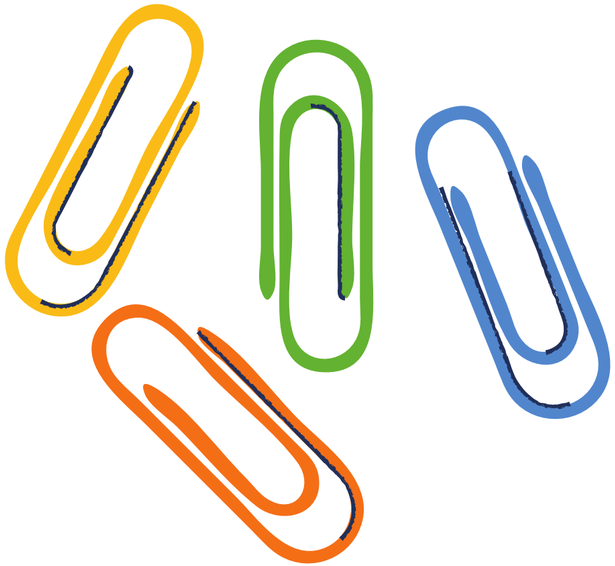
Pioneer High School
Class of 2026

Post High School Planning

Agenda

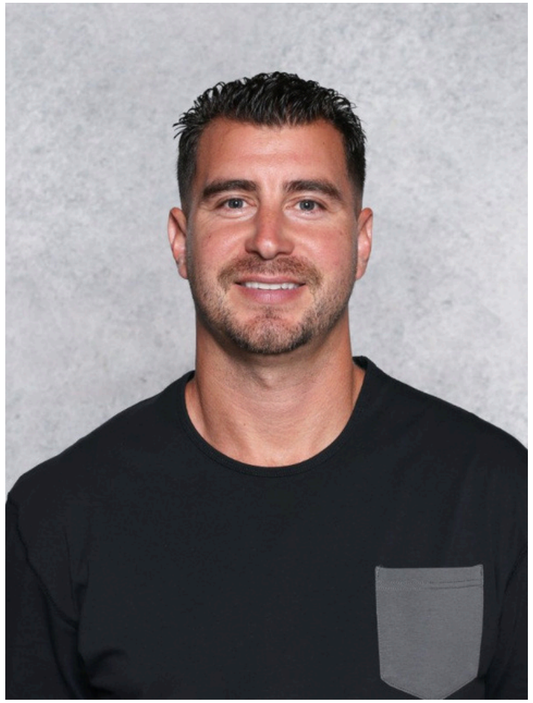
1. **SJUSD graduation and A-G**
2. **College applications/requirements**
3. **Launching CCC/CSU/UC applications through California Colleges website**
4. **LOR Process/Deadlines**
5. **Setting up Common Application**
6. **Financial aid**



Pioneer Counselors



Mrs. Pataky-Hannon
A-E



Mr. Luna
F-La



Mrs. Esquivel
Le-Q



Mrs. Pearson
R-Z

Counseling Services

- Academic Counseling/Advising
- College Application Workshops
- College Eligibility (CCC, CSU, UC & Private)
- Financial Aid & Scholarship Opportunities
- SAT/ACT Testing Information
- College Majors & Career Exploration
- Information on Taking Classes at the Community College

UC Berkeley DCAC College Advisers





Angel Gaytan

he/him/él

angelgaytan@berkeley.edu

(510)502-9085

@dcac_phs

Sofia Anaya

she/her/ella

sofia.anaya@berkeley.edu

(510)541-6884

@dcac_phs

Destination College Advising Corps

University of California, Berkeley

UC Berkeley DCAC College Advising

A college access program funded through UC Berkeley to help students pursue higher education.

9-12th Grade FREE Services Provided

- 1:1 College Advising/Exploration
- College Application Information/Assistance
- Guidance on Financial Aid & Scholarship Applications
- Focused College Workshops

English Cohort Application

SCAN ME

Spanish Cohort Application

SCAN ME

DCAC Destination College Advising Corps

University of California, Berkeley

A-G Course Requirements

Area	Subjects	Units
A	History/Social Science	2 years
B	English	4 years
C	Mathematics	3 years, 4 recommended
D	Lab Science	2 years, 3 recommended
E	Language other than English	2 years, 3 recommended
F	Visual and Performing Arts	1 year
G	Elective	1 year
		Total: 15 A-G Course Minimum

Access Your Transcript on IC

Look for the following:

-Course Work/GPA

-Remaining Credit

- Gov/Econ
- English

-Community Service Hours (30 hours)

-Certificate

- Algebra 1 or 2

Requirements/Awards

-SJUSD: Community Service Hours
Required: 30 Earned: 51.5 Date: 06/04/2024

-ALGEBRA CERTIF - Result: Passed

Credit Summary

Path I-A	Credits Required	Credits Earned	Credits Remaining
Applied Arts	10.00	10.00	.00
Economics	5.00	.00	5.00
English	40.00	30.00	10.00
Foreign Lang	20.00	20.00	.00
Mathematics	30.00	30.00	.00
Physical Ed	20.00	20.00	.00
Science	30.00	30.00	.00
U.S. Government	5.00	.00	5.00
U.S. History	10.00	20.00	.00
Visual/Perform Arts	10.00	20.00	.00
World History	10.00	10.00	.00
Elective	30.00	10.00	.00
Total	220.00	200.00	20.00

Access Your Transcript on IC

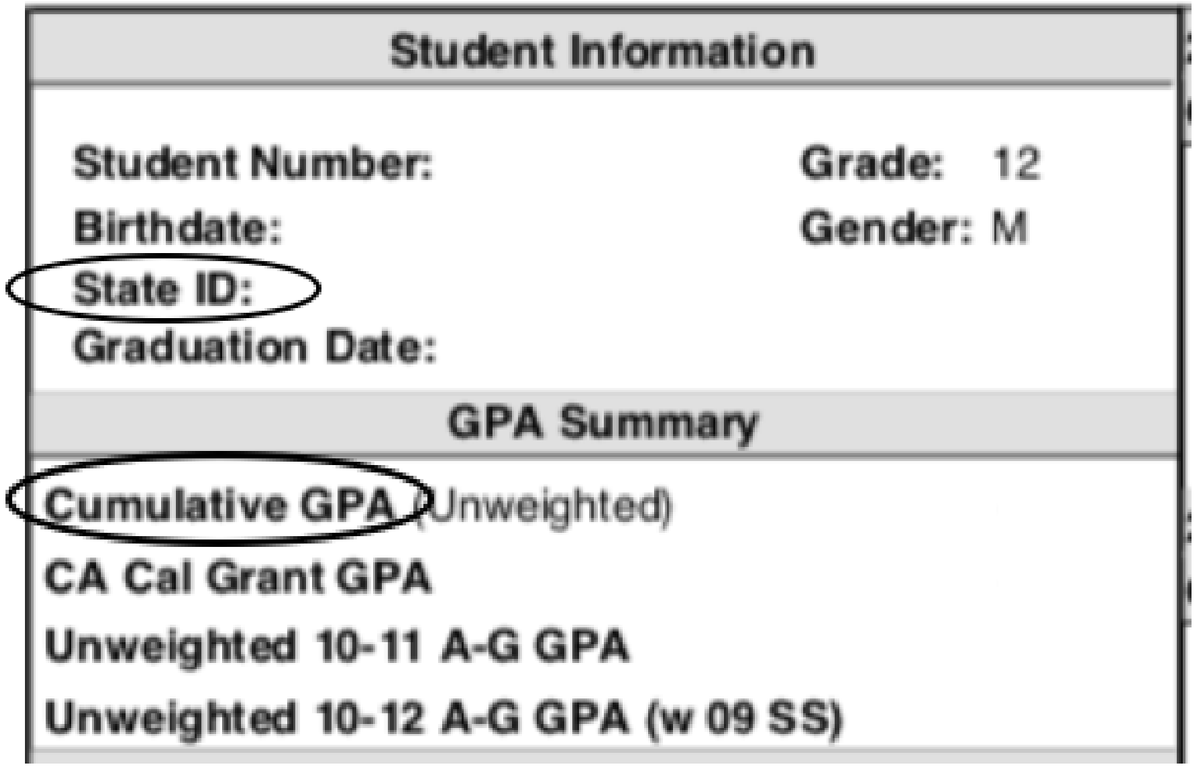
Important Information:

-STATE ID or SSID

- Asked for on college apps

-Cumulative GPA (Unweighted)

- Used on Common Application

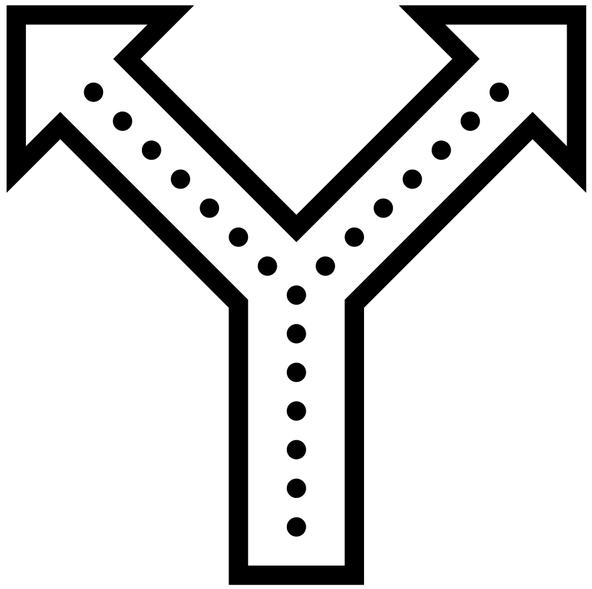


What do you plan to do after high school?



College Options

Association of Independent CA Colleges & Universities



Community College

UC

CSU

Non College Options

Apprentice Programs

Military

Career Tech Education

Career Technical Education (CTE)



- Different programs throughout California
- You can earn a License, Certificate or both
    - Work Experience
    - Hands on
    - Marketable skills
- Community Colleges offer CTE programs
- Application Deadline varies by program
- You will need to do research, plan ahead & meet with counselor for assistance.

Trade Schools

Trade schools are postsecondary institutions focused on preparing students for a specific occupation or trade.

- **Education Connection:** https://www.educationconnection.com/online-trade-schools/

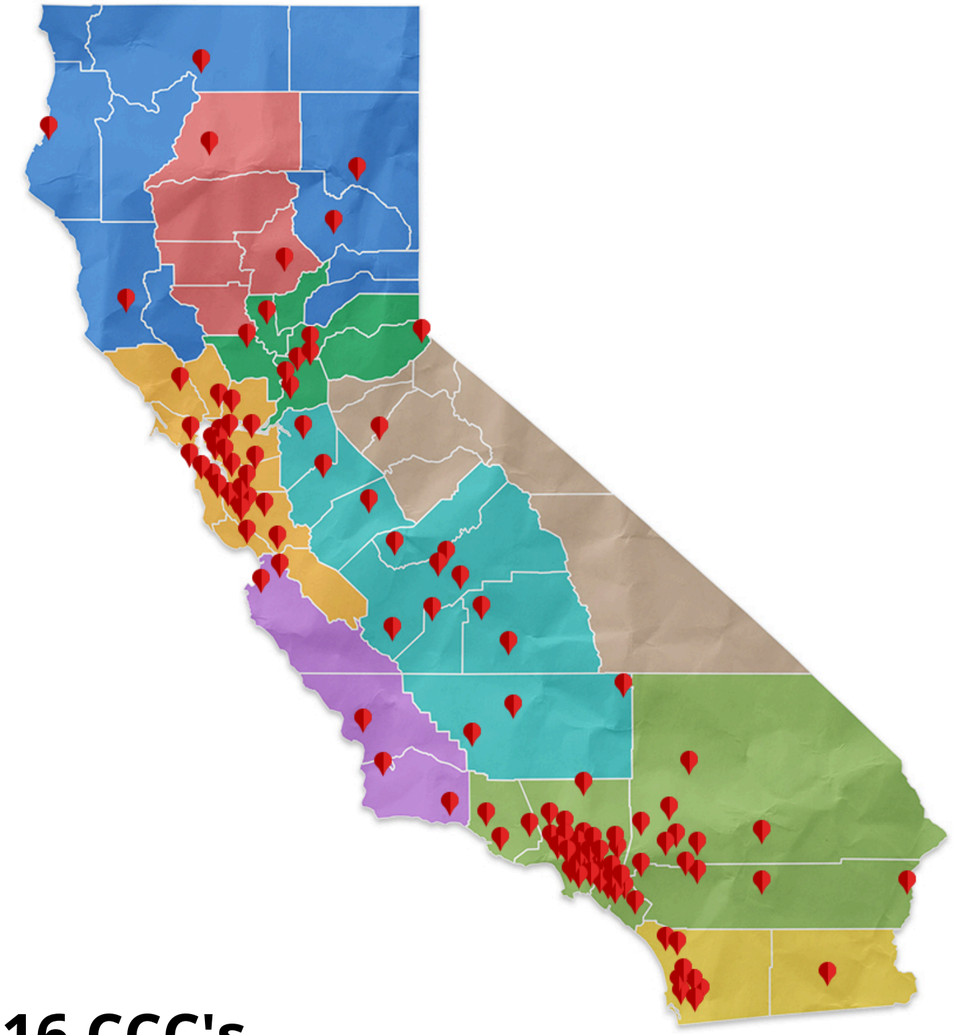
Examples: SVCTE, California Community Colleges & Center for Employment Training







California Community Colleges (CCC)



116 CCC's

Be 18 or completed HS diploma

Apply in the Spring of senior year

No GPA requirement

Follow 5 step enrollment process

California State University (CSU)



23 CSU's

A-G Courses C or higher

GPA 2.5 & above (10^{th}/11^{th})

SAT or ACT not required

Supplemental Factor Formula

CSU Application Day
November 6th

CSU Impaction for Freshmen

Campuses will use a combination of students' "a-g" GPA and supplemental factors to determine admission eligibility.

Examples:

- # of courses exceeding a-g requirements
- GPA in math or science courses (STEM majors)
- Household income, etc.

Example, SJSU:

Impaction Consideration Factor	Impaction Point Calculation Value
A-G Grade Point Average (GPA)	800 points x A-G Coursework GPA
Local Admission Area	200 points
Eligible for Cal State Apply application fee waiver	40 points
Military Status (Active Duty, Veteran, National Guard or Reserves)	40 points
First Generation (Applicant is first generation of their family to earn a four-year college degree)	40 points

SJSU Majors	Admit to Program Impaction Point Index
Chemistry, B.S.^	2000
Chicana and Chicano Studies	2000
Child & Adolescent Dev. - Prep for Teaching, MS	2000
Child & Adolescent Development	2000
Chinese	2000
Civil Engineering*^	4200
Communication Studies	2000
Communicative Disorders & Sciences	2000
Computer Engineering*^	4920
Computer Science^	3440
Computer Science & Linguistics^	2000
Creative Arts	2000
Dance	2000
Data Science^	2000

***College of Engineering** - Applicants were ranked on a modified impaction index that included additional consideration of a student's math GPA.

University of California (UC)



9 UC's

- A-G Courses C or higher
- GPA 3.0 & above (10^{th}/11^{th})
- SAT or ACT not required
- Personal Insight Questions

UC Personal Insight Questions

Applicants will choose 4 out of 8 questions to answer

- Each response is limited to 350 words
- All questions have equal value in the admissions selection process
- Goal: Provide context for your experience and academic performance

Private/Independent Universities



Countless campuses all over the country to choose from!

Course requirements vary

Deadlines vary

SAT or ACT

Essay Prompts

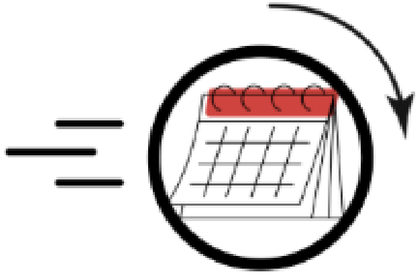
Letters of Recommendation

Private College Application Types

Regular Decision



Rolling Admission



Early Action



Restricted Early Action



Early Decision



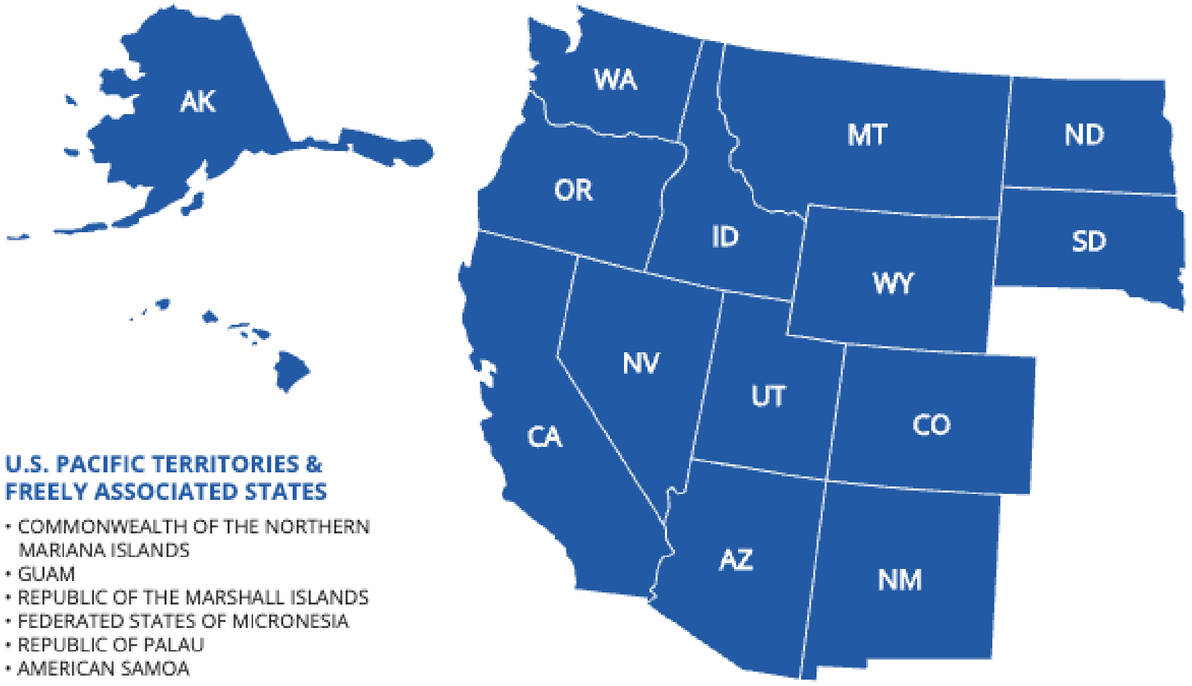
Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

WUE allows students from the WICHE region to pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition for undergrad programs in the West.

- Is my school of choice located in the West?
- Does the school/program participate in the WUE?

  If so, you are eligible to apply!

  *Meet your school's WUE requirements and deadlines and apply directly to the school.



apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement

OneLogin FlexTime App Student Services |...

AP

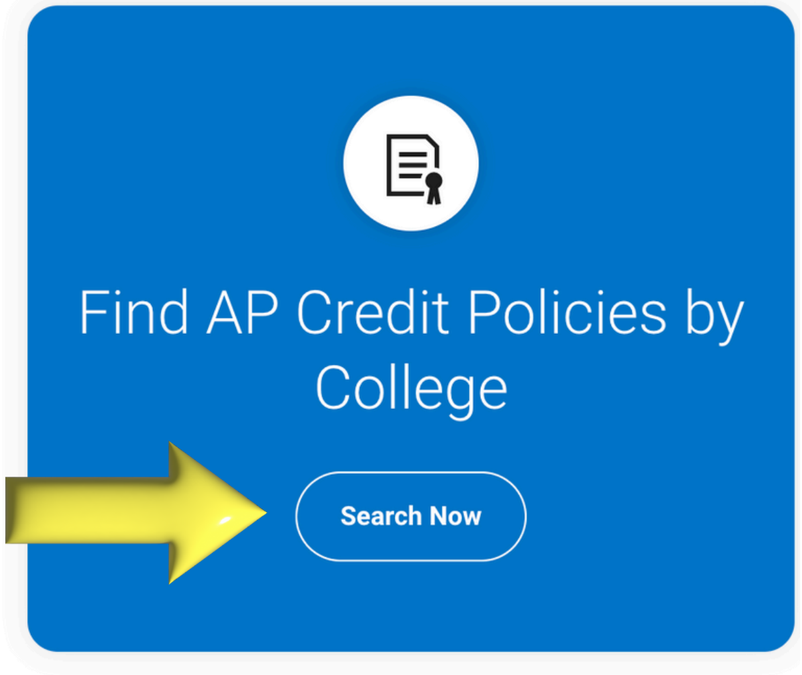
Sign In Search

AP Students

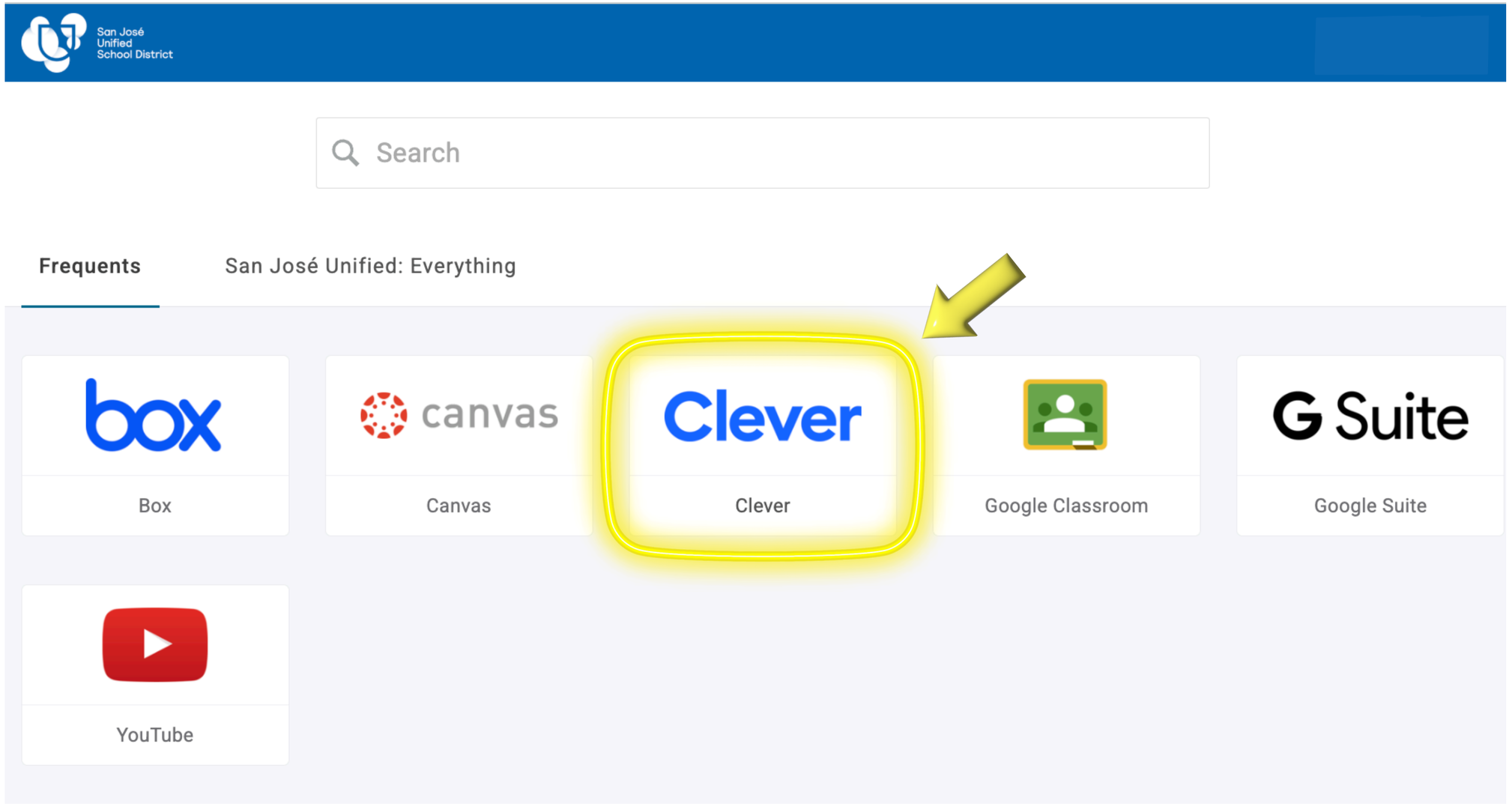
Home Getting Started Courses & Exams Taking Exams Scores Credit & Placement Help Calendar

Getting Credit and Placement

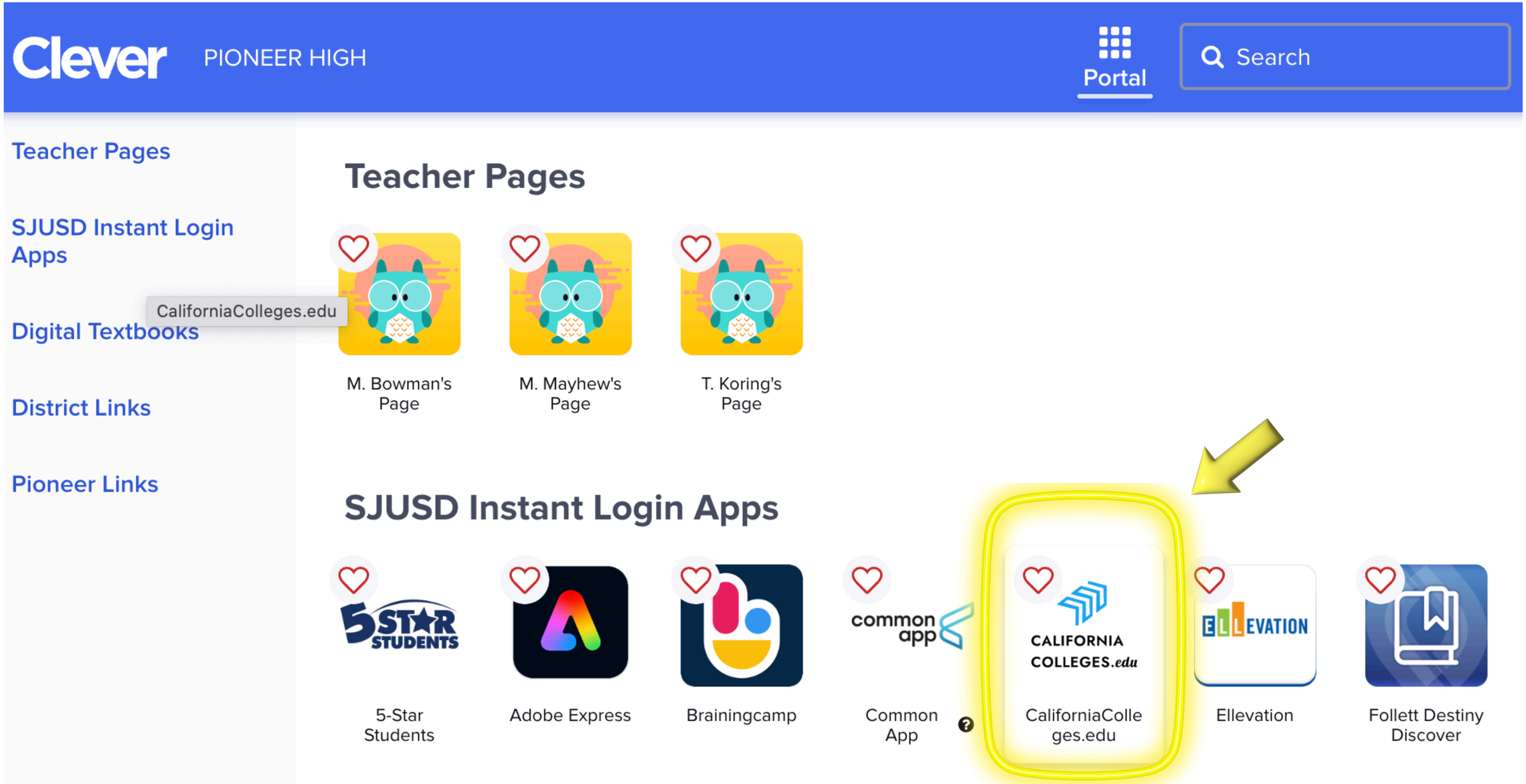
Entering college with credit you've already earned through AP can save you time and money—for example, you might be able to skip introductory courses or even graduate early.



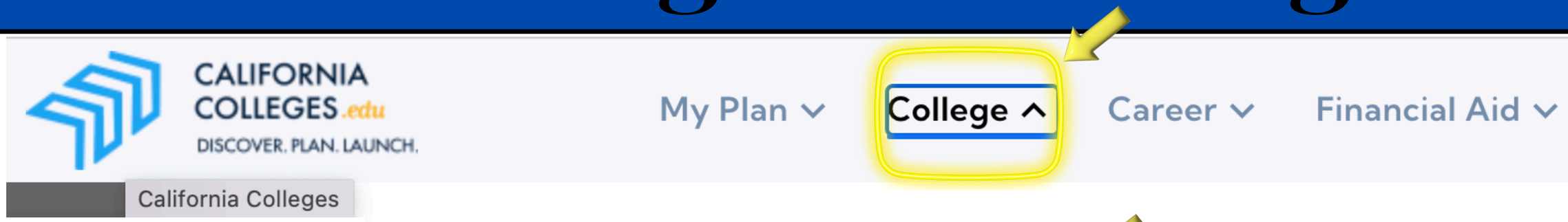
CaliforniaColleges.edu



CaliforniaColleges.edu



Launch through CA Colleges

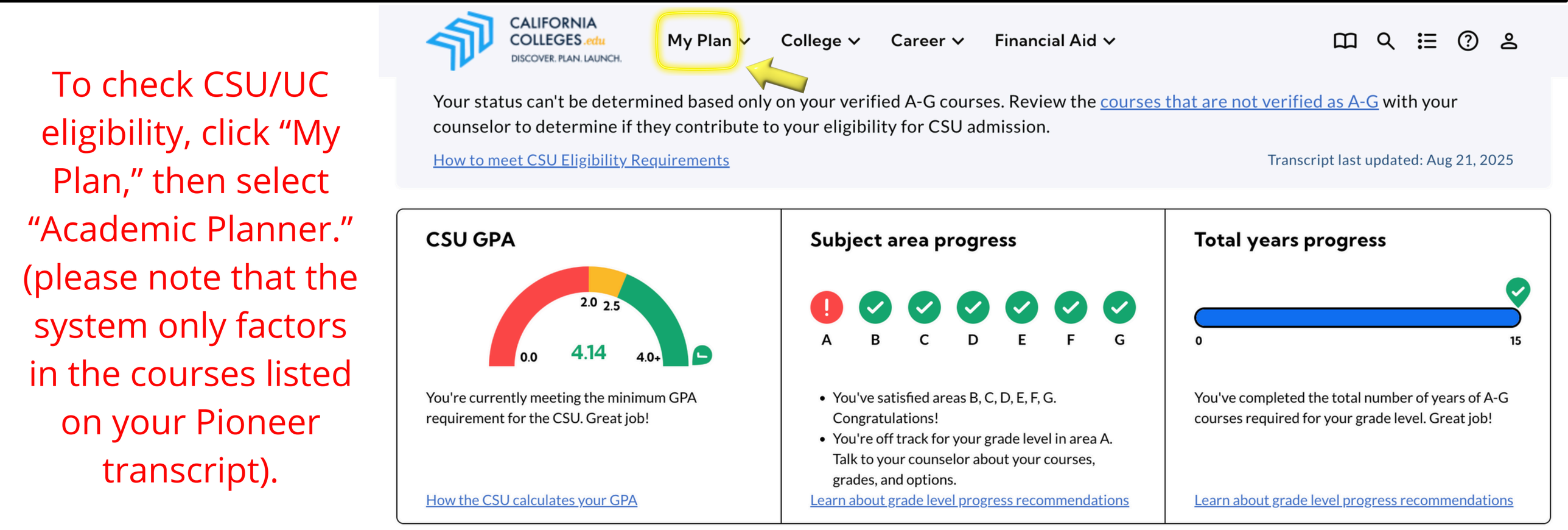


- 116 California Community Colleges
- 23 California State University campuses
- 9 University of California campuses

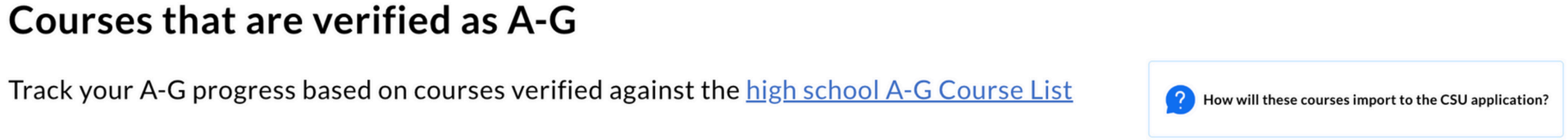
Launch CCC/UC/CSU Applications & Link Accounts via CA Colleges

CSU/UC Eligibility

To check CSU/UC eligibility, click “My Plan,” then select “Academic Planner.” (please note that the system only factors in the courses listed on your Pioneer transcript).



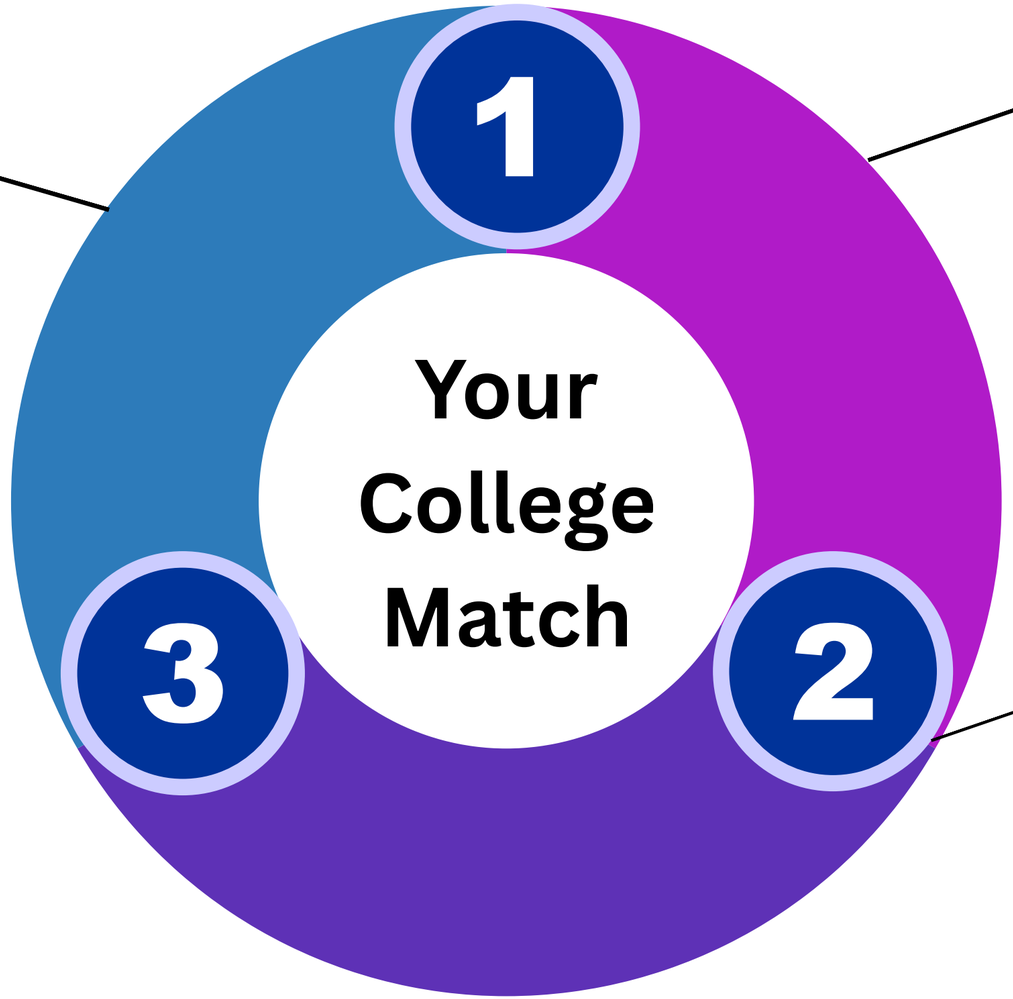
***Exception – SJCC Mexican American class is on your PHS transcript but not shown on CC**



Find your unique match

Social Fit

Schools that have something to offer you, beyond academics that make it a great place to live and socialize in.

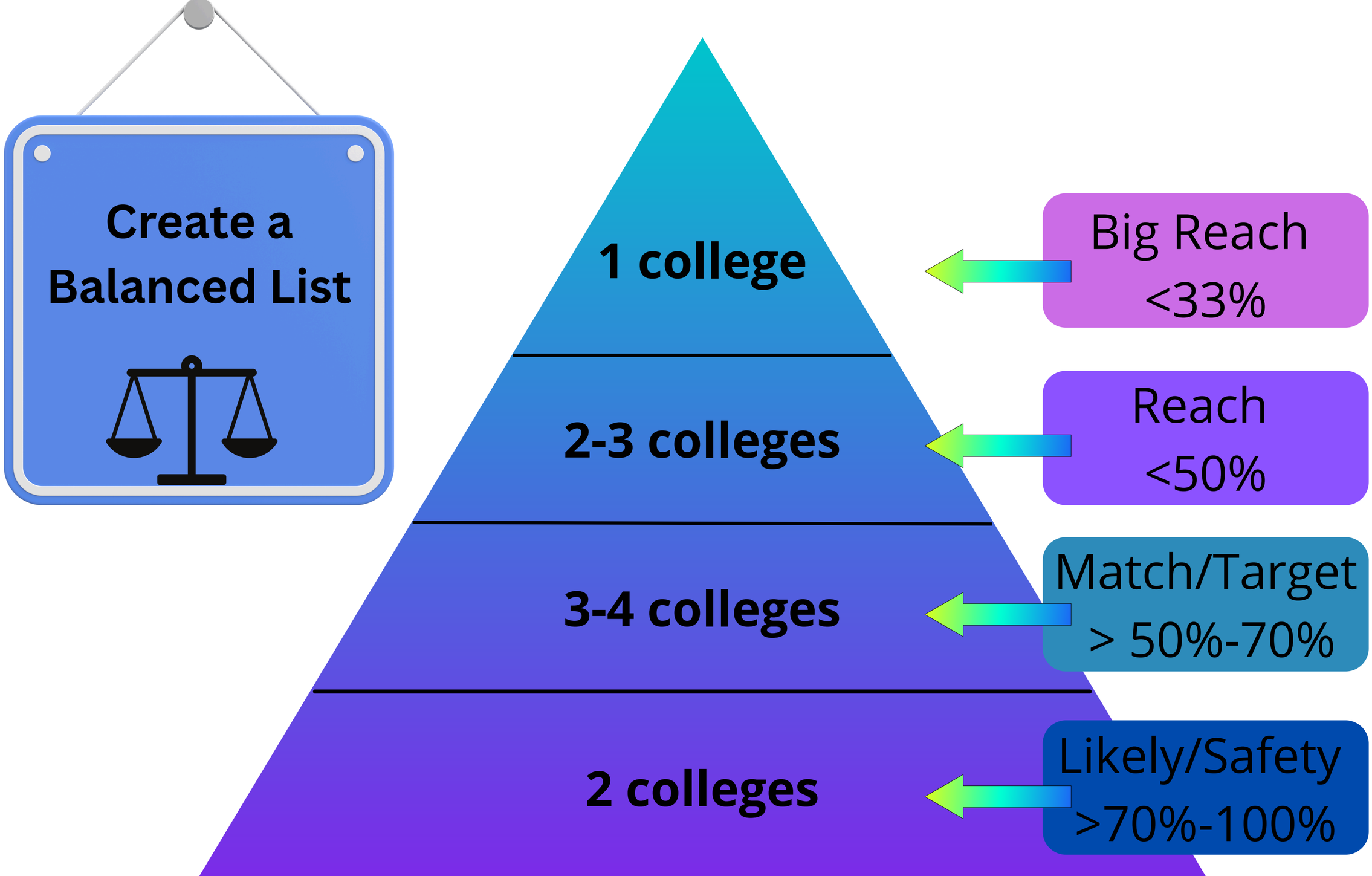


Financial Fit

The college is within your family's budget.

Academic Fit

Colleges where you are likely to be admitted based on your academic performance


Create a Balanced List
1 college
2-3 colleges
3-4 colleges
2 colleges
Big Reach <33%
Reach <50%
Match/Target > 50%-70%
Likely/Safety >70%-100%

Applications Do's & Dont's

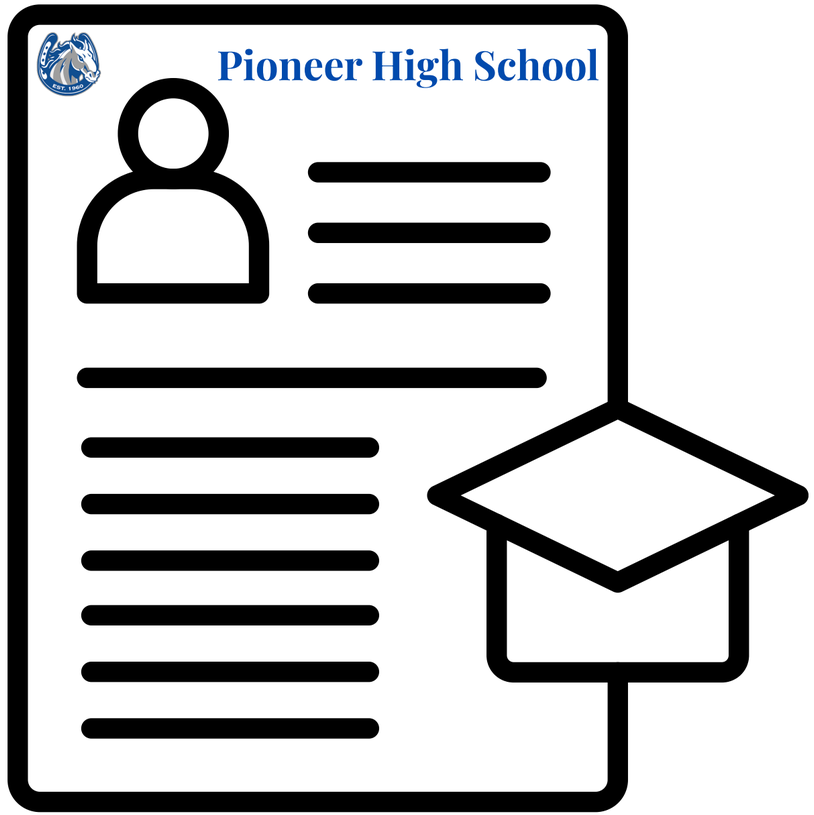
DO'S

- Give yourself plenty of time to gather materials, write essays, and meet deadlines.
- Use your transcript to fill out course information and grades.
- List courses exactly as they appears on the institution's transcript.
- Make sure you directly address the essay prompt and all its parts.
- Check Your Email and College Portals Daily.

DON'TS

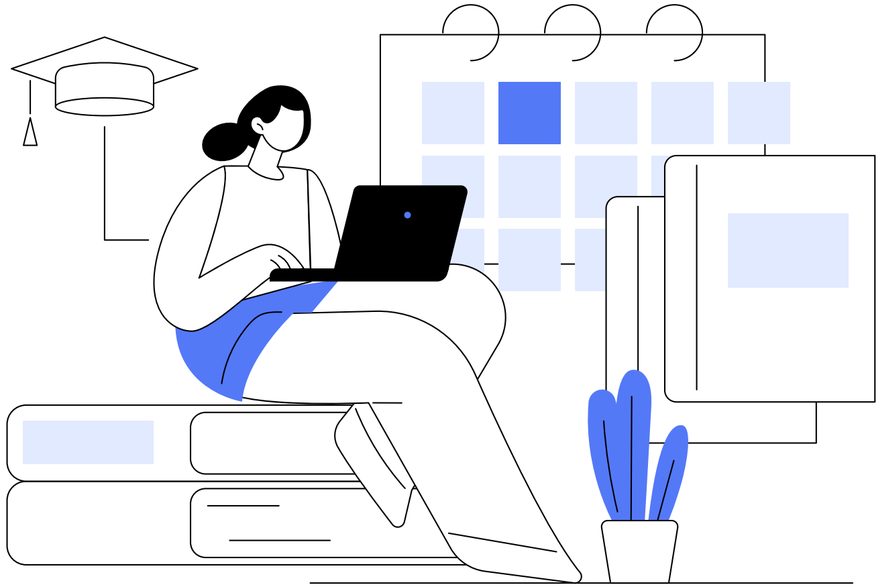
- Don't repeat yourself. Provide new information about yourself in the essay.
- Don't use acronyms, abbreviations, slang or texting language.
- Don't apply without researching the school.
- Don't forget to proofread.
- Do not get senioritis!
- Don't forget your school counselor is here to help!

Letter of Recommendation Process



Private and out-of-state public schools

Before you ask for a LOR...



Do your **RESEARCH:**

- **Private & Out-of-State Colleges**
  - Many do, but not all, research!
- Confirm whether your specific schools require or accept LORs
  - Check if they want a letter from a specific subject area
    - Ex.: *STEM, Performing Arts, Humanities*

LORs: CCC/CSU/UC







- **UC & CSU**: Not required
  - *Exception:*
    - **UC Berkeley** may request after you apply
    - **CSU** requires LORs only for EOP applicants
- **California Community Colleges**: No LORs needed

Types of Recommenders

Teacher

- Choose a teacher who taught you an **academic subject** in high school (e.g., English, math, science, history, or world language)

Counselor

- Meet with your assigned counselor and submit all required official records to colleges.

Other

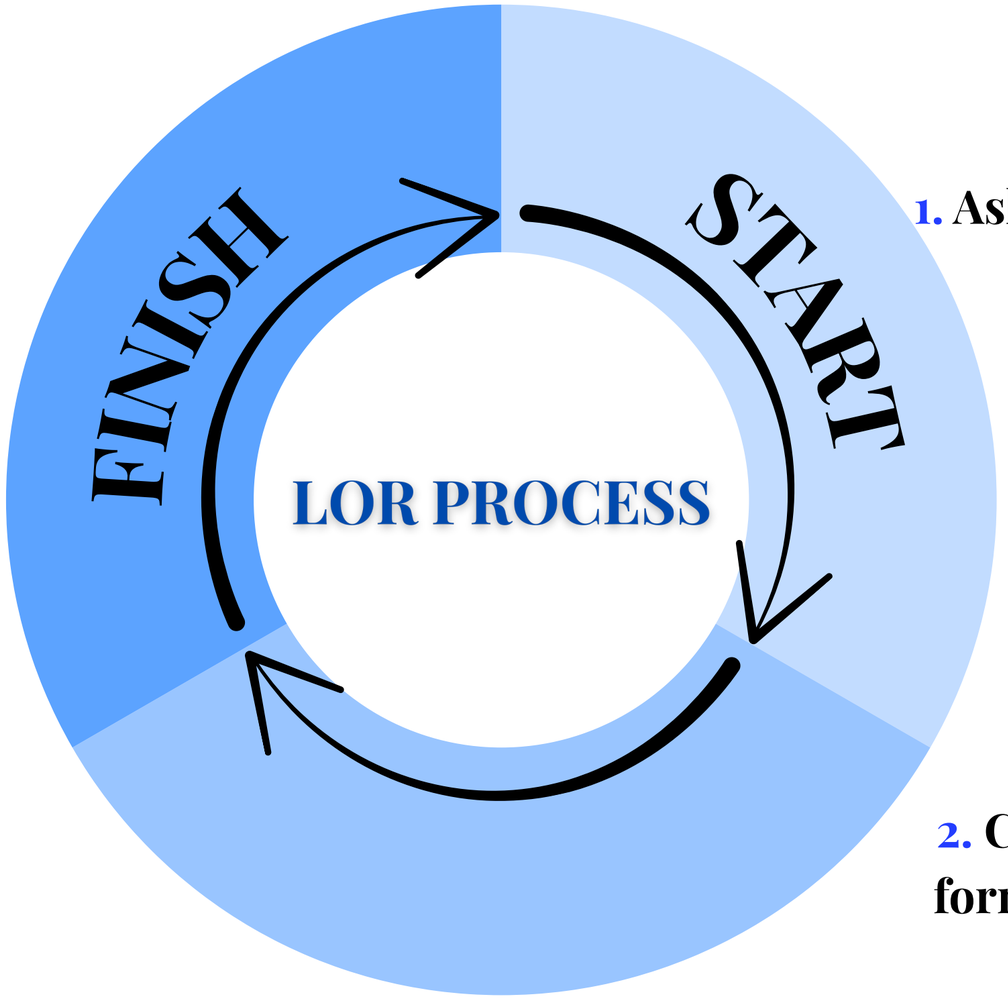
- Do **not** count as teacher recommendations
  Examples: coaches, employers, supervisors, pastor
- Only include if the college accepts “other” or “additional” recommendations

Requesting a Teacher Recommendation

1. Ask your teacher for a recommendation (check college for requirements)

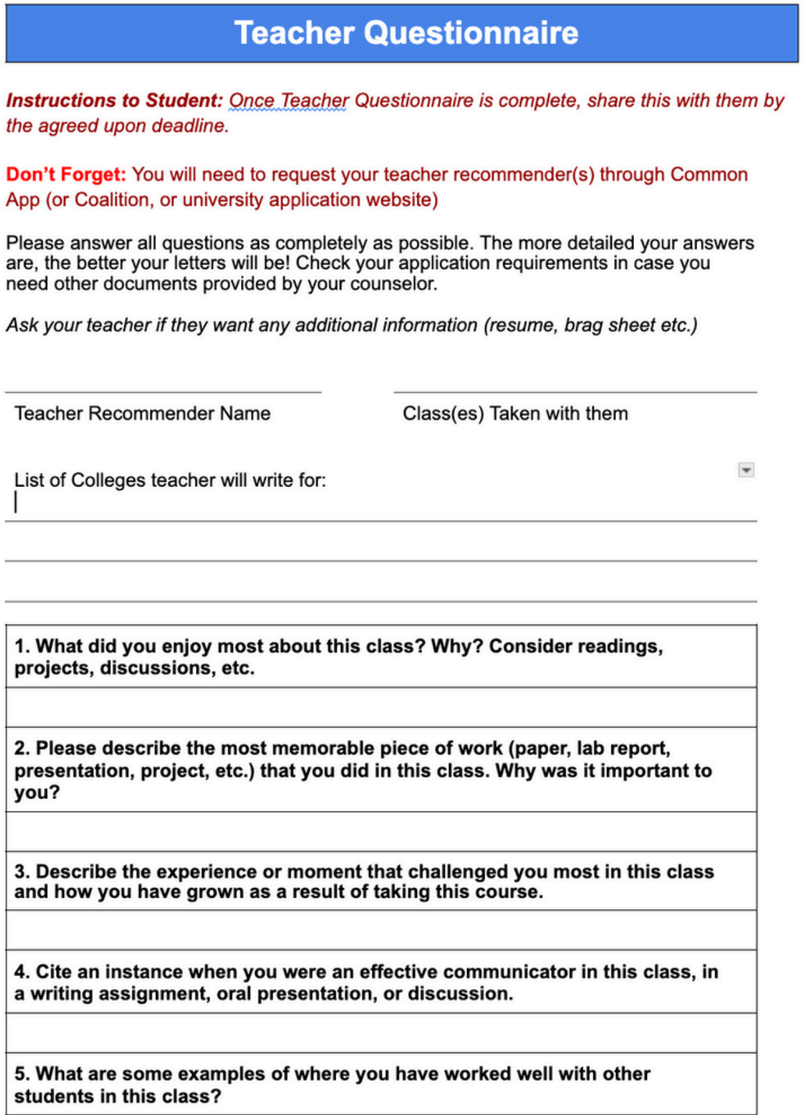
2. Complete teacher's LOR form and return to teacher.

3. Set-Up your COMMON APP account and invite your recommender(s) by email



*You can submit your application BEFORE your recommendation(s) or documents are submitted.

Teacher Recommendations Tips



Teacher Questionnaire

Instructions to Student: *Once Teacher Questionnaire is complete, share this with them by the agreed upon deadline.*

Don't Forget: You will need to request your teacher recommender(s) through Common App (or Coalition, or university application website)

Please answer all questions as completely as possible. The more detailed your answers are, the better your letters will be! Check your application requirements in case you need other documents provided by your counselor.

Ask your teacher if they want any additional information (resume, brag sheet etc.)

Teacher Recommender Name

Class(es) Taken with them

List of Colleges teacher will write for:

1. What did you enjoy most about this class? Why? Consider readings, projects, discussions, etc.
2. Please describe the most memorable piece of work (paper, lab report, presentation, project, etc.) that you did in this class. Why was it important to you?
3. Describe the experience or moment that challenged you most in this class and how you have grown as a result of taking this course.
4. Cite an instance when you were an effective communicator in this class, in a writing assignment, oral presentation, or discussion.
5. What are some examples of where you have worked well with other students in this class?

Tips for Asking Teachers

- **Ask early – don't wait!**
- **Ask in person**
- **Only ask 1-2 teachers** (depending on college requirements)
- **Be intentional** – choose teachers who know you well
- **Share your story** – your answers help them write a strong letter

Counselor Recommendation

Counselors will submit the following documents:

Fall Semester Submissions:

- Initial Transcript
- School Profile
- Common App School Report
- Common App Counselor Rec
- Current Courses

Spring Semester Submissions:

- Midyear Transcript
- Common App Midyear Report
- Common App Final Report

- Students **must still consult with their counselor**
- Students **must submit the required Counselor Recommendation Packet**

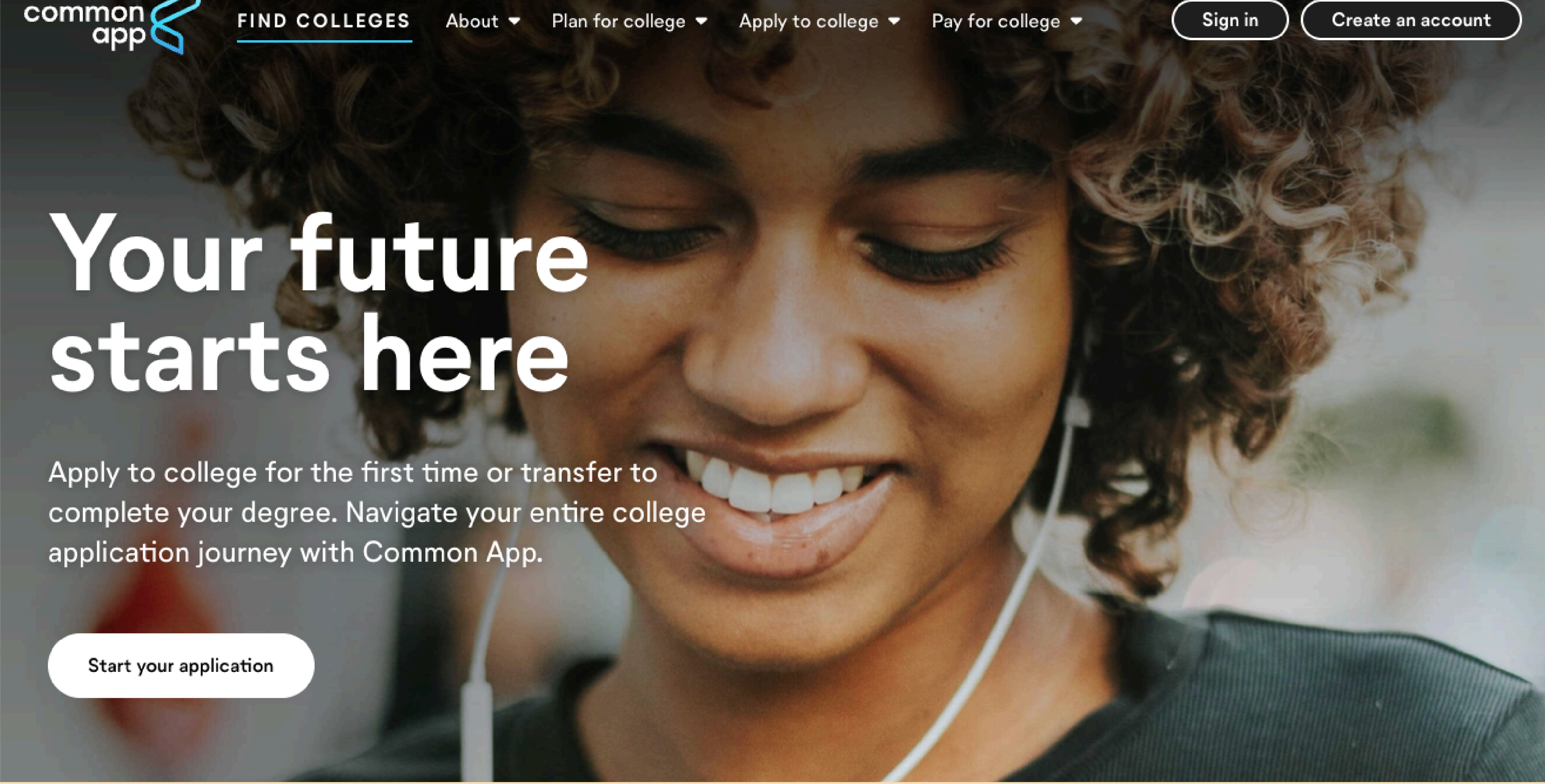
LOR Deadlines

If your Application Deadline is:	Then Questionnaire is due by*:
Early Action I (September - October 31)	September 5, 2025
Early Action II (November 1 - December 31)	October 10, 2025
Regular Decision (Jan 1 & later)	December 5, 2025
Rolling Admission	One month before submitting application
*These deadlines are to allow enough time for counselors to submit all counselor supporting documents on your behalf.	

You **MUST** waive your rights (FERPA AGREEMENT) in your Common App account for your teacher(s) to write your letter. Waiving your FERPA right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.

Setting up a Common App account and inviting your teacher(s)/assigned counselor

Private/out-of-state public

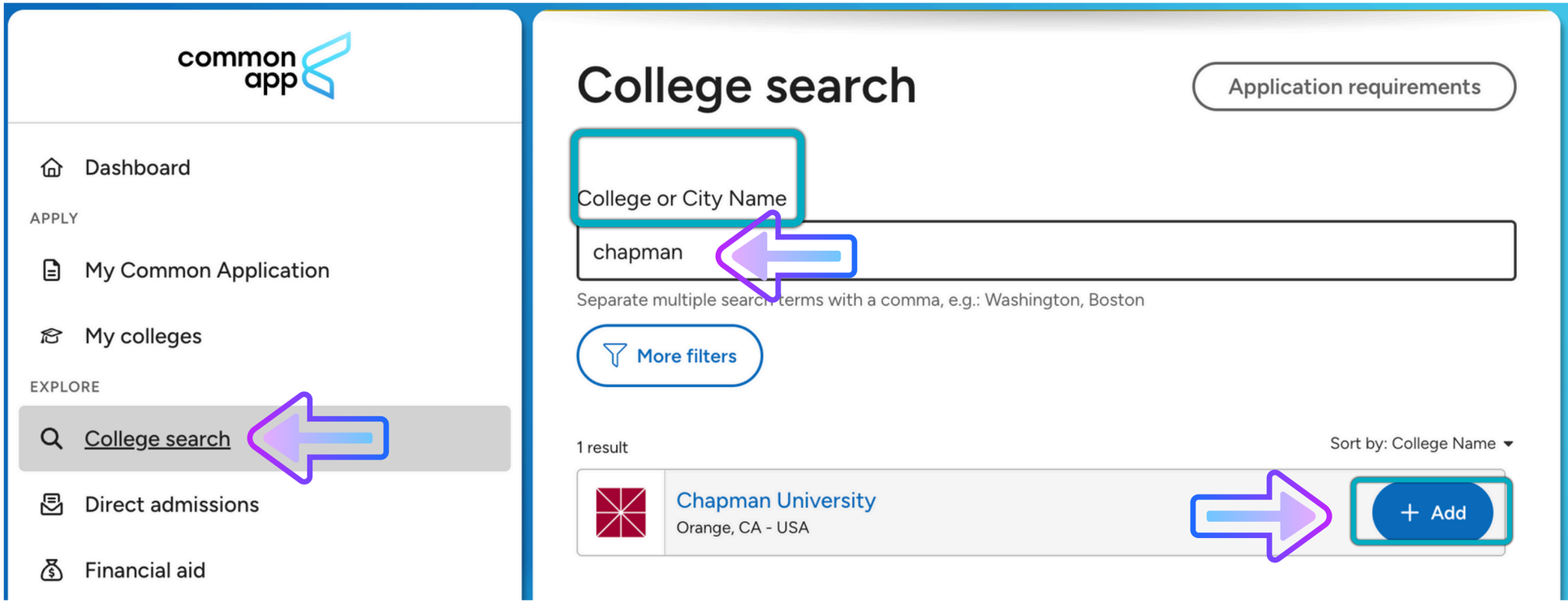


Website: https://www.commonapp.org/

Common App

1

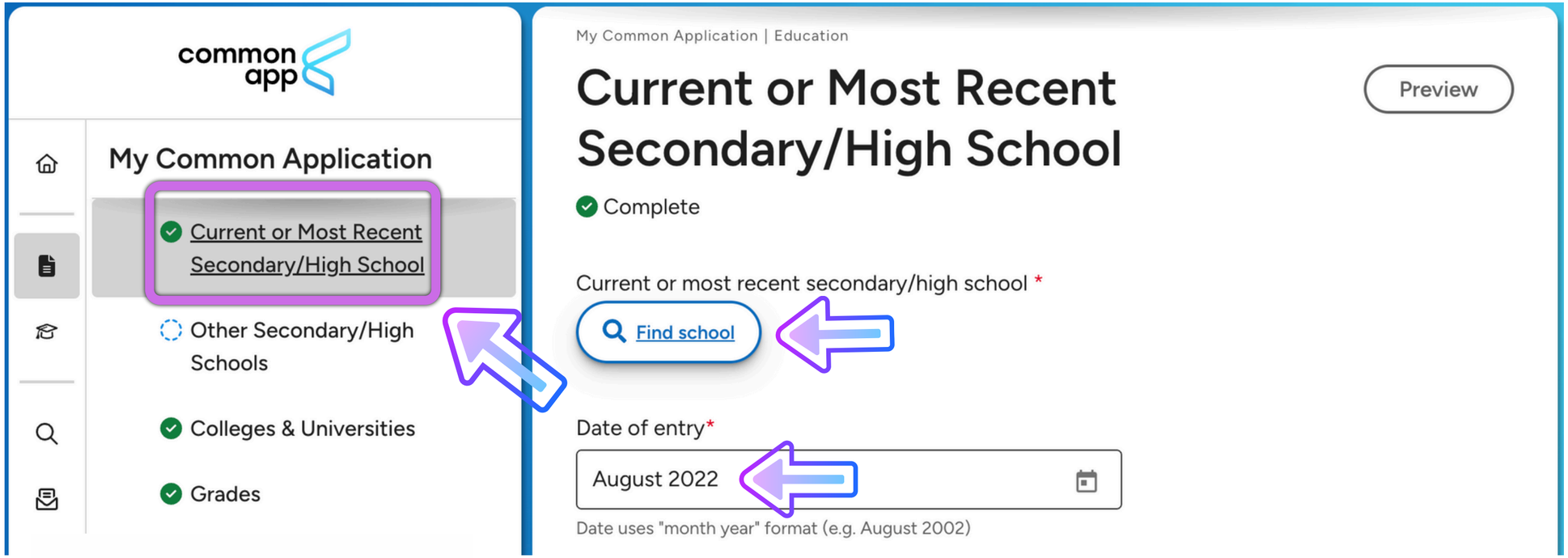
Create a Common App Account & add your colleges



Complete Education Section

2

Complete your Education Section

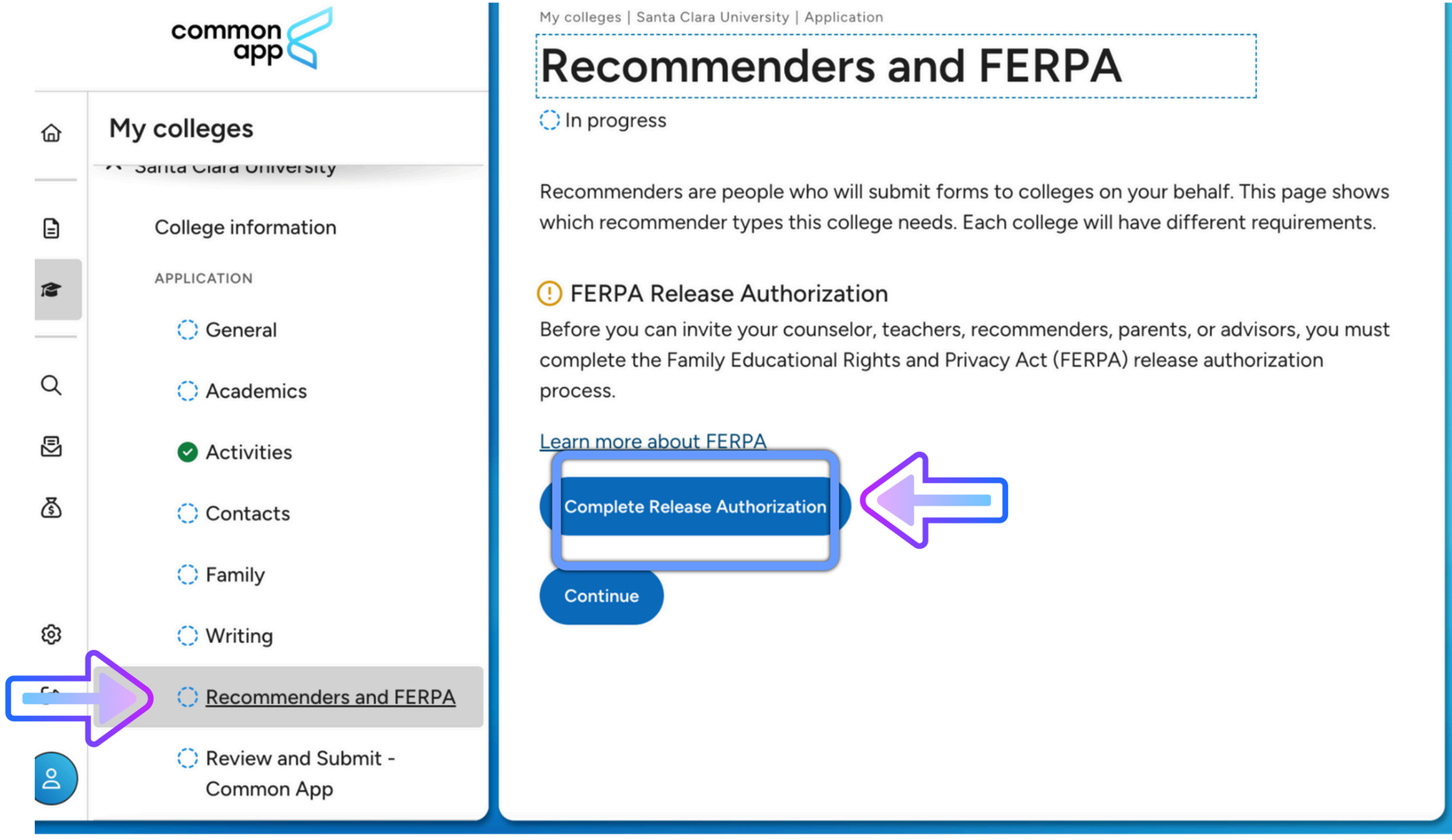


Waive FERPA

3

Complete the FERPA Waiver

(without this, **NOTHING** will be submitted by a teacher or counselor)

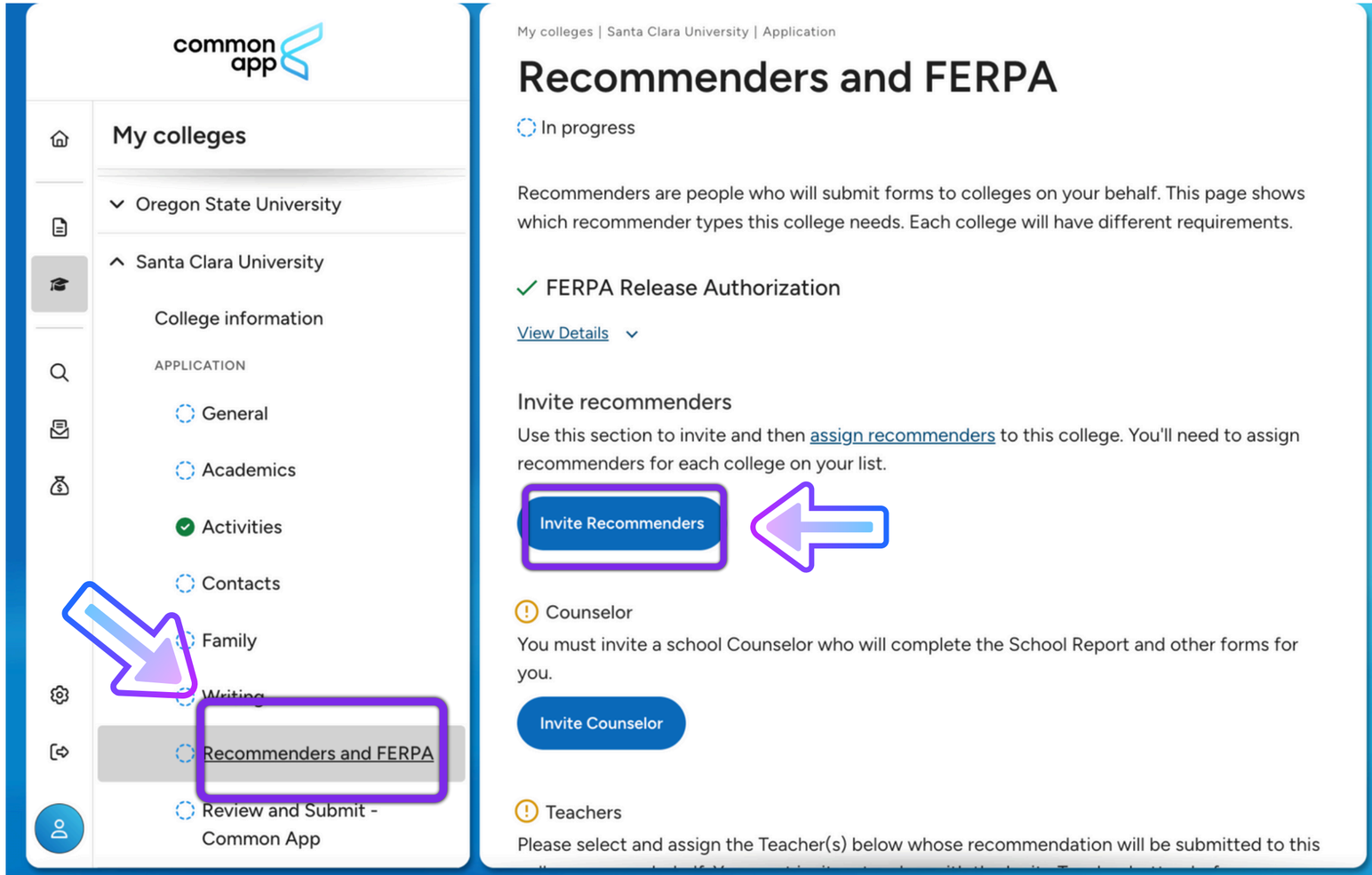


Invite Teacher Recommender

4

Invite ALL recommenders (teachers, counselor & others)

Former SJUSD teachers can be invited via personal email.

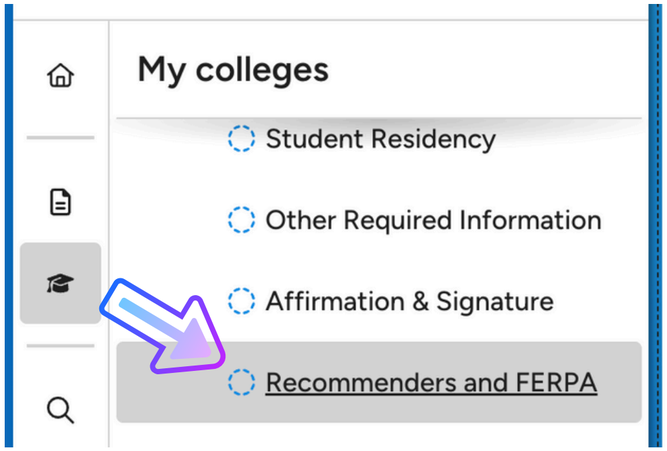


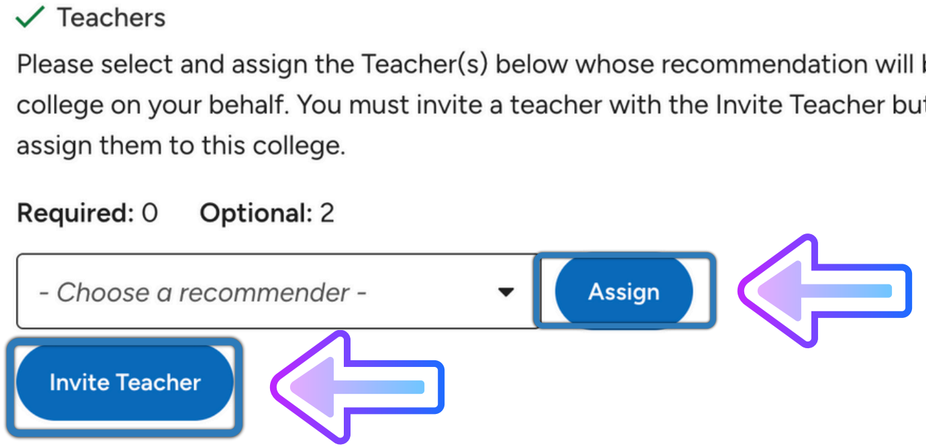
Assign Recommender

5

After requesting teachers, assign each teacher to each college that requires a LOR

CLICK “ASSIGN”



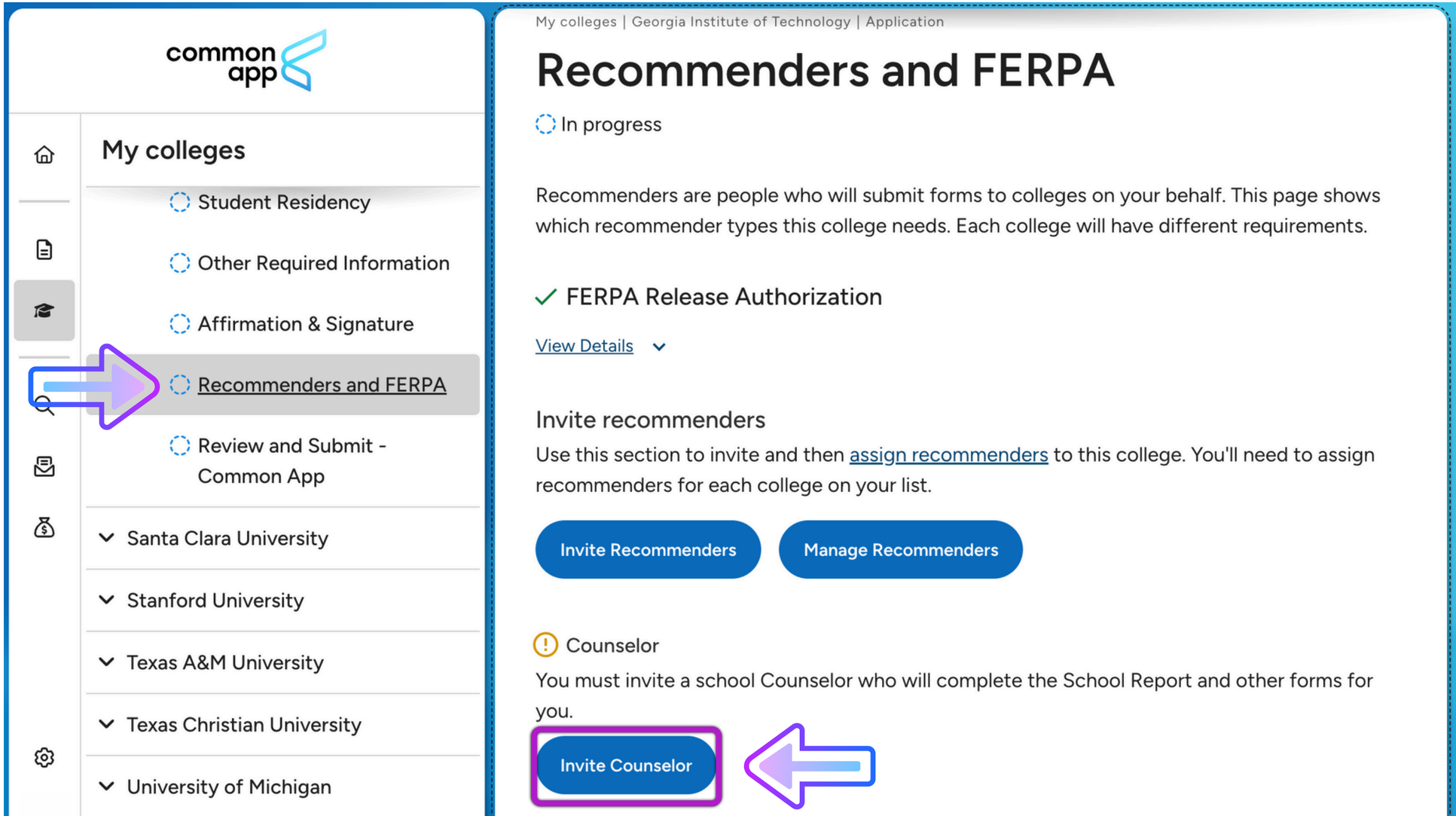


*Repeat this assigning process for every college and recommender.

Invite Counselor

6

REPEAT STEPS for requesting your counselor recommender



Standardized Tests



Plan Ahead! Begin Studying Now!

Khan Academy offers free, online test prep

Use College Board's Bluebook app for full-length practice tests

FAFSA



2026-27 form opens Oct. 1st

Apply by March 2nd, 2026

California DREAM Act

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

2026-27 form opens Oct. 1st

Apply by March 2nd, 2026

CA.GOV | Privacy Policy |









What is AB 540?

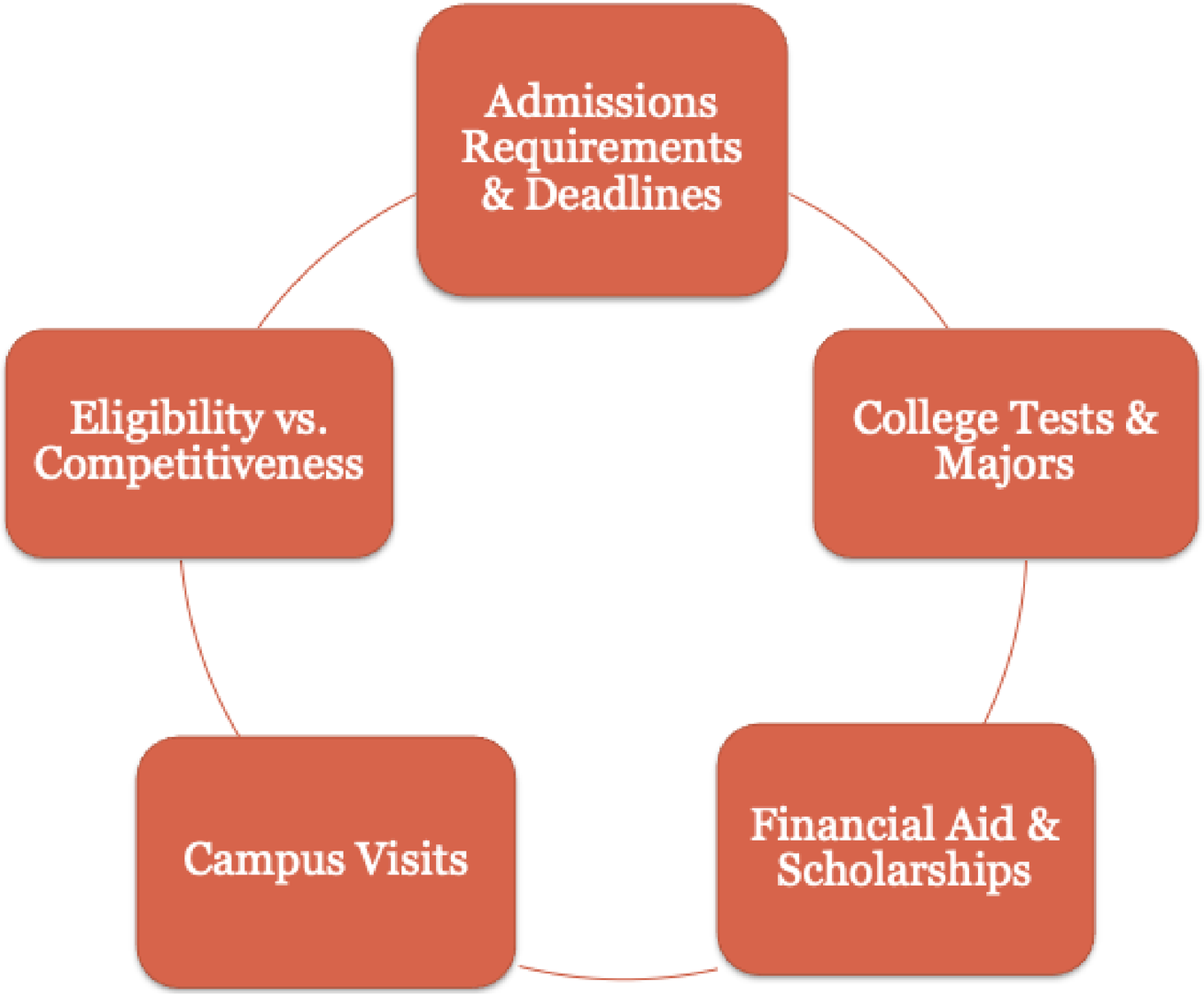


AB 540 Eligibility

- Attend a California school for 3 or more years (K-12)
- Graduate (or will graduate) from a high school in California or the equivalent (i.e. GED, CHSPE)
- Must have signed the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request


NOW
WHAT

Things to Research



Helpful Links

📌 **CSU**

First-time Freshman Supplemental Factors by Campus

📌 **UC**

Selection Process by UC Campus

UC Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

UC Admissions by source school

📌 **First-time and Transfer Students**

ASSIST: Transfer & Articulation System for California Colleges

📌 **Common App**

Common Application Essay Prompts

Scholarships

Links to help with your search!

- Goingmerry.com
- Fastweb.com
- https://www.hsf.net/
- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-scholarships
- Cappex.com
- petersons.com/
- Unigo.com
- Scholarships.com
- Scholarshippoints.com

Online Application Filing Periods

Institution	Deadlines	Web Application
CSU	October 1st – **December 1st**	**Apply through California Colleges** (www.calstate.edu/apply)
UC	October 1st- **December 1st**	**Apply through California Colleges** (https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login)
Private/ Out-of-State	Reg. Decision mid-January 2026	**commonapp.org coalitionforcollegeaccess.org**
Community College	Spring 2026	**Apply through California Colleges** (www.cccapply.org)

Senior Timeline Summary

Fall 2025

- Review A-G courses
- Gather documents
- Research Majors (www.assist.org)
- Early Action Deadlines in Oct. & Nov.
- Apply to UC/CSU by Thanksgiving
- Take SAT & ACT (before Dec. 1)

Spring 2026

- Apply to Private Colleges by January 15 or sooner
- Research Scholarships
- FAFSA/Dream application open October 1st (deadline March 2nd)
- Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) before May 1
- Pay college deposit (if applicable)

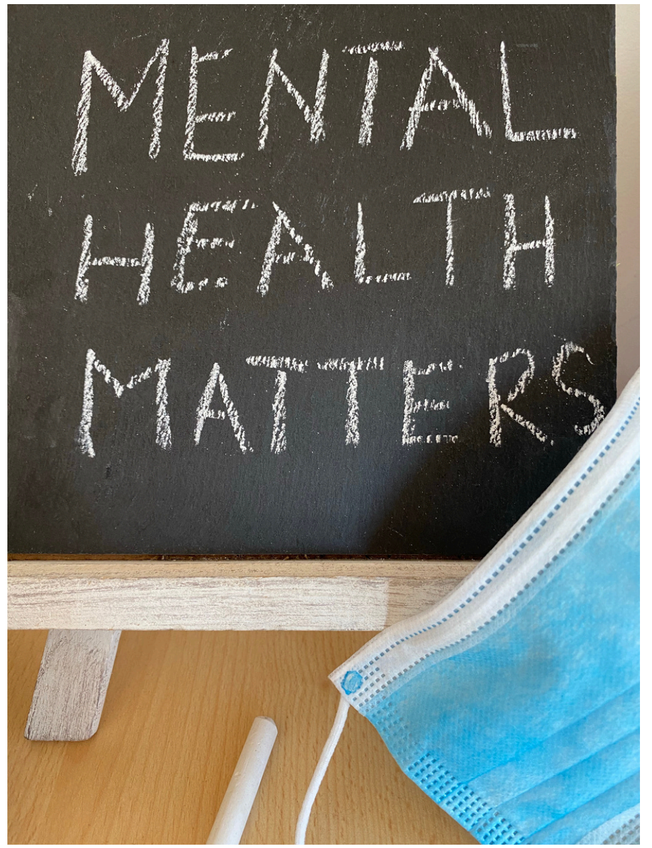
Protect Your Mental Health



Social Emotional Counseling

Pioneer offers counseling through 1 agency:

- Almaden Valley Counseling



Counseling Canvas Course



Pioneer Counseling Department

College & Career 2025-26

Pioneer Counseling Department



Welcome to the College and Career Center page. Our desire is for you to be the pilot and we the copilot in your journey. Whether it be a 4 year University, 2 year Community College, Trade School, Armed Forces or to become gainfully employed after high school, we are here as a catalyst to help you every step of the way.



Workshops during FLEX



- **Sept. 4th** - UC Application Walkthrough
- **Sept. 10th** - Understanding, Brainstorming, Writing UC PIQs
- **Sept. 17th** - Common App Writing Workshop
- **Sept. 18th** - PIQ Workshop with 1 Degree Hotter
- **Oct. 8th** - CSU Application Walkthrough
- **Nov. 6th** - CSU Application Day (Times TBD)



PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR COLLEGE FAMILY NIGHT



Thursday
September 4, 2025
5:30-7pm in the PAC

West Valley College · San José State · UC Davis Aggies · USF

College representatives from these four educational systems in California will be presenting. Q & A will follow.

Topics to be covered include:

- Application process
- Deadlines
- Requirements & admissions cycle
- Impacted majors

Coming Fall 2025...

Financial Aid Information Night (Seniors/Parents)
9/25/25 @ 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

CA$H for College Drop in Workshop (FAFSA/CADAA App)
10/16/25 @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



Questions

Academic Counselors

A-E: Mrs. Pataky-Hannon- jpatakyhannon@sjusd.org

F-La: Mr. Luna- cjluna@sjusd.org

Le-Q: Mrs. Esquivel- emesquivel@sjusd.org

R-Z: Mrs. Pearson- npearson@sjusd.org

Destination College Advising Corps (DCAC)

Ms. Sofia Anaya- sofia.anaya@berkeley.edu &

Mr. Angel Gaytan- angelgaytan@berkeley.edu