

***Burbank Unified School District***

***A Look At  
College Requirements  
For Middle School Parents  
And Students***

**David Starr Jordan Middle School  
Luther Burbank Middle School  
John Muir Middle School**



## High School Graduation and Minimum 4-Year College Eligibility Requirements

BUSD Graduation Requirements	California State University (CSU) Minimum Eligibility "a-g" Requirements	University of California (UC) Minimum Eligibility "a-g" Requirements
<b>Social Studies</b> World History or European History (10 Credits) U.S. History (10 Credits) Government (5 Credits) Economics (5 Credits)	<b>a. Social Science (2 years)</b> World History US History (may use American Government for ½ year of U.S. History)	<b>a. Social Science (2 years)</b> World History US History (may use American Government for ½ year of U.S. History)
<b>English</b> English 9 (10 Credits) English 10 (10 Credits) English 11 (10 Credits) English 12 (10 Credits)	<b>b. English (4 years)</b> (college prep)	<b>b. English (4 years)</b> (college prep)
<b>Mathematics (20 Credits)</b> Students must pass Algebra I as well as complete 20 credits.	<b>c. Mathematics (3 years)</b>  Algebra I Geometry Algebra II	<b>c. Mathematics (3 years)</b> <i>(4 years recommended)</i> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II
<b>Science (20 Credits)</b>  Physical Science Biology	<b>d. Laboratory Science (2 years)</b>  Physical Science Biological Science	<b>d. Laboratory Science (2 years)</b> <i>(3 years recommended)</i> Requires classes in at least two of the following areas: biology, chemistry, and physics
<b>Practical Art (10 credits)</b> (Requirement waived if three years of same foreign language are completed)	<b>e. Language Other Than English (2 years)</b>	<b>e. Language Other Than English (2 years)</b> <i>(3 years recommended)</i>
<b>Fine Arts (10 Credits)</b>		
<b>Physical Education (20 Credits)</b> (Must pass Fitness Test)	<b>f. Visual and Performing Arts (1 year)</b> One yearlong course in dance, drama/theatre, music, or visual art	<b>f. Visual and Performing Arts (1 year)</b> One yearlong course in dance, drama/theatre, music, or visual art
<b>Health/Careers (10 Credits)</b>		
<b>Electives (70 Credits)</b>	<b>g. College Preparatory Electives (1 year)</b> One additional year in any of the above A-F areas or other approved elective	<b>g. College Preparatory Electives (1 year)</b> One additional year in any of the above A-F areas or other approved elective
<b>Total 230 Credits</b>  <b>10 hours of Service Learning</b>	<b>SAT or ACT</b> must be completed by December of Senior year  <b>Grades of "D" are unacceptable for admission in most subjects</b>	<b>SAT or ACT</b> must be completed by December of Senior year <b>Grades of "D" are unacceptable for admission in most subjects</b> Subject Tests are <b><i>not required</i></b> and students must finish 11 of the 15 a-g requirements by the end of junior year

## High School Graduation Course Requirements

The Burbank Unified School District requires 230 units for high school graduation, with certain classes required for all students, and elective courses to be chosen from student interest and course availability.

Subject	Units	Classes
English	40	English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12
Mathematics	20	Any two, year-long classes for which the student meets the prerequisites. All 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students must enroll in a math class.  <i>All students must pass Algebra I or its equivalent in order to receive a diploma.</i>
Science	20	One year of physical science required (physical science, geo-science, chemistry, or physics).  One year of life science required (biology, life science, anatomy/physiology).
Health/Careers	10	Required of all 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students (1 year)
Social Studies	10	10 <sup>th</sup> grade World History (1 year)
	10	11 <sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History (1 year)
	5	Economics (1 semester) or Economics & the World of Finance (1 semester)
	5	Government – American Government (1 semester)
Physical Education	20	Any two, year-long classes, or four one-semester classes, including athletics. 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take physical education. SB 78, effective July 1, 2007, mandates that students must pass the Physical Fitness Test in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade or 10 <sup>th</sup> grade P.E. in order to receive an exemption for 11 <sup>th</sup> grade and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade P.E. If this mandate is not met in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade or 10 <sup>th</sup> grade P.E., the student must take a P.E. class in the 11 <sup>th</sup> grade and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade and take the Physical Fitness Test until the student has passed this test. (E.C. 51241)
Fine Arts	10	Any year-long class
Practical Arts/CTE	10	Any year-long or two one-semester classes, including any ROP class
Electives	70	Any classes, with the exception of those designated as required for graduation credits.
<i>Total Units</i>	<i>230</i>	
		In addition to <i>credit requirements</i> : Service Learning – 10 hours Passing Score on the California High School Exit Examination

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Success in high school is still the best predictor for success in college. Students may ensure their success by obtaining a solid educational background. It is recommended that students inquire about Honors and Advanced Placement sections in the courses they plan to take and that they include as many courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language as possible. Students should be aware of and take the courses listed on page 9 in considering attendance at a four-year college. Taking the PSAT, SAT, and ACT and attending college information meetings during the junior year is strongly encouraged.

When thinking about college, students should consider all their options. There are many independent colleges and career technical schools, as well as the extensive offerings in California's higher education system. The State of California maintains three different college systems. Each of these has its own entrance requirements. For private or out-of-state colleges, students should consult the catalog section in the Career Center at their school. In the spring of the junior year, students should consult counselors regarding admissions procedures.

### Independent Colleges

There are hundreds of independent colleges and universities around the country with a wide range of characteristics that make them attractive to students. Since the tuition is paid by the student rather than by public tax dollars, the cost to the family may be greater than the cost in a public university. Financial aid is often available based upon need.

While some independent colleges are in the most competitive category for admission, others are looking for students in the top half of their graduating classes. In addition to the typical admission requirements of subjects, grades, and test scores, the independent colleges often take a closer look at individual students by requiring letters of recommendation and, sometimes, personal interviews. Most college prep students will meet the admission criteria of one or more campuses.

There are great differences in size, educational purpose, and emphasis among these institutions. Some are small and offer students a personalized campus. Some campuses may have a particular vocation or religious emphasis. There are 70 private colleges with over 125 possible majors available in California. Specific information about the requirements and educational opportunities available at any independent college in the United States may be obtained through the high school Career Center or directly from the institution.

### Career Technical Schools

Students whose interests and talents center around school workshops, labs, and work experience may benefit most by short-term, highly specialized training. Such training is available through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, community colleges, proprietary schools, and hospital schools. Students should talk with their counselors and teachers in their area of interest to investigate programs available to them.

## California Community Colleges

There are 105 community colleges in California, where students can complete the freshman and sophomore years of a university education. Community colleges also offer programs varying in length from one semester to two years, which prepare students for occupations and positions that do not require a university degree.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Open to all high school graduates or those who pass the California High School Proficiency Examination.
- Open to any adult of at least age 18 who can benefit from the instruction.

### PROGRAMS

There are three main programs, offered by California Community Colleges:

1. **The Transfer Program** is intended for students who want to complete the first two years of college before transferring to a four-year college. While in high school, these students should select and meet entrance requirements for a four-year college before entering the community college. More California State University students complete their first two years at a community college than complete those years at the university.
2. **The Certificate Program** is intended for students who wish specific training in a career field. Since not all courses are offered at any single college, students should contact the community college of their choice to see if their desired career program is offered. A student completing the career course requirements will be granted a Certificate of Achievement.

#### *California Community College Career Programs*

Agriculture	Environmental and Natural	Mid-Management and
Business and Financial	Sciences	Supervision
Communications	Human Services	Science and Laboratory
Criminal Justice	Home Economics and Food	Occupations
Electrical-Electronics	Services	Service Occupations
Engineering Technology		Trade and Industry

3. **The Associate of Arts Degree Program** is intended for students who want to end their higher education after the first two years of college. When students start classes at a community college, they should familiarize themselves with requirements so the classes they take will lead to the AA Degree. These courses will require a college prep background in high school.

## California State University (CSU) System

There are twenty-three (23) campuses in the California State University system spanning the state of California, with an enrollment exceeding 325,000 students and offering more than 1,600 degree programs. The CSU campuses are: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Cal Poly Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, and Stanislaus. The State University System has entrance requirements designed to admit thirty-three percent (33%) of California high school graduates. Eligibility for entrance depends upon the GPA combined with a score on either the SAT or the ACT admission tests. The rule of thumb is that the higher the GPA, the lower the test score required, and conversely, the lower the GPA, the higher the test score required. October 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup> of the senior year is the initial application-filing period for the following fall.

The University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) have agreed to adopt the same pattern of academic courses required for freshman eligibility, enabling high school students to take the same courses to prepare for admission to both institutions. CSU trustees voted to reduce by two the number of elective courses they now require, and to replace them with an additional year of laboratory science and an additional year of history/social science. The minimum requirements for both systems are: four years of English, three years of mathematics, two years of history/social science, two years of laboratory science, two years of language other than English, one year of visual or performing arts and one year of electives. A grade of “C” or higher is required in each course.

For courses meeting the CSU requirements, refer to the list on page 6-7.

**Examination Requirement:** All students must submit scores from either SAT, SAT Subject tests or ACT.

**Grade Requirement:** Overall GPA for grades 10-12 (excluding PE) is combined with SAT or ACT scores to determine admission qualifications. All courses taken to meet the requirements must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher. Details on calculating GPA, including the use of Honors or Advanced Placement course grades, are available from counselors. Incoming freshmen must have an eligibility index which places them among the upper one-third of California high school graduates.

## University of California (UC)

There are ten campuses in the UC system: Berkeley, Davis, Merced, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Irvine, Riverside, and San Diego. To be eligible for admission, students must satisfy all requirements listed below. The UC System admits only the top one eighth, or twelve and a half percent (12.5%), of all high school graduates. November 1-30 of the senior year is the initial application filing period for the following fall.

### **Grade Requirement:**

All courses taken to meet the entrance requirements must be completed with a minimum grade of “C” or higher. Details on calculating grade point averages, including the use of Honors or Advanced Placement course grades are available from counselors. A combination of GPA and SAT or ACT test scores is the primary basis for admission to the University of California system; however, the personal statement and extracurricular activities are also important components of the application.

### **Minimum Course Requirements:**

All courses intended to meet UC requirements must be designated college preparatory. (See pages 6-7 for a list of these courses, by department.)

Two years History/Social Science

Four years English

Three years college prep Math required, with four years recommended

Two years Lab Science\* required, three or more years recommended

Two years Foreign Language, three or four years recommended

One year of Visual or Performing Arts

One year of university-approved electives selected from at least two areas:

4<sup>th</sup> year Advanced Math; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> year Foreign Language, additional year(s) of Lab Science, Social Science, Visual/Performing Arts (limited)

\* One year of lab science may be completed in ninth grade. Biology and Chemistry or Physics required.

### **Selectivity:**

Because several UC campuses have more applicants than they can accommodate, they emphasize the breadth (range of course work taken) and depth (number of years taken, Honors and AP courses) when making admission decisions.

### **Examination Requirement:**

All students must submit scores from either SAT or ACT. In addition, all students are strongly recommended to submit scores from SAT subject tests and are urged to check with the college or university to which s/he is applying.

Testing must be completed by December of the senior year for all applications.

### **College Preparatory Subjects** (courses satisfy the UC “a-g” and CSU subject requirements):

#### **a. *History--2 years***

Government, Transitional Government, AP Government, Honors Government, Mock Trial  
AP European History, United States History, SDAIE U.S. History, AP U.S. History, World  
History, SDAIE World History, AP World History

#### **b. *English--4 years***

English 9-12, Transitional English 9-12, Honors English 9-10  
Honors English 11, AP English Literature  
Advanced ELD 3,4 (maximum 1 unit with other ESL-type English courses)

College Prep English

- c. **Mathematics--3 years, 4 years recommended** (\*may only be used for the “c” requirement)  
\*Algebra, \*Geometry, \*Algebra 2, \*Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus,  
\*SDAIE Algebra, \*SDAIE Geometry, \*SDAIE Algebra 2,  
AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics
- d. **Laboratory Science--2 years required, 3 recommended**  
Anatomy and Physiology  
Biology, SDAIE Biology, AP Biology, Honors Biology, Chemistry, Geo-Science, Honors Chemistry, SDAIE Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics, Micro/Marine Biology
- e. **Foreign Language--2 years required, 3 recommended**  
French 1-3, AP French 4  
Spanish 1-3, AP Spanish Language 4, AP Spanish Literature 5  
Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1-2  
American Sign Language 1-3
- f. **Visual/Performing Arts—1 year required**  
Advanced Art, Advanced Art/Portfolio, Advanced Photography, AP Studio Art, Art History, Music Appreciation, Band, Jazz Ensemble, Field Performance, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Choir, Madrigal Choir, Mixed Choir, Musical Production, Musical Theater, AP Music Theory, Photography 1, Photography 2, Animation, Art Structure 1, Art Structure 2, Sculpture 1, Dance 1, Digital Art and Video Production, Drama 1, Dance Production.  
Play Production (For updated list of UC approved courses, see your counselor or [www.ucop.edu/doorways](http://www.ucop.edu/doorways))
- g. **Elective Courses** (all courses listed under a-e with the exception of \*math courses plus the following):  
History -- all courses listed under “a”  
English -- Journalism, Speech, Debate  
Advanced Mathematics -- AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science AB, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Science  
Laboratory Science--all courses listed under “d”  
Foreign Language--all courses listed under “e” (with the exception of first year language)  
Social Science--Economics, SDAIE Economics, Honors Economics, AP Economics,  
Psychology, Sociology  
Sports Medicine (ROP)

Note: Only underlined courses will be assigned extra honors credit: A=5, B=4, C=3  
For complete listing of UC approved courses, see [www.ucop.edu/doorways](http://www.ucop.edu/doorways)

# What to Consider When Choosing a College:

## Geography: Type of location

In addition to the importance of academics playing a role in determining the right school for you, where a campus is located might also be important. Where do you want to study? Is year-round sunshine a must for your mental health, or does the call of the winter ski season require a more diverse climate? Perhaps you hope to compose essays in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, or maybe you prefer the comforts of home. College is both an education and a journey, so consider what **type of location** you hope to experience when exploring college information.

## Setting

You should also consider the ambience of your surroundings when choosing a college. If you can't live without nightlife, think city! If you're into the great outdoors, you might want to go rural. There are colleges in every environment you can imagine, from tiny towns in Minnesota to the middle of Manhattan.

If you've always lived in the suburbs, an urban campus can be an adventure. But after a few weeks, will you yearn for grassy fields and open space? On the other hand, if you're used to malls and movie theaters and choose a college in a rural area, will you be racing into the student center at midnight, desperately seeking noise, lights, and people? When examining the options in a college guide, think about where you grew up and how much of a change you want.

## Campus Size

Don't forget to consider the sizes of the schools in your college search. Colleges come in all sizes, from a school in California that enrolls only 26 students to a university like Penn State that can enroll 30,000 or more. Which one is better? That depends on you.

- Did you go to a small high school or a large one?
- Did you grow up in a city or a rural area?
- Do you like being places where everybody knows you, or do you like the anonymity of a crowd?

Large schools typically have large campuses, as well as a healthy selection of student services and things to do; a small college may offer individualized attention, as well as a more intimate and personalized experience. You might even want to think about how far you want to walk to get from one class to another. Even those little details of college info may affect your decision.

## Type

The different types of schools on your list can often be overlooked when you're considering college criteria, but you should keep in mind that all colleges and universities are not the same.

- What do they devote time and resources to: research or teaching and learning?
- Do they have a specialty in one specific area or are they known for providing a broad education?
- Are they single sex or coed?
- Do they have a religious affiliation?
- Are they public or private?

There are also historically Black colleges, Hispanic-serving institutions, schools with co-op programs, and many with large evening and part-time programs. A college guide typically provides important facts about each school's type and characteristics. Your options are almost limitless and your personal learning style, preferences, and available resources will help you find the place where you'll best succeed.

## Cost, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

The cost of college is one thing that most parents think about during the college search process. Not all colleges and universities have the same price tag and there are a variety of ways to cut your costs. Most schools offer financial aid, scholarships, and work-study programs, aside from student loans.

Consider your special talents outside of the classroom. You may qualify for a full ride if you can carry a tune or a football (or both), while making the grade. Even if you don't get a full ride, every little bit helps.

Public universities often offer much lower tuition rates to in-state students, but their fees to out-of-state residents are usually similar to private schools. Private institutions charge everyone the same tuition, but they often have privately-funded scholarships, so it's worth applying even if the price tag seems too high.

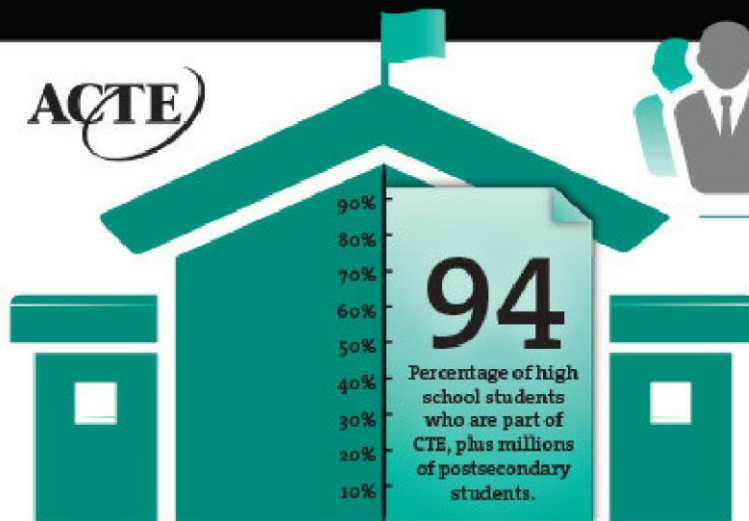
A school's tuition isn't necessarily the exact amount you'll pay, because it doesn't reflect financial aid or extra expenses like housing and books. But it's still wise to check out tuition figures when considering college information, as it may expand or diminish your options, depending on your financial situation.

# What is Career and Technical Education?

ACTE



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Integrates with academics in a rigorous and relevant curriculum.



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Connecting Education and Careers

Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers.

## CTE Works for High School Students

*High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, perform better and graduate at higher rates.*

- 81% of dropouts say relevant, real-world learning opportunities would have kept them in high school.
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93%
- More than 75% of secondary CTE concentrators pursued postsecondary education shortly after high school

# College and Career Exploration

## California's Public Colleges and Universities

University of California (UC): [www.ucop.edu/pathways](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways)

California State University (CSU): [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

Campus Locations: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges>

Community Colleges (CC): [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)

[www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org)

*Career Exploration, Career Personality,  
Monetary Context*

<http://whodouwant2b.com/student/pathways>

*Career Exploration*

[www.calcareercenter.org](http://www.calcareercenter.org)

*Career Exploration*

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<http://www.bridges.com>

*College/career planning tool for BUSD  
students through 12<sup>th</sup> gr.*

(Create a portfolio, use Site ID: 0105688 Password: dastarr; use your School ID# to  
create your portfolio)

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[www.youvisit.com/education](http://www.youvisit.com/education)

*Virtual college tours*

<https://myscholly.com/#scholly>

*App to scholarships*

[www.mechastatewide.org/scholarship.aspx](http://www.mechastatewide.org/scholarship.aspx)

*Movmiento Estudiantil  
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