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) program, you can become eligible through ELC.

To be considered, you must complete 11 "a-g" courses, specified in the chart to the right, by the end of your junior year.

After you enter your coursework and grades in the UC application, your GPA will be compared to the historic top GPA for your school. If you meet or exceed that GPA, you'll be designated ELC and a note will be added to your application.

When will I find out if I'm designated ELC?

After submitting the application, you can return to the My UC application page to see whether or not you've been designated ELC.

Required "A – G" Courses

a History/Social Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED

Two years of history/social science, including one year of world history, cultures and geography; and one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.

b English – 4 YEARS REQUIRED

Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement.

c Mathematics – 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in elementary, intermediate or advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or this entire requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades that your high school accepts as equivalent to its own math courses.

d Laboratory Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED.

Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics. Advanced laboratory science courses that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial new material may be used to fulfill this requirement. The last two years of an approved three-year integrated science program that provides rigorous coverage of at least two of the three foundational subjects may be used to fulfill this requirement.

e Language Other Than English – 2 YEARS REQ, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED.

Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. Courses in languages other than English taken in the seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if your high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.

f Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 YEAR REQUIRED

A single yearlong approved arts course from a single discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art.

g College-Preparatory Electives – 1 YEAR REQUIRED

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in "a-f" above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory-level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the "e" requirement or two years of another language).

Note: At least seven of the 15 yearlong courses must be taken in your last two years of high school. *California high school students:* The courses you take to fulfill the Subject Requirement must be on your school's University-certified course list. To see your school's list, go to <https://doorways.ucop.edu/list>

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CALIFORNIA

<http://www.californiacolleges.edu>

Hundreds of independent (privately supported) colleges and universities around the country offer a wide range of programs and choices.

Variety: Independents come in a variety of shapes and sizes: major research universities, comprehensive universities, small liberal arts colleges, church-affiliated universities, specialized schools and colleges for the arts or technology and even universities for full-time workers.

Cost: Since independents do not receive money from the state, their “sticker price” is higher than public colleges and universities. However, many students (86% in California) receive aid to cover most if not all of their costs. When you consider costs, think about the consequences of spending more than four years in college. Costs for an additional year include not only tuition and fees, but also “lost income” as a result of not being able to start a career. Private colleges and universities encourage students to finish on time.

The Search: First decide what you are looking for and then begin checking the individual campuses. The search begins with you and your needs, values and goals.

Finding Information

- Go online. In addition to the general college search sites, you can try the web site for California’s independent colleges and universities at www.aiccu.edu
- Be sure to check “Yes” for Student Service Search when you take the PSAT
- Visit college campuses
- Take a virtual tour of campuses
- Talk with people, especially students from your high school who now attend colleges you are considering. Ask them what makes it special? How are they paying for it? Will it get them where they want to go and on time?

How to Apply:

Application procedures vary at different colleges; below are some general guidelines:

- Check college websites early in your senior year for specific application procedures and deadlines.
- All colleges require a transcript; most require admissions tests (SAT or ACT), recommendations and essays.
- Some require or recommend personal interviews.

How Do Colleges Make Decisions?

While some independent colleges are in the most competitive category, others are looking for graduates in the top-half of their class or who have a special talent. Independents often take a closer look at candidates by going beyond the numbers (GPA, test scores) and requiring essays, recommendations and personal interviews. Key factors:

Courses: A strong college preparatory program

Grades: A good GPA in challenging courses

Examinations: Be sure to take the right ones

Other Factors: Recommendations, essays, leadership, alumni, athletics, special interests, hobbies or activities, music, art, yearbook, etc.

When Do You Find Out?

Early Decision and Early Action Programs:

Students applying under these programs will be notified of a college's decision earlier than usual, generally by December 15. This process is for applicants who are sure about their choice of college. See Glossary for further explanation of terms.

Regular Notification: Colleges notify a candidate in March or April.

Rolling Admissions: Students are notified soon after a complete application is received.

WHAT IS THE COMMON APPLICATION?

The Common Application is a not-for-profit membership committed to providing reliable services that promote equity access, and integrity in the college application process. It serves students, member institutions, and secondary schools by providing applications – online or in print – that students and school officials may submit to more than 750 colleges.

WHY USE IT?

The Common Application simplifies the college admission process by saving time and eliminating duplication of effort. Once completed online, copies of the Application for Undergraduate Admission and associated secondary school forms may be sent to any of the participating colleges and universities.

IS IT WIDELY USED?

Yes! Last year students submitted approximately 4 million applications via the Common Application online.

MAY ALL COLLEGES PARTICIPATE?

Membership is open to colleges and universities that evaluate students using a holistic selection process. A holistic process includes subjective as well as objective criteria, including at least one academic recommendation form, at least one writing sample, and broader campus diversity considerations.

APPLICATIONS

The Common Application should be submitted online to all schools (please see your high school counselor for specific instructions). Once the application is submitted to a school, it cannot be changed for that college; the student must contact the college directly if they wish to correct an error or provide more information. The online application provides numerous organization tools that allow a student to submit and track other components of their application such as supplements, payments, and school forms.

SUPPLEMENTS

Common Application members may require an additional supplement form from applicants to ask questions not included on the Common Application. These are typically questions that don't have common answers for all institutions, such as "Did your parent attend our college?" Additional essays may also be required by colleges with Common Application supplements.

SCHOOL FORMS

By using the Common Application, counselors and teachers submit one form or letter and all schools have access to this information. Most counselors and teachers prefer online submission of these forms, but students should check the Common Application School Forms section to be sure.

Please see <https://www.commonapp.org/> for more information.

THE COALITION APPLICATION

WHAT IS THE COALITION APPLICATION?

The Coalition Application was founded in 2015 with the goal to improve the college application process for all students, particularly those from historically under-represented groups. The group behind its creation is the “Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success,” and members are united in their mission to support lower-income, under-resources, and/or first generation students, provide responsible financial aid, and bolster students’ success in college and beyond.

WHY USE IT?

The Coalition has developed a free platform of online tools to streamline the experience of organizing and refining your academic skills, discovering your college options, and preparing your college applications. Students have private, unlimited space where they can upload important items such as papers, videos, and photos, as a record of their high school experience; this cloud-based “Locker” becomes the foundation of their application to Coalition schools. The Coalition’s online toolkit, MyCoalition, is designed to engage students in the college application process early and easily.

CAN A STUDENT USE MYCOALITION TO APPLY IF HE/SHE DOESN’T USE THE LOCKER AND OTHER FREE PLANNING TOOLS?

Yes

WHO ARE THEIR MEMBER SCHOOLS?

The Coalition is made up of more than 140 distinguished and diverse public and private colleges and universities across the U.S.

WHICH COLLEGES USE IT EXCLUSIVELY?

Currently, most colleges that accept the Coalition Application are also continuing to use the Common Application or their own institutional application. There are only a few colleges that are using the Coalition application exclusively: University of Florida, University of Washington, and University of Maryland

DO COALITION COLLEGES PREFER ONE APPLICATION OVER ANOTHER?

No, Coalition member schools do not have a preference for how students submit applications.

DO STUDENTS HAVE TO PAY APPLICATION FEES WHEN THEY APPLY TO COALITION SCHOOLS?

Regardless of which application a student chooses to use, he or she must follow the established admission fee policy of each individual school. Most schools require application fees, although many accept a variety of fee waivers. The Coalition offers its own, easy-to-use application fee waiver to eligible lower-income students. It doesn’t require any documentation or verification from applicants, and it enables eligible students to bypass the payment screen each time they submit a Coalition application to a waiver-participating member school. Application fee waivers are also offered to veterans and active members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

GLOSSARY

ACT: This college entrance test contains multiple-choice tests in four areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. There is also an optional Writing Test that students are strongly advised to take. All colleges accept the ACT equally with the SAT. Maximum score is 36.

AP: Advanced Placement courses and tests offer students an opportunity to gain college credit or to be excused from introductory courses. The AP tests are administered through the CEEB in the spring and rated on a scale of 1 to 5. The college decides whether it will grant credit or advanced placement for AP work done in high school.

Associate Degree: A two-year college degree often completed at a community college

Bachelor's Degree: A four-year degree awarded by a college or university

California Dream Act Application: This application is used to determine the eligibility of AB 540 students for California student financial aid.

Candidate's Reply Date: May 1 is the date by which accepted students must accept or decline admission offers.

CEEB: The College Entrance Examination Board (the College Board) creates and supervises administration of the SAT, Subject Tests, AP exams and CSS Profile.

Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success: The Coalition represents more than 140 American higher education institutions.

Common Application: An online application accepted by over 750 private and public institutions allowing students to use the same application for each of the participating colleges.

Community College: Two-year colleges, usually funded by local and state funds, which provide vocational training programs as well as college transfer programs.

CSS Profile: A financial aid form used by some private and public colleges and scholarship programs. The Profile is available at: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Deferred from college acceptance: An Early Action or Early Decision applicant will receive their final admission decision at the same time as those applying Regular Decision

Early Action: This program allows a student to submit an application in November and receive a decision by mid-December. Generally, the student is not limited to one Early Action application nor required to enroll if accepted. An Early Action candidate who has not been accepted may be considered with the regular-decision applicant pool. Students accepted under Early Action are not required to notify the college of their intention to enroll until May 1.

Early Action – Single Choice

Like **Early Action** above but the student is limited to one Early Action application. Applicants should follow the college's Early Action policy.

Early Decision: This program allows a student to apply to a first-choice college early in the fall of senior year and receive a decision by mid-December. Students should continue to apply to other colleges using the Regular Decision option. However, under Early Decision, the

student agrees to enroll if accepted and to withdraw other applications immediately.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): A special admissions program, which offers counseling, tutoring and educational assistance for low-income and first-generation college students. EOP is available at all public institutions in California upon application.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the basic form that must be filed to apply for federal financial aid. The FAFSA website is: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

GPA: Grade Point Average (see Weighted GPA). Most colleges want you to report your cumulative total weighted GPA.

High School Code: Used by Educational Testing Service to identify each school. See first page of this guide for your school code.

Humanities: Courses concerned with thought and human relations, philosophy, literature, classical languages and the fine arts.

Impacted Program or Major: A program, major or campus that has more applicants than available spaces. Entrance requirements are more competitive.

Liberal Arts: This term usually refers to courses in English, social studies and foreign language. Liberal arts colleges offer a four-year course of study, leading to the B.S. or B.A. degree.

Need Aware/Need Blind Admissions: Most colleges choose one of two approaches to admissions and financial aid: “need blind” or “need aware.” Need aware schools consider finances in their admission decisions. Need blind schools do not consider an applicant’s financial need when making admission decisions.

Rolling Admissions: Colleges using this system notify an applicant of admission status soon after the application is complete.

SAT: The SAT has four tests, with the SAT Essay being optional. The three tests that everyone will take are the Reading Test, the Writing and Language Test, and the Math Test. **The SAT Subject Tests** focus on specific academic subjects and are each one-hour long.

Scholarship: A form of financial assistance that does not require repayment. Based on need or merit, scholarships are usually offered to students who show potential for distinction or who possess certain characteristics specified by the scholarship provider (such as community service, athletics, talent, hobbies, ethnicity, religious beliefs, etc.).

Test Flexible: Schools that use a test-flexible admissions policy allow applicants to submit a variety of standardized test scores in support of their application.

Test Optional: A test-optional admissions policy means some applicants can choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores.

Weighted GPA: Some schools give additional points for honors or Advanced Placement courses when determining the grade point average. For example, an “A” in an honors or AP course is weighted as 5 points rather than 4 and a “B”, 4 points rather than 3 in computing the GPA.

Useful Websites

Naviance

Your school's Naviance website has extensive information in all areas listed below. Naviance allows you to complete interest surveys, search careers, colleges, and scholarships, and build a resume. Log-in at the appropriate site below:

Drake <https://student.naviance.com/drake>
Redwood <https://student.naviance.com/redwood>
San Andreas <https://student.naviance.com/sanandreas>
Tamalpais <https://student.naviance.com/tamalpais>
Tamiscal <https://student.naviance.com/tamiscal>

College Searches on the Web

College Board
<https://www.collegeboard.org/>
College Confidential
www.collegeconfidential.com
National Center for Education Statistics
<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
U.S. News
www.usnews.com/education

College Applications and Information

California Community Colleges
www.cccapply.org
California State Universities
<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
University of California
www.universityofcalifornia.edu
Coalition Application
www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/
The Common Application
www.commonapp.org
California Independent College and Universities
www.aiccu.edu
NCAA
www.eligibilitycenter.org

Learning Differences

ACT Services for Students with Disabilities
<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/accommodations.html>
College Board Services for Students with Disabilities
<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>
ETS Documentation Policies for Testing Accommodation
www.ets.org/disabilities
College options for students with intellectual disabilities
<https://thinkcollege.net/>

Financial Aid & Scholarships

FAFSA
<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
U.S. Dept. of Education
<http://studentaid.ed.gov>
Check Cal Grant status
<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>
California Student Aid Commission
<http://www.csac.ca.gov/>
CSS/Financial Aid Profile
<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid
www.finaid.org
Fast Web Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com
Scholarship Search
www.scholarships4school.com
Western Undergraduate Exchange
www.wiche.edu/wue
Your School's Naviance site for scholarships

Career Information

Occupational Outlook Handbook
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
U.S. Department of Labor
www.careeronestop.org

Testing

ACT
www.actstudent.org
Video Test Prep for ACT & SAT
www.mometrix.com/academy/act-test
SAT
www.collegeboard.org
Khan Academy – Official SAT practice
<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

What Is WUE?

WUE is the Western Undergraduate Exchange, a program coordinated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Through WUE, students in Western states may enroll in participating two-year and four-year public college programs at a reduced tuition level: up to 150 percent of the institution's regular resident tuition. In all cases, WUE tuition is considerably less than nonresident tuition. For answers to many of the commonly asked questions about WUE, visit wiche.edu/askwiche.

Which States and U.S. Territories Participate?

Resident students from the following states and U.S. Territories may participate, if they meet eligibility requirements: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Eligibility

Many institutions require evidence of academic performance, such as ACT/SAT test scores or high school GPA, or place other conditions on WUE enrollment. Consult the WUE website for details.

Programs Available Virtually all undergraduate fields are available to WUE students at one or more of the participating colleges and universities. Some institutions have opened their entire curriculum on a space- available or first-come, first-served basis. Others offer only designated programs at the discounted WUE rate. To learn about the wide array of programs available, consult the searchable WUE database, located at www.wiche.edu/wue. For additional details, follow the links to the enrolling institutions' websites.

Application and Admission

Apply directly to the institution(s) of your choice for admission and WUE tuition status. **Mark prominently on the institution's application form that you seek admission as a WUE student.**

More Information

Information about specific programs offered through WUE can be obtained from the admissions office of participating institutions.

www.wiche.edu/wue