



PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

ACCESS, OPPORTUNITIES &
ADMISSIONS

Presented by:

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SAINT
MARY'S
COLLEGE
of CALIFORNIA

OVERVIEW OF AICCU & PCOC

For private colleges and universities, funding does not come from the state but rather tuition revenue and endowments.

There are 1,845 private, non-for-profit colleges in the United States!

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU)

- Established in 1955
- 85+ independent, nonprofit colleges and universities in California

California Private Colleges (PCoC)

- Established in 2018
- Association of 21 California private colleges and universities

Examples of Northern California private colleges and universities (non-profit):

- Saint Mary's College of California
- University of San Francisco
- Dominican University
- Santa Clara University
- Stanford University
- University of the Pacific



PRIVATE COLLEGE DISTINCTIONS

Each private college has it's own unique mission to serve students!

Size and Campus Location

- Undergraduate enrollment may range from 60 - 20,000 students
- Rural, suburban and city campuses nationwide

Diversity

- California private colleges are very ethnically diverse
 - 74% of AICCU member institutions are Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI)
 - 63% of AICCU undergraduate students are students of color
- 82% are Yellow Ribbon Institutions (Veterans and dependents)
- Larger majority of students come from out of state

Faith

- Some private colleges may be faith-based or religiously affiliated
 - Most religiously-affiliated schools have very inclusive campus environments and celebrate the diversity of faiths represented by their students

PRIVATE COLLEGE DISTINCTIONS

Academics & Outcomes

- Traditional and non-traditional programs are offered
 - Liberal Arts, STEM, Tier-1 research and professional programs
- Most programs at CA private colleges and universities are not impacted
- 11:1 is the average student to faculty ratio across AICCU's
 - Focus on mentorship and collaboration between students and professors
 - More individualized attention, chance for student to create strong connections with faculty and staff
- Graduates of California private colleges and universities have a higher post-graduation employment rate and starting salaries
 - SMC ranked top 11% for ROI (\$63,500 average starting salary)
- Access to undergraduate research and internships
- California's independent colleges have some of the states highest four-year graduation rates

Student Life

- Residential college experience
- Athletics, performing arts, service, clubs and organizations, campus jobs

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS AT PRIVATE COLLEGES

Holistic Admissions Review

- Emphasis on overall 'fit'
- Acceptance rates at private California colleges range from 10% to over 80%
- *No preferential admission for in state or out of state students*

Application Process

- Common Application
- Deadlines (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision)

Transcripts

- Consideration of trends in grades, strength of rigor, school profile, etc.
- 9th – 11th grade coursework (sometimes 7th semester grades)

Test Scores

- Majority of California private colleges have remained test optional for Fall 2023

Essays & Supplemental Responses

Letters of Recommendation

Interviews

- Informational vs. Evaluative



PRIVATE COLLEGES & FINANCIAL AID

There is no difference in cost of tuition for in state vs. out of state students at private California colleges!

- Sticker price vs. actual price
- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Federal, state and institutional aid
- **Institutional aid:** (academic, talent, merit and need based scholarships)
 - California private colleges provide over \$2 billion in institutional aid on average annually
- **State aid (Cal Grant):** Awarded to California students based on financial need. These awards may be used at public or private colleges.
 - \$19,832 is the average institutional grant aid provided to AICCU Cal Grant students. That is money that does not need to be paid back!
- Net Price Calculator
- Private colleges now use nearly half of tuition revenue for student scholarships (*Forbes*)
- Depending on the financial aid package, you may even be able to even attend private schools for the same price (or even less!) than public colleges
 - Average financial aid package for Saint Mary's is \$38,000
 - 91% of our students receive financial aid



THANK YOU!

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