

# **Welcome to the RCS College Night**

**Mr. Dale Huemoeller - College Counselor**



# Tonight's Agenda:

**Career Options**

**Naviance - College Search Tool**

**College Applications**

**College Essays**

**Paying for College**



# Is your child ready for college?

**Can your child cook a meal?**

**Does your child do their own laundry?**

**Who gets your child up for school each morning?**

**How are their money management skills?**

**How does your child handle difficult times/emergency situations?**

**College success is much more than a grade point average.**



# Post- High School Graduation :

1. **Enter the workforce - obtain certification, licensing or training through a career program**
2. **Two year program at a community college earning an AA for transfer**
3. **Two year guaranteed transfer-placement program to the CSU or UC system via the community college transfer program - specialized program different from the AA path.**
4. **Four year college / university with entrance as a freshman**
5. **Military service or Military ROTC programs**

# Naviance - College Search Tool

**Web-based platform that provides students with services such as:**

- **Career exploration**
- **College research**
- **College comparisons**
- **Scholarship opportunities**

# Applying to Colleges



## Application “hubs” -

**University of California system** - Opens August 1 - submissions accepted October 1 - November 30, 2024 <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu>

**California State University system** - Opens Oct. 1st for Fall of 2025  
<https://www.calstate.edu/apply>

Many private colleges and universities use the **Common Application** - there are different deadlines for different colleges and opportunity for early action and early decision from some colleges. <https://www.commonapp.org>

Many other institutions provide application directly through their websites.

**When in doubt, CHECK THE COLLEGE WEBSITE**

# College Essays



No essays for the **CSU application**

**UC system** - 8 essay prompts , students choose 4 of the 8 choices and write 350 word answers. Prompts are available on the application website. The prompts are somewhat general, requiring a personal response. This is where a student would “brag” about internships , community service, and volunteer work.

**Common Application :** 7 prompts, choose 1 to write a 250-650 word response. **PLUS,** any additional essays required by the chosen colleges / universities. Remember different colleges have different due dates in the Common Application . It is up to the applicant to stay on top of the due dates.

# How do I pay for College???



## Scholarships

1. Merit only - grades or specific skills
2. Need only - based on student / parent financial information , Dream Program for first family member college attendance
3. Need and Merit - most common - financial need + proven academics

## Typical Sources:

1. The College or University financial package being offered ; private institutions tend to offer more scholarship monies
2. Cal Grants for California institutions
3. The Military - for ROTC programs
4. Outside Organizations - usually have specific requirements: STEM majors, gender, ethnic or racial specifications - Gates Scholarship; Scholarship.com; GoingMerry.com, etc...

**For 90% of scholarship applications, the FAFSA is a required document**





# FAQ's



- 1. Where do we find the applications?** Go to the website for the college you want to attend. Follow the directions for “Apply Now”
- 2. How do we get copies of transcripts?** Through the student’s Parchment Account - transcripts will be sent to the email the student provides. Digital transcripts are considered official **only if** they come via Parchment to the institution, not via the student’s email. Students are applying with their junior year transcripts.
- 3. What is the difference between the AA degree and the guaranteed transfer program at a community college?** An AA degree is transferable to most colleges; however there may be classes missing in the AA degree program needed for a specific major; the transfer program is specific to CSU or UC - transfer requirements and will meet all required courses necessary for transfer.
- 4. Does a student need letters of recommendation?** Most institutions represented by The Common Application require a college counselor letter and 1 or 2 teacher recommendations. Some Christian colleges require pastoral letters of recommendations. No letters of recommendation for CSU or UC.

## FAQ's Round Two



- 1. Should my child take the SAT?** While most colleges say they are “test-optional”, there has been a movement among higher educational institutions to return to normative testing. We will offer the SAT here on campus in October; I would recommend taking the test if the student has completed or is enrolled in Algebra II Trig.
- 2. Who is available to help my student with their essays?** The students English teacher will be more than happy to help with essays.

## Contact information :

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