

# College 101

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Fall Family Counseling Night – October 25, 2023

# Agenda

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- College Systems Overview
- Requirements vs. Selection Process
- College Testing
- College Writing
- High School Timeline
- Questions & Answers (if time permits)

# Which College is the BEST?

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# College Systems

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## Public Schools

- Community Colleges
- California State University (CSU)
- University of California (UC)
- Out of State Public Schools

## Private Schools

- For Profit vs. Not For Profit
- Each college is their own entity with unique requirements

# COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

## CSU-23

(California State University)

### YOU NEED...

-A-G COURSES

- MINIMUM 2.5 A-G GPA

"C"/"CR" OR HIGHER IN A-G COURSES

No SAT/ACT Required

- Hands-on learning
- Prepares students for current & future workforce demands
- Impaction:
  - Campus level
  - Program/Major level
- Redirection
- No essays or letters

Application window Oct 1st to Nov 30th

Apply on [CSU Application](#)

## UC-9

(University of California)

### YOU NEED...

-A-G COURSES

-MINIMUM 3.0 A-G GPA

"C"/"CR" OR HIGHER IN A-G COURSES

-No SAT/ACT Required  
PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS (PIQ)

- Research institutions
- Eligibility vs. selection: Apply broadly
- PIQ's are viewed as an interview
- Provide context
- No letters of rec

Application submission open from Oct 1-Nov 30th

Apply on: [UC Application](#)

## PRIVATE/ Out-of-State

### YOU NEED...

-REQUIRED COURSES VARY

-GPA VARIES (USUALLY 3.0+)

-CHECK EACH SCHOOL RE: SAT OR ACT WITH WRITING

-CHECK EACH SCHOOL RE:

- PERSONAL ESSAYS
- LETTER OF RECS

- Research each school for requirements
- Letters of rec usually required
- Supplemental essays
- Extracurriculars, leadership, commitment
- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Application Deadline Varies

Apply on: Check each college website on how to apply

## Community College-116

### YOU NEED...

-DIPLOMA/GED

-NO GPA

(2.0 RECOMMENDED FOR FINANCIAL AID)

- Transfer agreements (TAG, ADT)
- Certificate or Degree
- Every college offers different programs
- Do research and visit! (support and outreach program)
- Have an idea of what you want to do/study
- CA Promise
  - Placement based on HS Transcript

Deadline: Rolling

Must complete Orientation before you Enroll

# Community Colleges

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- 116 Community Colleges in California
- Certificate programs
- Associates degrees (A.A. & A.S.)
- Transfer to a 4-year university
- Campuses all feel very different, a few have dorms
- Many offer honors programs or academic support programs
- Meet with a counselor early to make a plan!

# Community College Requirements

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- 18 years or older
- High School Diploma or GED
- Must complete Financial Aid application to be eligible for California Promise
- California Promise = Free college tuition for two years and other benefits!

# Transfer Route: Community College → UC/CSU



## ADT (CSU)

A Degree with a Guarantee



Eng

Colleges Find a Career Transfer Degrees & Certificates Financial Aid

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER

Are you ready to take your education to the next level? Complete your major preparation and general education requirements at a California community college to get a guaranteed saved spot at



## TAG (UC)

Transfer Admission Guarantee  
6 out of 9 UC's (most majors)

Admission rates (fall 2023 - CA Resident)  
(first-year vs transfer)

- ❖ UCLA
  - 9.5% → 30%
- ❖ UC Berkeley
  - 15.1% → 33.6%
- ❖ UC San Diego
  - 24.5% → 67.9%

### UC Transfer Admission Guarantee

Who participates in the TAG program?

Davis	Irvine
Merced	
Riverside	
Santa Barbara	
Santa Cruz	

Important Note: you can only TAG one campus at a time!

Tsc



# CA Public University Differences

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## California State University

- 23 CSU schools
- “Hands-on/Career Ready” education
- Each campus is unique
- [www.calstate.edu/apply](http://www.calstate.edu/apply)

## University of California

- 9 Schools (undergraduate)
- Research emphasis
- Each campus is unique
- [www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu)

# CA Public University Requirements

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## CSU

- 2.5 GPA (some exceptions based on supplemental factors)
- A-G course sequence
  - “C” or higher
- Impacted campuses/majors will have higher GPAs

## UC

- 3.0 GPA
- A-G course sequence
  - “C” or higher
- Personal Insight Questions

# Public Universities

## California State University

## University of California

### THE 23 OUTSTANDING CAMPUSES OF THE CSU



# Private Universities

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- Over 70 private/independent schools in California, many more across US
- All vary in teaching/educational philosophy
- Visit each school's website for more information
- Wide-range of population sizes (large schools & small schools)
- Faith-based schools (ex. St. Mary's, Azusa Pacific, Biola, Santa Clara)
- Vocational-based schools (FIDM, Culinary Institutions, Univ. of Phoenix)

# Private University Requirements

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- Each school has their own requirements (check each school's website) but often similar to UC requirements
  - GPA
  - Course sequence
  - Testing requirements
  - Other requirements (Letters of Recommendation, Essays, etc.)

# College Testing terms explained

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**Test Optional:** students are not required to have test scores with their application. If they take the test, the student can decide whether to send scores (if they think it will help their application.) Ex. USF, Santa Clara University

**Test Blind:** test scores will not be considered at all in the application review.  
Ex. all UC and CSU schools

**Test Required:** students must take the SAT or ACT and send their scores with their application. Ex. MIT, Georgia Tech, Purdue

# Comprehensive Review

## (UC's and Private Schools)

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- GPA & Test Scores
- # of A-G courses beyond minimum requirements
- Rigor of schedule (Honors and AP classes)
- Quality of students senior year program (at least 5 classes!)
- Quality of academic performance relative to educational opportunities available at the high school
- Academic accomplishments in light of student's life experiences
- Extra-curricular activities, leadership opportunities, talents, awards

# College writing (PIQ & Personal Essays)

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- Community College, no essays required
- CSU, no essays required except for certain selective programs
- UC, Personal Insight Questions

Students choose 4 of 8 to respond to

“Interview on Paper”

- Private/Out of State universities- often require essays and supplemental questions to respond to




# College Reps Say...

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- The essay doesn't make or break an application, it is just one piece
- They want to get to know the student, want to hear their authentic voice
- Purpose of essay:
  - Tell your story
  - Showcase your personality
  - Demonstrate what is important to you
- Avoid:
  - Using words that aren't you, cliches, trying to find the magic formula (there isn't one!)

# Eligibility vs Selection

University of San Francisco 

Virtual Tour

Communicate 

Appl

Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Costs

## Scattergrams | Applications for Fremont High School

Comparing

Unweighted GPA 

with

SAT (1600) 



# Staying Competitive

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- Go beyond the minimum (i.e. years of math, language, science)
- Challenge yourself in subjects you are interested in
- Get involved in your school and/or the larger community
- Pursue what you are interested in
- Use your summers: programs, internships, paid jobs, summer classes, volunteer work, informational interviews
- Senior year schedule - keep the rigor

# High School Timeline

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Focus on Grades
- Get involved!
- College Visits
- Summer Programs

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- PSAT
- Career Exploration
- College Visits
- Summer Programs

# High School Timeline

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- SAT/ACT (if taking)
- Start making a college list
- Attend Rep Visits in the fall
- Visit schools if possible!

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Apply to 4 Year Colleges (Fall)
- Financial Aid (Fall/Winter)
- College Decisions (Spring)
- Apply to Community College (Spring)

# Types of Financial Aid

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- Grants- free money, you don't pay back. Must complete financial aid application.
- Scholarships- free money, you don't pay back. Must complete separate applications.
- Work Study- employment on campus or nearby, flexible with school schedule. Must complete financial aid application.
- Loans- must be repaid, don't have to take all, check the repayment plans/interest rates carefully

# High School Graduation Requirements vs. A-G Requirements

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## High School

- Grades of D or better for credit
- Two years of math (Alg 1 and Geo)
- Can graduate without either a language or fine art

## A-G Requirements

- Grades of C or higher
- At least three years of math (minimum Algebra 2)
- At least level 2 of World Language
- Fine art required

# Being First Generation

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- Consider joining programs like AVID!
- Many colleges offer support programs specifically designed to support First-Gen students
- Attend workshops, check your emails, meet with your counselor to ask any questions
  - It's okay not to know how it all works! We are here to help you.
- Talk about being first in your family to attend college in your application
- Utilize resources available to you!



# FHS Counseling Team

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- Check out our Guidance website (access through the FHS website)
- Grade level presentations (two times per year)
- Parents & Student Family Nights
- Tutorial Workshops
- Encourage your students to come meet with us!