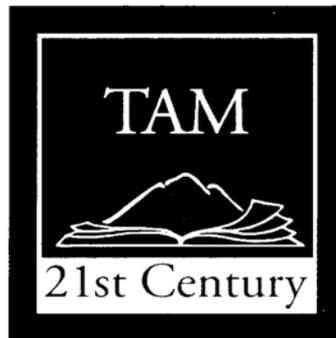


COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

2026-2027



**TAMALPAIS UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SCHOOL CEEB CODE NUMBERS

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| ARCHIE WILLIAMS | 052770 |
| REDWOOD | 051361 |
| SAN ANDREAS | 051366 |
| TAMALPAIS | 051975 |
| TAMISCAL | 051396 |

INTRODUCTION

This guide, prepared by the Tamalpais High School District counseling staff and College & Career Specialists, is designed to assist juniors and seniors with college planning. To make the best use of this guide, you should read it from cover to cover.

Use the calendar. Go through it and circle important dates that apply to you. College planning is a time of personal growth, self-understanding and goal setting. Your counselor and College & Career Specialist will work with you. They will help you consider appropriate colleges that will meet your academic and personal needs.

Keep in mind, the primary responsibility rests with you. You must conduct your own career and college search, arrange your schedule of tests, request letters of recommendation, submit applications, send test scores to colleges and ask to have transcripts sent in a timely manner.

TUHSD utilizes Naviance as its primary college, career and scholarship resource. All students and parents have an individual login name and password.

Archie Williams: <https://student.naviance.com/archiewilliams>
Redwood: <https://student.naviance.com/redwood>
San Andreas: <https://student.naviance.com/sanandreas>
Tamalpais: <https://student.naviance.com/tamalpais>
Tamiscal: <https://student.naviance.com/tamiscal>

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What To Do & When : At a Glance

A timeline of events for college planning, starting spring of junior year through fall of senior year.

JANUARY - MARCH

- Junior Conferences
- Plan college visits for breaks
- Summer Opportunities Fair
- Attend College Planning Workshops if your school offers them**
- [Gap Year Fair](#) (2-2-26 @6pm @AWHS)
- Parents: Attend Parent Workshops
- If you plan to take a standardized test, register for ACT or SAT test dates to take during spring of junior year through fall of senior year
- [Attend a college fair](#) in Alameda or Sonoma County

APRIL

- Attend College Planning Workshops if your school offers them**
- Continue to research college/career options
- Add Colleges to “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list in Naviance
- Continue Checking College & Career Calendar for workshops and events**
- Finalize summer plans (internships, jobs, volunteer)
- See Greg Davison for internship help. Contact him at gdavison@tamdistrict.org

MAY

- AP Exams
- Playing collegiate sports: register w/ NCAA Clearinghouse
- Study for Finals!
- Continue adding schools to Naviance
- Request Letters of Recommendation from Counselor/Teachers
- Research summer jobs and ask your College & Career Specialist for a work permit if needed

JUNE/ JULY

- Visit Colleges

- Volunteer/travel/work/intern
- COM course(s) if interested
- Start/continue to work on college essays**
- Attend *Colleges That Change Lives Fair*

AUGUST

- Common Application & UC App open Aug 1
- Consider an internship
- Continue using Naviance
- If you have not already, identify and ask staff who will write letters of recommendation. Complete counselor LOR request packet.**

SEPTEMBER

- Finalize College List on Naviance
- Research Early Admissions (EA)/ Early Decision (ED) deadlines if applicable
- Work on letter of rec packets for Counselor and Teachers, follow the deadlines!
- Attend College Rep visits in CCC
- Attend Senior Night: Students & Parents when offered at your High School

OCTOBER

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act opens: Oct 1
- CSU application opens: Oct 1
- Begin CSS Profile if applicable
- Be proactive:** see Counselor and/or College/Career Specialist for support/questions
- Continue to attend College Rep visits
- Continue researching scholarships
- Attend College Application Workshops**
- Attend Financial Aid Night w/ parents

NOVEMBER

- Most Early Action (EA) and Early Decision (ED) applications due November 1 and beyond
- Continue researching scholarships
- UC/CSU deadline Nov 30

DECEMBER

- Attend College Admissions Testing event
- Enjoy *Winter Break*

College Planning Calendar

JUNIORS

August/Early September

Use Naviance to research future careers and colleges and add colleges to your Naviance account so you are notified when those colleges visit your school. Check your school calendar for the date of College Night for juniors.

September

Participate in extracurricular activities, clubs or other organizations. Contact the School-to-Career Liaison for dates of career days, job shadows and internships. Sign up at school to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Attend college representative meetings in the College and Career Center.

October

Explore your interests and skills. You may take the PSAT/NMSQT. Attend college representative meetings in the College and Career Center. Begin to familiarize yourself with scholarship opportunities.

November

If you are interested in attending a Service (Armed Forces) Academy, contact a representative this year and plan to explore the Academy's summer program.

December

Consider visiting nearby college campuses during winter break. Attend College Admissions Testing Night this month if your school offers one.

January

Discuss PSAT scores with your counselor and discuss a timeline to take the ACT or SAT (if applicable). Register for upcoming ACT or SAT if needed and keep track of usernames and passwords for these accounts as you will access them multiple times.

February

Use February break to visit colleges. Check scholarships available for juniors. Register for the upcoming ACT or SAT if needed. Attend College Planning Workshop(s) throughout the spring if your school offers them.

March

Plan your summer activities: school, work, internship or community service. Register for the upcoming ACT or SAT if needed. Check dates for WACAC College Fairs and plan to attend.

April

Register for summer programs on college campuses, summer classes at community colleges or ROP. Start researching summer jobs. Continue researching colleges and consider visiting campuses over Spring Break. Register for the upcoming ACT or SAT if needed. Consider a summer internship.

May/June

Getting a job is a great addition to your extracurricular activities. Take AP exams and/or SAT/ACT. Research early decision/early action deadlines.

Summer

Tour college campuses during summer vacation. Continue with work, school, ROP or do a community service project. **ATHLETES: To participate in collegiate athletics, create an account with NCAA at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>.** Begin college essays, if required.

SENIORS

August/Early September

Research early decision/early action application deadlines. Register for ACT or SAT if needed. Continue using Naviance. Consider an internship. Begin working on the Coalition Application, Common Application and/or UC Application. If letters of recommendation are required, identify staff and ask them in person. Complete your counselor's letter of recommendation request packet by their specified due date. UC and CSU schools do not allow letters of recommendation unless otherwise noted. Update your resume. Attend Senior Night at your school.

September

Begin to research scholarships and continue to do so throughout the year. Register for ACT or SAT if needed. Continue developing college lists. Attend college admission sessions in the College and Career Center. Meet with your counselor to discuss your post high school plans.

October

Check the school calendar for Financial Aid Information Night. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act (CADAA) after October 1 using your 2025 tax information. Register for the ACT or SAT if needed. Research college applications online. Continue developing college lists. Inquire about the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Begin CSS Profile, if required by your colleges. Begin working on CSU application and continue working on UC application. Make a list of all usernames and passwords for college applications.

November

Submit applications to UCs and CSUs by the November 30 deadline. Check housing requirements for individual campuses. Request recommendation letters by your school's deadline. Have your transcripts sent to colleges requesting them. Submit early action/early decision applications, if applicable. Attend college presentations at your school or visit individual campuses. **Send official test scores to all colleges requiring them.**

December

Attend school-sponsored meetings on the financial aid process. Be aware of each college's financial aid and priority scholarship consideration deadlines. Register for spring community college classes if you're interested in obtaining college credit and challenging yourself with the rigor of a college course.. Continue working on college applications. Create portal accounts if requested by colleges. Attend College of Marin information sessions held at your school if applicable.

January

Check Naviance and the College and Career Center for local scholarships. If required by colleges, request that your seventh semester transcript be sent.

February

Ask about scholarships from parents' employers. Continue scholarship search using school resources. File FAFSA or CADAA no later than March 2 for California public schools; be aware of other deadlines. Follow specific campus guidelines regarding housing. Attend Community College presentations at your school or visit individual campuses.

March

If you will be attending a community college other than COM, you should start thinking about choosing/visiting campuses and start the application process.

April

Return intent to register form to your chosen campus before May 1. Notify the colleges you are *not* attending. Start researching summer jobs and begin networking. Use spring break to visit prospective college choices. If you are planning to live on campus, pay attention to deadlines to apply for housing.

May/June

Follow instructions to ensure that your school sends your final transcript to your chosen college. Return forms for on-campus orientation programs and housing to your college. Complete required Senior Survey on Naviance.

Resources to Help You Plan for College

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The College & Career Specialist is available to assist you with your post high school plans. The College & Career Specialist and your counselor have a wealth of information at their fingertips and stay abreast of the latest developments in college admissions.

NAVIANCE

Naviance Student is a comprehensive website designed to help students and parents learn about colleges and careers. Naviance provides need-to-know information specific to your school, including college visits, evening events, and application requirements and deadlines. Students can log into their individual Naviance account through their Tam District Portal. If you have difficulty logging on, please contact the College & Career Specialist.

COLLEGE REP VISITS

Representatives from many colleges come to our campuses each year to talk with students. The majority of college reps come during the fall semester. Check school notifications, Naviance, the school website and College and Career Center notices for dates and times. The representatives are an important contact for you with the admissions office; your local college rep may be the first reader of your application.

FINANCIAL AID

The College & Career Specialist is available to guide you through the financial aid process and answer general questions. Check your school calendar to see if your school offers a Financial Aid Night.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

The College and Career Center has information on summer opportunities in the United States and abroad. Many of these opportunities are on college campuses. Check the files in the College and Career Center and attend the Summer Opportunities Fair if your school offers one.

10,000 DEGREES

10,000 Degrees is one of our community partners, and each TUHSD school has a 10,000 Degrees College Access Fellow on campus each week. The Fellow is another person on our campus who can help you with college, financial aid applications and scholarships.

Choosing a College

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does the college have the academic programs I want? For example, does it have independent study programs, study abroad opportunities, January term?
2. Have I met the admission requirements for the schools I am considering?
3. How much can I afford to spend for an education?
4. What type of school do I want? (State or private institution; large university or small college; urban or rural setting)
5. Do I want to go away to college? How far?
6. Religious affiliation or non-sectarian?
7. How diverse is the student body?
8. What are the opportunities for academic and social contact with students and faculty?
9. Are housing accommodations readily available on or near the campus?
10. What are the extra-curricular activities and social life potentials?
11. Does the college offer my special interests such as athletic teams, Greek life?
12. How competitive is the admissions policy?
13. Does the college have a sports program that fits my needs?

MAKE A LIST

Make a list of schools that interest you. Begin to group your lists into three clusters: reaches, matches and safeties.

Reaches are schools that admit students with grades and test scores substantially above your own, or have a very low admission rate.

Matches are colleges that admit students with grades and test scores that are near your own. Certain unpredictable colleges, due to large numbers of applicants, may be Reaches even if you meet their median statistics.

Safeties are schools that accept students with grades and test scores notably below your own. Colleges that you are interested in, and seem likely for acceptance.

Your largest category should be **Matches**. Make sure that all colleges on your list are schools you would attend if admitted. Keep narrowing down your choices until you have a list of around 8-10 schools where you wish to apply.

THE COLLEGE VISIT

Visiting is one of the best ways to research colleges. You can learn a lot in several hours on a campus. You can schedule visits over the summer or during school vacations. You may also use up to three warranted absence days per year for college visits.

Take a tour of the campus, ask the students what they like and dislike about the school, sit in on classes and sample the food. Your counselor or College & Career Specialist may be able to give you the names of former students to contact.

If you are applying for financial aid, consider arranging an appointment with the financial aid office.

OTHER MEANS OF EXPLORING COLLEGES

- You can learn a lot about colleges by talking with alumni, currently enrolled students and Tam District graduates who are attending college. It is particularly helpful to attend events at which local graduates return to talk about their college experiences.
- The internet is full of websites where students can take virtual tours, learn about financial aid, explore majors, visit college sites and more.
- Your parents have a big investment in your college career. You need to share your ideas about college with them and determine what kind of support you can expect.

COLLEGE SELECTION

Do not assume that there is only one right college for you. One of the joys of higher education is the tremendous breadth and variety in the type, size and location of colleges. There are more than 4,300 two- and four-year colleges in the United States and you could be very happy and receive an excellent education at many of them.

Always remember that you should look for a good “match” between the opportunities provided by the college and your own personal learning style, interests and needs.

Applications

| Application | Filing Period | Deadline | Fee | Transcript |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| University of California (UC) | October 1st - November 30th | November 30th | \$80 per campus | Send final transcript only in June (Requires request form in Counseling Office) |
| California State University (CSU) | October 1st - November 30th | November 30th | \$70 per campus | Send final transcript only in June (Requires request form in Counseling Office) |
| Common Application (One application that can be submitted to over 800 colleges and universities) | Beginning August 1st | Varied (September - February) | \$25 - \$90 depending on college | Current and Mid-Year transcript sent automatically when counselor invited to the application; Final transcript requires request form in Counseling Office |
| Coalition for Access & Affordability (One application that can be submitted to approx. 150 schools, but currently only required at 3 colleges) | Open | Varied (September - February) | \$25 - \$90 depending on college (Fee waived for low-income students) | Current and Mid-Year transcript sent automatically when counselor invited to the application; Final transcript requires request form in Counseling Office |
| Other | Varied | Varied (September - February) | Varied | Generally, but not always, current and final transcript (Requires request form in Counseling Office) |

Follow your college's application checklist

Fee Waivers - Fee waivers are available through numerous groups (College Board, ACT, NACAC). Waivers can also be requested from the school to which a student is applying by contacting the admissions office. To inquire about how to qualify for fee waivers, contact your Counselor or College & Career Specialist.

Additional Materials - Schools may allow students to submit additional materials in a variety of forms from resumes, online profiles, video essays, and portfolios regardless of the major to which you apply. Make sure to read all your options carefully under admission requirements to each particular school. While many of these materials are optional, they can be beneficial to students who feel they would translate stronger through an alternative medium.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Ask your counselor and teachers for recommendations **well in advance of their deadlines; one month is the minimum period but many counselors have specific deadlines.**

Teachers and counselors devote considerable time to writing these letters. Choose teachers who know you well and who will write the most positive recommendation.

- Check with your recommenders for what information they need to complete their letter of recommendation.
- Be sure to fill out the student part of the recommendation request form.
- Complete the FERPA section of the Common Application. **We recommend all students waive their rights in this section.**
- Most teachers and counselors prefer to submit their recommendations online. If paper forms are required, provide **stamped envelopes addressed to each college's Office of Admission.**
- Write thank-you notes to teachers, counselors and others who helped you.
- Please note, UC and CSU applications do not accept recommendation letters.

THE ESSAY OR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your essay could be the highlight of your application, perhaps even the factor that tips the scale in your favor.

An essay takes a topic, whether it is earth shaking or an every-day occurrence, whether it is about you or something that is important to you, and examines it in personal terms. Think of the essay as a forum to display your individuality, creativity and above all your ability to communicate. Colleges want to know more about you than they can learn from transcripts or recommendations.

There is no right or wrong answer to an essay question. How you say something is just as important as what you say. Schools want you to tell them how you are different from their other applicants, but they look for well-written expressions as well. Make sure to read the directions carefully and answer the prompt completely.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS

Check college websites for portfolio and audition requirements and consider attending the NACAC Performance and Visual Arts College Fair and National Portfolio Day.

THE INTERVIEW

Very few colleges require an interview and for most it does not play a role in determining admission. It is, however, a good opportunity for the college and the applicant to get to know one another better. If you are visiting a campus, you may want to schedule an interview with the admissions office. For tips, see your College & Career Specialist.

ONCE YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION

- 1) Download a copy of all completed applications to keep for your records.
- 2) Check your email for first-time login information.
- 3) Create your college specific portals and check them weekly. Most colleges will communicate important information to you via portals.
- 4) Send your SAT/ACT test scores (where required) to colleges from the testing agency.

FINANCIAL AID

Don't wait to be admitted to apply for financial aid. Note: Some colleges have priority deadlines for specific scholarships. Financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis at many colleges.

Check the financial aid page online for each college or university. Review the necessary forms and determine if there is a priority deadline for filing your financial aid application.

Financial aid can come in many forms: Scholarships/grants, work-study, or student loans that must be repaid after the student is no longer enrolled in college.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) & CALIF. DREAM ACT

To be considered for federal and state financial aid, you must submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The application will become available **October 1, 2026**. Check the deadlines for each of your colleges and submit on time. Students attending college in California and [ineligible to complete the FAFSA](#) should complete the [California Dream Act Application \(CADAA\)](#). It will be available on October 1, 2026.

California Education Code (CEC) § 51225.7 **requires schools to confirm** each 12th-grade student's completion and submission of a FAFSA or CADAA unless the student is determined to be exempt or an opt-out form is completed by a legally emancipated pupil, a pupil who is 18 years or older, a legal guardian or parent, or a local educational agency on a student's behalf. See your College & Career Specialist if you have questions.

THE CSS Profile

The CSS Profile is used by some schools to determine your level of institutional aid. It is your responsibility to determine if your colleges require the Profile and to note all deadlines. Register online at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. There are fees to process and submit the Profile.

CAL GRANTS

You may also be eligible for free money from the State of California in the form of a Cal Grant Award. Unless you have opted out, your high school will submit an electronic GPA on your behalf to the California Student Aid Commission as they run this program. Selection for a Cal Grant is based on financial need (as evidenced by the submitted FAFSA or CADAA) and 10th and 11th grade unweighted GPA. It can be applied to both public and private colleges/ universities in California only.

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE)

[WUE](#) is a program providing reduced tuition for many public schools in Western states. See inside back cover for more information.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

The College and Career Centers maintain a list of scholarships on Naviance. Applications for local scholarships and scholarship resource books are available in your College and Career Center. Many websites are available for scholarship searches as well.

10,000 DEGREES

10,000 Degrees provides scholarships to students with financial need and who exhibit a strong desire to go to college and accomplish their educational goals. For more information, visit: www.10000degrees.org/

TESTING

Many colleges, including the UCs and CSUs, are either test-blind (they won't look at your scores even if you submit them) or test-optional (you are not required to submit scores). However, some students may still decide to take the ACT or SAT in case they apply to other schools that will consider them or require them. If a college will review a test score, they will accept either test so you do not need to take both exams. This site has the most updated information regarding the testing policies for most schools: www.fairtest.org

If you decide to test, we recommend taking the SAT in March or May or the ACT in April or June. In the senior year, consider retaking the ACT or SAT in the fall after additional preparation over the summer.

Students register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org/ or ACT at www.actstudent.org. Consider taking advantage of the four free score reports that can be sent to colleges at the time of registration or for a few days after the test. Otherwise, there is a fee to send your test scores to colleges. Fee waivers, if applicable, are available from your College & Career Specialist.

SAT vs. ACT: A Comparison

| | <u>SAT</u> | <u>ACT</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| How often is it administered? | Seven times per year | Seven times per year |
| What is the test structure? | Two-section exam: Reading & Writing, and Math. | Four-section exam: English, Math, Reading, and Science (Note that Science is optional as of April 2025). |
| What is the test content? | Math: up to trigonometry; Reading/Writing: Passages represent the subject areas of literature, history/social studies, the humanities, and science. | Math: Please see link Reading: four passages, one each of prose fiction, social science, humanities and natural science English: stresses grammar |
| Is there a penalty for wrong answers? | No - Students can earn points for all questions answered correctly. Therefore, students are encouraged to give their best answer to every question. There is no advantage to leaving questions blank. | No - Your scores will be based only on the number of questions that you answer correctly; there is no penalty for guessing. Try to answer every question within the time limit allowed for each section. Keep in mind the optional writing test will not affect your composite score. |
| How is the test scored? | The total score is the sum of the two sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math. 200-800 per section, added together for a score of 400-1600. | 1-36 for each of the four subject areas, averaged for a composite score. |
| Are all scores sent to schools? | No. The score reporting option allows students to choose which scores to release by test date. Some colleges allow you to superscore, combining highest score sections from different tests. | No. Only the score from one sitting is sent at a time Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the school will see. Some colleges allow you to superscore, combining highest score sections from different tests. |
| Are there other uses for the exams? | Scholarship or class placement once admitted | Scholarship or class level placement once admitted |
| Best time to register? | As early as you can to test at your desired location. Test centers fill quickly if looking for the closest location | As early as you can to test at your desired location. Test centers fill quickly if looking for the closest location |

California Grants

It costs nothing to apply and does not have to be repaid!

www.csac.ca.gov or call (888) 224-7268

www.calgrants.org

www.dream.csac.gov

CAL GRANT GUARANTEE:

Every high school senior who graduates, meets the academic, financial and eligibility requirements and applies on time, is guaranteed a Cal Grant award to attend college.

Cal Grant A Entitlement awards can be used for tuition and fees at public and private colleges as well as some private career colleges. At CSU and UC schools, this Cal Grant covers up to the full system wide fees of \$6,450 and \$14,934 respectively. If you are attending a private college, it pays up to \$9,358 toward tuition and fees. To get this Cal Grant, you need to be working toward a two-year or four-year degree.

Cal Grant B Entitlement awards provide low-income students with a living allowance and assistance with tuition and fees. Most first-year students receive an allowance of up to \$1,648 for books and living expenses. After the freshman year, Cal Grant B also helps pay tuition and fees in the same amount as a Cal Grant A. For a Cal Grant B, your coursework must be for at least one academic year.

Cal Grant C These awards provide free money to students pursuing an occupational or technical program. Eligible students can use up to \$2,462 for tuition and fees and \$547 for books, tools, and equipment at any Cal Grant eligible private for profit or private nonprofit institution or up to \$1,094 at any California Community College. Funding is available for up to two years, depending on the length of your program and is for occupational or technical training programs of at least four months in length.

Cal Grant A and B Competitive Awards are for students who are not eligible for the Entitlement awards. The main difference is that these awards are not guaranteed.

Cal Grant A Competitive Awards are for students with a minimum 3.0 GPA who are from low-and middle-income families. These awards help pay tuition and fees at qualifying schools with academic programs that are at least two years in length.

Cal Grant B Competitive Awards are for students with a minimum 2.0 GPA who are from disadvantaged and low- income families. These awards can be used for tuition, fees and access costs at qualifying schools whose programs are at least one year in length. If you get a Cal Grant B Competitive Award it can only be used for access costs in the first year. These costs include living expenses, transportation, supplies and books. Beginning with the second year, you can use your Cal Grant B Competitive Award to help pay tuition and fees at public or private four- year colleges or other qualifying schools.

All Cal Grant applicants must:

- be a graduating high school senior or recent graduate
- be U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens or meet [AB540 eligibility criteria](#)
- be California residents
- attend a qualifying California school
- meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- submit the [FAFSA](#) or [Dream Act](#) application and GPA Verification by March 2nd
- be enrolled at least half time
- maintain satisfactory academic progress
- have family income and assets below the established ceilings which are set each year
- **not** be in default on any student loan
- **not** owe any federal or state grant refund

For all Cal Grants, you must file the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application. **The GPA Verification Form will be filed electronically by your school unless you have opted out.**

How much does college cost?

Average per-year cost of attendance comparison chart by institution type

| 2025-2026 | Community College | California State University (CSU) | University of California (UC) | Private / Independent |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Registration Fees & Tuition | \$1,380 - \$1,636 | \$7,988-\$15,734 (fees differ by campus) | \$17,338 | \$31,788 - \$71,860 |
| Books/Supplies | ~\$1,620 | ~\$1,137 | ~\$1,400 | ~\$1,620 |
| Room & Board | \$5,247 - \$13,779 housing costs vary | \$13,186- \$21,928 On campus housing varies by campus | \$21,200 On campus housing varies by campus | \$13,082- \$22,480 On campus housing |
| Transportation | ~ \$1,587 | ~ \$1,513 | ~ \$1,850 | ~ \$1,587 |
| Personal Expenses | ~ \$1,500 | \$3,123 | \$1,850 | ~ \$1,500 |
| TOTAL | \$10,994 - \$19,782 | \$28,722- \$41,528 | \$47,338 | \$49,237 - \$95,225 |

(Subject to change, based off of 2025 info)

- *Registration fees and tuition are based on full-time enrollment for California residents. Fees and tuition are subject to change without advance notice.*
- *The cost of books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses are estimates that may vary from campus to campus.*
- *Total expenses may be less for students living at home. Financial aid is available to help students cover some of the college costs.*

What kind of Financial Aid can I receive?

Financial aid programs for undergraduate students:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Loans that must be repaid: <u>Subsidized</u>: \$3,500-\$5,500 interest is paid by the government on behalf of students until they graduate or enroll below half-time <u>Unsubsidized</u>: \$5,500 - \$12,500 student is responsible for paying the interest rate during all periods. Parent PLUS: Awarded up to the cost of attendance. Credit approval required</p> <p>Scholarships Aid that does not need to be repaid and is based on academic achievement and/or other criteria such as community involvement.</p> | <p>Grants (no need to repay) <u>Pell Grant</u>: \$740-\$7,395 <u>SEOG</u>: \$100-\$4,000 <u>Cal Grant A</u>: \$6,450- \$14,934 <u>Cal Grant B</u>: \$8,098-\$16,582 <u>Cal Grant C</u> (Community Colleges/Vocational): \$1,094-\$2,462 <u>EOP Grant</u>: \$200- \$2,000 <u>Institutional Grant</u>: varies by school</p> <p>Work Study Aid earned through part-time work on campus. Award amounts vary by college and eligibility status Contact the office of financial aid at each college for more information</p> | <p>How can I apply for aid?</p> <p>File the right application(s): FAFSA or CA Dream Act AND CSS Profile - (if applicable) some private schools and out of state publics require this</p> <p>Submit graduation verification for Cal Grant eligibility https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/</p> <p>Submit any follow-up documents that your college asks for.</p> <p>Annual FAFSA/ CA Dream Act Priority Deadline: March 2 for UC/CSU/Community Colleges (will vary for out of state/private schools) re-apply each year and maintain satisfactory grades.</p> |
|--|---|---|

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

If you have a high school diploma, you are admitted regardless of your age, prior course work or grades. If you do not have a high school diploma, you are admitted if:

- you are eighteen years of age or older, or
- you have successfully passed the California High School Proficiency Examination, or
- you have successfully passed the GED (General Education Development) Examination.

Current high school students who would like to take classes at College of Marin need to complete a [CCP form](#) by logging into their COM portal.

LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES

College of Marin Campuses:

KENTFIELD, 835 College Avenue, Kentfield 94904-2590; (415) 457-8811
 INDIAN VALLEY CAMPUS, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato 94949; (415) 457-8811

Nearby Community Colleges:

BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE, 2050 Center Street, Berkeley 94704-1205; (510) 981-2800
 CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO, 50 Phelan Ave., E200, San Francisco 94112-1898; (415) 239-3000
 LANEY COLLEGE, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland 94607-4893; (510) 834-5740
 MERRITT COLLEGE, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland 94619-3196; (510) 531-4911
 NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE, 2277 Napa-Vallejo Hwy., Napa 94558-6236; (707) 253-3000
 SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, 1501 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa 95401; (707) 527-4011

These community colleges offer on- campus housing.

For details visit <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-services/College-Dormitories-and-Housing>

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Coalinga | West Hills College | https://westhillscollge.com/coalinga/student-life/housing/ | (559) 934-2373 |
| Costa Mesa | Orange Coast College | https://orangecoastcollege.edu/services-support/housing/index.html | (714) 643-5100 |
| Eureka | College of the Redwoods | www.redwoods.edu/services/housing/index.php | (707) 476-4294 |
| Mammoth Lake | Cerro Coso Comm College | www.cerrocoso.edu/esc/mammoth/student-housing-esc-mammoth-students.html | (760) 934- 0338 |
| Napa | Napa Valley College | Napa Valley College Student Housing River Trail Village at Napa Valley College | (707) 681- 0186 (707) 681-0186 |
| Quincy | Feather River College | www.frc.edu/housing/ | (530) 283-0202 ext 414 |
| Redding | Shasta College | www.shastacollege.edu/student-life/dorms/ | (530) 242-7739 |
| Reedley | Reedley College | www.reedleycollege.edu/campus-life/residence-hall/index.html | (559) 494-3049 |
| Riverside | Riverside City College | www.rcc.edu/about/student-housing/index.html | (951) 222-8000 |
| Rocklin | Sierra College | www.sierracollege.edu/campus-life/campus-housing/ | (916) 660-7389 |
| Santa Rosa | Santa Rosa Junior College | https://housing.santarosa.edu/ | 707-535-3778 |
| Sonora | Columbia College | www.columbiacollegehousing.com/ | (209) 533-3039 |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| South Lake Tahoe | Lake Tahoe Comm College | www.ltcc.edu/campuslife/student-housing/index.php | (530) 541-4660 |
| Susanville | Lassen College | www.lassencollege.edu/campus-life/residence-hall/ | (530) 257-6181 |
| Taft | Taft College | www.taftcollege.edu/student-campus-life/housing/index.php | (661) 763-7700 |
| Weed | College of the Siskiyous | www.siskiyous.edu/lodges/ | (530) 938-5237 |

Although the college does not provide on- campus housing, these community colleges offer off-campus housing.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| San Luis Obispo | Cuesta College | www.mustangvillage.com | (805) 783-2500 |
| Santa Barbara | Santa Barbara City College | https://www.stgeorgeassociates.com/beach-city/ www.tropicangardens.com | (805)-705-7924 (805) 968-4319 |

FAQs about California Community Colleges

1. What is the cost to attend community college?

A: Currently, the fee is \$46 per unit for California residents. There are some additional fees per campus for such things as the Health Center and student body fees.

2. I plan to attend a community college, then transfer to earn my Bachelor's degree from a four-year college. How long will this take?

A: In most cases, you must earn a total of 60 transferable units in required subject areas and maintain the minimum grade point average required by the college you plan to attend. How long this takes is up to you. Some students who take a full-time course load may transfer in two years or less. You don't have to do it in two years. The key to transferring is meeting the specific requirements of the college you are targeting for transfer. Students may transfer to private schools and out-of-state universities with less than 60 units.

3. I was eligible for UC and CSU when I graduated from high school; do I still need 60 units to transfer?

A: It depends. In general, UC campuses will only accept students who transfer with junior standing (60 units). Check each UC and CSU website for lower division transfer information. There is some variance among campuses, but most require students to have 60 transferable units.

4. Will I need to take the SAT or ACT test to transfer, if I do not take it while in high school?

A: For the UC/CSU systems, no, you will not need an SAT or ACT test score, just the appropriate number of units, required courses and grade point average. If you are looking at private colleges or out-of-state publics, you will need to check with them for their individual testing policies. This policy may differ for students planning to participate in athletics at a four-year college.

5. What is the IGETC?

A: This is an acronym for "Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum." It is a series of courses prospective transfer students attending California community colleges may complete to satisfy the lower division general education requirements at both the UC and CSU systems. However, if you intend to transfer into a major that requires extensive lower division preparation, such as engineering or the physical or natural sciences, you should concentrate on completing the many prerequisites for the major that the college uses to determine eligibility for admission. Please meet with a community college counselor to discuss the IGETC further.

6. Is it easier to transfer to a certain UC, if I attend a community college closer to that UC?

A: All UCs have articulation agreements with all California community colleges that outline general education and major requirements. You can find these outlined on the ASSIST website (www.assist.org). When applying to UCs, students from California community colleges have admissions priority over all other prospective transfer students, including those from four-year institutions.

Six of the UCs nine undergraduate campuses offer guaranteed admissions to California community college students who meet specific requirements, under the [Transfer Admission Guarantee \(TAG\) program](#). Students in the TAG program can receive early review of their academic records, early admission notification and specific guidance on major preparation and general education coursework.

7. What if I don't want to transfer but want to learn a certain skill at a community college?

A: California community colleges have a wide range of opportunities for many students. All of them offer what is known as Certificate Programs, where a certain prescribed set of classes is completed and a certificate issued to show a prospective employer that the training in that area has been completed. These programs are far-reaching, from automotive technology to culinary arts to court reporting, and you can search for programs at <https://www.cccco.edu/>. Some students will earn a certificate AND transfer. The possibilities are endless! For COM Career Education, visit <https://academics.marin.edu/explore-majors-and-careers>

ABOUT THE CSU

The California State University is the largest system of higher education in the nation. Its 23 campuses and 8 off-campus centers extend from Arcata, located about 300 miles north of San Francisco, to San Diego. The oldest campus is San Jose State, founded in 1857, while the newest is CSU Channel Islands, which was founded in 2002. The **CSU** produces 50 percent more business graduates, computer scientists and engineers than all other California universities and colleges combined. CSU also prepares two-thirds of the state's public school teachers educated in California. The applications are available electronically at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

CSU Maritime Academy, located in Vallejo, is home of the Training Ship Golden Bear. Founded in 1929, it is a small undergraduate college offering degrees and professional licenses in engineering, technology, business and marine transportation (808 students). www.csum.edu

CSU Bakersfield offers broad educational and cultural opportunities to residents in the southern San Joaquin Valley (11,206 students). www.csub.edu/

CSU Channel Islands, the newest campus in the CSU system, offers access to many coastal recreation areas. Emphasis is placed on creating a learning centered environment with faculty and staff (4924 students). www.csuci.edu/

CSU Chico, a residential campus and cultural center for north-central California, set in a charming small town atmosphere, provides an emphasis on academic excellence, close interaction with professors and a vast array of co-curricular activities (14,823 students). www.csuchico.edu/

CSU Dominguez Hills, a contemporary, tree-shaded campus adjacent to the South Bay area of Los Angeles, offers comprehensive academic opportunities to address the needs of both traditional and nontraditional students (14,262 students). www.csudh.edu/

CSU East Bay, located in the East Bay hills, overlooks the culturally rich San Francisco Bay area. It offers 51 professional or research-based graduate degrees, concentrations and 12 graduate credentials (12,181 students). www.csueastbay.edu/

CSU Fullerton, serves the Orange County area with a full range of academic and cultural programs. It is recognized as one of the five most accessible universities in the nation for students with physical disabilities (45,147 students). www.fullerton.edu/

CSU Long Beach, a comprehensive urban university is located a short distance from the ocean on a scenic hilltop (41,189 students). www.csulb.edu/

CSU Los Angeles, a contemporary hilltop campus a short distance from the Los Angeles Civic Center, offers diverse academic and cultural opportunities (21,708 students). www.calstatela.edu/

CSU Monterey Bay opened in fall 1995 on 1,300 acres of the former Fort Ord Army Base north of Monterey. The campus provides innovative, multidisciplinary programs in five academic cluster areas: visual & performing arts and related humanities; marine, atmospheric and environmental sciences; languages, cultures and international studies; business, education (7,000 students). www.csumb.edu

Cal State Northridge, a large suburban campus in the San Fernando Valley (northwest of Los Angeles) offers a full range of coursework (36,960 students) www.csun.edu/

CSU San Bernardino, offers small classes on a picturesque campus at the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains (19,049 students). www.csusb.edu/

CSU San Marcos, located 30 miles north of San Diego, serves freshmen through graduate students on a state-of-the-art campus (16,237 students). www.csusm.edu/

CSU Stanislaus is an intimate yet modern campus between San Francisco and Yosemite in the Central Valley. The area offers access to many year round recreational activities. This campus, recognized for its beauty, tranquility and safety, provides a superb atmosphere conducive to learning. Challenging programs are available in humanities, sciences, education, business and the arts (9,560 students). www.csustan.edu/

California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, located in the bay-side town of Arcata, offers a friendly, informal environment in the redwood country of California's northern coast (6,200 students). www.humboldt.edu/

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, located 35 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, specializes in agriculture, business, education, engineering, environmental design, liberal arts, sciences and hospitality management (27,196 students). www.csupomona.edu/

California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo is located in the coastal hills between Monterey and Santa Barbara. Its "learn by doing" approach prepares students for careers in applied and technical fields (22,842 students). www.calpoly.edu/

CSU Fresno, located in the rich heartland of the San Joaquin Valley, is a campus on the move. The campus offers instruction in the arts, liberal studies, sciences and agribusiness (24,301 students). www.csufresno.edu/

Sacramento State University, with its park-like setting in the state capital next to the American River, offers broad educational programs, including opportunities for experience in state government (31,000 students). www.csus.edu/

San Diego State University, with its mission style architecture, offers a full array of coursework from bachelor's through joint doctoral programs (40,110 students). www.sdsu.edu/

San Francisco State University, known for its innovation in teaching, an evolving curriculum and commitment to hands-on teaching is an urban, multicultural university with strong liberal arts and professional programs (22,357 students). www.sfsu.edu/

San José State University offers well-regarded academic and professional programs. Numerous SJSU graduates work for Silicon Valley firms (37,661 students). www.sjsu.edu/

Sonoma State University is a recognized leader in blending technology with liberal arts and sciences. The University offers small classes and emphasizes learning through relationships among students, faculty and the world (6,000 students) www.sonoma.edu

CSU: First-time Freshman Admission Requirements

Do I meet minimum eligibility requirements for the CSU?*

You are eligible for admission if you:

- Have or will have graduated from high school by the time you enroll at a CSU campus
- Meet the 2.5 GPA with your 10-12 A-G courses
- Have or will have completed with a grade of C or better a pattern of courses that total 15 units (see below). A "unit" is one year of study in high school. You may be required to meet higher admissions requirements for impacted programs.

What are the 15 units of courses I need?

You must complete with a grade of C or better the following pattern of college preparatory subjects totaling 15 units:

2 years: History/Social science, including one year of U.S History or U.S. History and Government

4 years: English

3 years: Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II (TUHSD Intermediate Algebra is accepted) or integrated mathematics including these topics)

2 years: Science with a laboratory (one year biological and one year physical)

2 years: Foreign Language (the same language)=through the second level. Two semesters of qualifying community college language also meets this requirement,

1 year: Visual and Performing Arts: Art, Dance, Theater/Drama or music**

1 year: Elective chosen from the subject areas listed above or approved college preparatory elective courses

**one year of one discipline, e.g., art, drama, or music

How will the CSU campus know if all admission requirements have been completed?

As a first-time freshman applicant, you are required to submit a final high school transcript after you have completed your senior year of classes. The high school transcript must have a graduation date posted on it. A final review of the transcript will be done to verify that you have successfully completed all required courses and maintained the edibility index required.

When should I send transcripts?

The campus to which you are applying will inform you when to submit your official high school transcripts. Transcripts must be received in sealed envelopes directly from the high school.

Is the foreign language requirement ever waived?

If you can demonstrate competency in a language other than English that is equivalent to or higher than that expected of students who have completed two years of foreign language study, you may be allowed a waiver. For further information, contact the CSU campus to which you are applying.

Are students with disabilities expected to complete 15 units of college preparatory subjects?

All applicants are encouraged to complete the 15 units of college preparatory subjects. If you are unable to complete certain subjects because of your disability, you should contact the Director of Services to Students with Disabilities at the CSU campus you wish to attend to receive further information about your eligibility to attend the university.

The California State University System and The University of California System

The CSU System
www2.calstate.edu/apply



The UC System
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/



| | |
|------------------|--|
| UC Berkeley | www.berkeley.edu |
| UC Davis | www.ucdavis.edu |
| UC Irvine | www.uci.edu |
| UC Los Angeles | www.ucla.edu |
| UC Merced | www.ucmerced.edu |
| UC Riverside | www.ucr.edu |
| UC San Diego | www.ucsd.edu |
| UC Santa Barbara | www.ucsb.edu |
| UC Santa Cruz | www.ucsc.edu |

University of California Minimum Admission Requirements

Becoming eligible is the first step to UC admission. To be eligible, you must meet the minimum requirements the University has established to ensure incoming students are prepared for University-level work.

UC guarantees a place on one of its campuses to all eligible California residents who apply on time. Keep in mind, though, that competitive campuses and programs look for applicants who exceed the minimum requirements when they select their students.

Freshman Eligibility Requirements

Students can apply to the University as freshmen if they are still in high school or have graduated but not enrolled in a regular session at a college or university. California freshman applicants can become eligible in two ways:

Eligibility in the Statewide Context

Students complete specific course and earn the required GPA;

Eligibility in the Statewide Context is the path most students take to enter the University. To be eligible, you must earn a high school diploma or equivalency and satisfy the following requirements:

Subject Requirement Complete the 15 year long high school courses (known as the “a-g” courses) listed in the box on page 21.

Eligibility in the Local Context

Students are identified by the University as being in the top 9% of their graduating class at participating high schools.

Regardless of which path you take, all eligibility requirements must be met no later than the date of high school graduation.

Honors courses

The university assigns extra points for up to eight semesters of University-certified honors-level courses taken in the last three years of high school A=5 points, B=4 points, C=3 points. No more than two yearlong UC-approved honors-level courses taken in the 10th grade may be given extra points. A grade of D in an honors course does not earn extra points.

Honors courses (cont'd)

The courses must be certified as honors courses by the University and must be in the following “a-g” subjects: history/social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science, language other than English and visual and performing arts. In these subjects, as well as in computer science, acceptable honors-level courses include Advanced Placement courses, UC-designated International Baccalaureate courses, and college courses that are transferable to the University.

D and F grades Any “a-g” courses in which you earn a D or F must be repeated with a grade of C or better to count toward the Subject Requirement. Only the second grade will be used in calculating your GPA. If you repeat a course in which you initially earned a grade of C, the second grade will not be used.

AT A GLANCE: THE MOST COMMON PATHS TO UC

Statewide Eligibility (Freshman)*

- High school diploma (CHSPE/GED accepted)
- GPA \geq 3.0 (Nonresident: 3.4)
- 15 UC-approved courses:
 - History/Social Science – 2 years
 - English – 4 years
 - Mathematics – 3 years
 - Science – 2 years
 - Language Other Than English – 2 years
 - Visual and Performing Arts – 1 year
 - College- Preparatory Elective – 1 year

Local Eligibility (Freshman)**

- GPA \geq 3.0
- Must be designated in top 9% of participating high school
- 11 UC-approved courses by end of junior year:
 - History/Social Science – 1 year
 - English – 2 years
 - Mathematics – 2 years
 - Science – 1 year
 - Language other than English – 1 year
 - Other “A-G” courses- 4 Years
(chosen from the subjects listed above or another course approved by the university)

Community College Junior Level Transfer

- GPA \geq 2.4 (Nonresident: 2.8)
- 60 semester (90 quarter) transferable units, including:
 - English composition – 2 courses
 - Mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning – 1 course
 - 4 courses from at least 2 of these subject areas: Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Physical and Biological Sciences
- No examination requirement

To see your school's UC-certified course list, visit <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>

*Freshmen applicants are in high school or have graduated from high school but have not enrolled in a regular session at any college. (If you attend a college summer session immediately after graduating from high school, you are still a freshman applicant.)

**ELC students must complete all Subject and Examination Requirements by their senior year to be considered fully eligible

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Scholarship Requirement</p> <p>California applicants must earn at least a 3.0 GPA (3.4 for nonresidents) in their “a-g” courses to meet the Scholarship Requirement.</p> <p>Eligibility in the Local Context</p> <p>This path recognizes students' individual accomplishments in light of the opportunities offered by their particular high schools. If you rank in the top 9% of your California high school's graduating class as determined by UC, and your high school participates in the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) program, you can become eligible through ELC.</p> <p>To be considered, you must complete 11 “a-g” courses, specified in the chart to the right, by the end of your junior year.</p> <p>After you enter your coursework and grades in the UC application, your GPA will be compared to the historic top GPA for your school. If you meet or exceed that GPA, you'll be designated ELC and a note will be added to your application.</p> <p>When will I find out if I'm designated ELC?</p> <p>After submitting the application, you can return to the My UC application page to see whether or not you've been designated ELC.</p> | <p>Required “A – G” Courses</p> <p>a History/Social Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED</p> <p>Two years of history/social science, including one year of world history, cultures or geography; and one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.</p> <p>b English – 4 YEARS REQUIRED</p> <p>Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement.</p> <p>c Mathematics – 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Three years of college-preparatory math including or integrating topics covered in algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or this entire requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades that your high school accepts as equivalent to its own math courses. Also acceptable are courses that address the previously mentioned content areas and include or integrate probability, statistics or trigonometry. Courses intended for 11th and/or 12th grade levels may satisfy the required third year or recommended fourth year of the subject requirement if approved as an advanced math course.</p> <p>d Laboratory Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED.</p> <p>Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics. Advanced laboratory science courses that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial new material may be used to fulfill this requirement. The last two years of an approved three-year integrated science program that provides rigorous coverage of at least two of the three foundational subjects may be used to fulfill this requirement.</p> <p>e Language Other Than English – 2 YEARS REQ, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED.</p> <p>Two years or equivalent to the 2nd level of high school instruction of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. Courses in languages other than English taken in the seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if your high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.</p> <p>f Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 YEAR REQUIRED</p> <p>One yearlong course of visual and performing arts chosen from the following disciplines: dance, music, theater, visual arts or interdisciplinary arts - or two one-semester courses from the same discipline is also acceptable.</p> <p>g College-Preparatory Electives – 1 YEAR REQUIRED</p> <p>One year (two semesters) chosen from courses specific to the elective (G) subject area or courses taken beyond those used to satisfy the requirements of the A-F subjects.</p> |
| | <p>Note: At least seven of the 15 year long courses must be taken in your last two years of high school. <i>California high school students:</i> The courses you take to fulfill the Subject Requirement must be on your school's University-certified course list. To see your school's list, go to https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist</p> |

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CALIFORNIA

<https://www.californiacolleges.edu/#/>

TUHSD is in partnership with California Colleges. California Colleges, the platform that allows students to obtain the information and the guidance they need to successfully complete college and financial aid processes, while providing tools for educators to identify students that need the most support through targeted interventions. Educators will now be able to monitor and track student progress towards UC/CSU eligibility throughout their high school career. Families and students will be able to do the same. **Students will be able to apply for any CA State University, UC or community college through the platform.**

Variety: Independents come in a variety of shapes and sizes: major research universities, comprehensive universities, small liberal arts colleges, church-affiliated universities, specialized schools and colleges for the arts or technology and even universities for full-time workers.

Cost: Since independents do not receive money from the state, their “sticker price” is higher than public colleges and universities. However, many students (86% in California) receive aid to cover most if not all of their costs. When you consider costs, think about the consequences of spending more than four years in college. Costs for an additional year include not only tuition and fees, but also “lost income” as a result of not being able to start a career.

Finding Information

- Go online. In addition to the general college search sites, you can try the web site for California’s independent colleges and universities at www.aiccu.edu
- Visit college campuses
- Take a virtual tour of campuses
- Talk with people, especially students from your high school who now attend colleges you are considering. Ask them what makes it special? How are they paying for it? Will it get them where they want to go and on time?

How to Apply:

Application procedures vary at different colleges; below are some general guidelines:

- Check college websites early in your senior year for specific application procedures and deadlines.
- Most colleges require a transcript; some require admissions tests (SAT or ACT), recommendations and essays. (check with university)
- Some require or recommend personal interviews.

How Do Colleges Make Decisions?

While some independent colleges are in the most competitive category, others are looking for graduates in the top-half of their class or who have a special talent. Independents often take a closer look at candidates by going beyond the numbers (GPA, test scores) and requiring essays, recommendations and personal interviews. Key factors:

Courses: A strong college preparatory program

Grades: A good GPA in challenging courses

Examinations: Be sure to take the right ones

Other Factors: Recommendations, essays, leadership, alumni, athletics, special interests, hobbies or activities, music, art, yearbook, etc.

When Do You Find Out?

Early Decision and Early Action Programs: Students applying under these programs will be notified of a college’s decision earlier than regular admission applicants. This process is for applicants who are sure about their choice of college. See Glossary for further explanation of terms.

Regular Notification: Colleges notify a candidate in March or April.

Rolling Admissions: Students are evaluated in the order applications are received and admissions continue until the class category is full.



WHAT IS THE COMMON APPLICATION?

The Common Application is a not-for-profit membership committed to providing reliable services that promote equity access, and integrity in the college application process. It serves students, member institutions, and secondary schools by providing applications that students and school officials may submit to more than 1,100 colleges.

WHY USE IT?

The Common Application simplifies the college admission process by saving time and eliminating duplication of effort. Once completed online, copies of the Application for Undergraduate Admission and associated secondary school forms may be sent to any of the participating colleges and universities.

IS IT WIDELY USED?

Yes! The Common App is used by more than 1.5 million applicants each year.

MAY ALL COLLEGES PARTICIPATE?

Membership is open to colleges and universities that evaluate students using a holistic selection process. A holistic process includes subjective as well as objective criteria, including at least one academic recommendation form, at least one writing sample, and broader campus diversity considerations.

APPLICATIONS

The Common Application should be submitted online to all schools (please see your high school counselor for specific instructions). Once the application is submitted to a school, it cannot be changed for that college; the student must contact the college directly if they wish to correct an error or provide more information. The online application provides numerous organization tools that allow a student to submit and track other components of their application such as supplements, payments, and school forms.

SUPPLEMENTS

Common Application members may require an additional supplement form from applicants to ask questions not included on the Common Application. These are typically questions that don't have common answers for all institutions, such as "Did your parent(s) attend our college?" Additional essays may also be required by colleges with Common Application supplements.

SCHOOL FORMS

By using the Common Application, counselors and teachers submit one form or letter and all schools have access to this information. Most counselors and teachers prefer online submission of these forms, but students should check the Common Application School Forms section to be sure.

Please see www.commonapp.org/ for more information.

The Common Application©. Printed with permission

THE COALITION APPLICATION

WHAT IS THE COALITION APPLICATION?

The Coalition Application was founded in 2015 with the goal to improve the college application process for all students, particularly those from historically under-represented groups. The group behind its creation is the “Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success,” and members are united in their mission to support lower-income, under-resources, and/or first generation students, provide responsible financial aid, and bolster students’ success in college and beyond.

WHY USE IT?

The Coalition has developed a free platform of online tools to streamline the experience of organizing and refining your academic skills, discovering your college options, and preparing your college applications. Students have private, unlimited space where they can upload important items such as papers, videos, and photos, as a record of their high school experience; this cloud-based “Locker” becomes the foundation of their application to Coalition schools. The Coalition’s online toolkit, MyCoalition, is designed to engage students in the college application process early and easily.

CAN A STUDENT USE MYCOALITION TO APPLY IF HE/SHE DOESN’T USE THE LOCKER AND OTHER FREE PLANNING TOOLS?

Yes

WHO ARE THEIR MEMBER SCHOOLS?

The Coalition is made up of more than 150 distinguished and diverse public and private colleges and universities across the U.S.

WHICH COLLEGES USE IT EXCLUSIVELY?

Currently, most colleges that accept the Coalition Application are also continuing to use the Common Application or their own institutional application.

DO COALITION COLLEGES PREFER ONE APPLICATION OVER ANOTHER?

No, Coalition member schools do not have a preference for how students submit applications.

DO STUDENTS HAVE TO PAY APPLICATION FEES WHEN THEY APPLY TO COALITION SCHOOLS?

Regardless of which application a student chooses to use, he or she must follow the established admission fee policy of each individual school. Most schools require application fees, although many accept a variety of fee waivers. The Coalition offers its own, easy-to-use application fee waiver to eligible lower-income students. It doesn’t require any documentation or verification from applicants, and it enables eligible students to bypass the payment screen each time they submit a Coalition application to a waiver-participating member school. Application fee waivers are also offered to veterans and active members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

GLOSSARY

ACT: This is a college entrance test. See page 11 for more details.

AP: Advanced Placement courses and tests offer students an opportunity to gain college credit or to be excused from introductory courses. The AP tests are administered through the College Board in the spring and rated on a scale of 1 to 5. The college decides whether it will grant credit or advanced placement for AP work done in high school.

Associate Degree: A two-year college degree often completed at a community college.

Bachelor's Degree: A four-year undergraduate degree awarded by a college or university. Most commonly students will earn a Bachelor's of Science (B.S.) or a Bachelor's of Arts (B.A.).

California Dream Act Application (CADAA): This application is used to determine the eligibility of AB 540 students interested in attending eligible California colleges, universities and career education programs to apply for state financial aid. This form can be found at: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

Candidate's Reply Date: May 1 is the date by which accepted students must accept or decline admission offers.

CEEB: The College Entrance Examination Board (the College Board) creates and supervises administration of the SAT, AP exams and CSS Profile.

Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success: The Coalition represents more than 150 American higher education institutions.

Common Application: An online application accepted by over 1,000 private and public institutions allowing students to use the same application for each of the participating colleges.

Community College: Two-year colleges, usually funded by local and state funds, which provide vocational training programs as well as college transfer programs.

CSS Profile: A financial aid form used by some private and public colleges and scholarship programs. The Profile is available at: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Deferred from college acceptance: An Early Action or Early Decision applicant will receive their final admission decision at the same time as those applying Regular Decision.

Early Action: This program allows a student to submit an application in November and receive a decision by mid-December. Generally, the student is not limited to one Early Action application nor required to enroll if accepted. An Early Action candidate who has not been accepted may be considered with the regular-decision applicant pool. Students accepted under Early Action are not required to notify the college of their intention to enroll until May 1.

Early Action – Single Choice - Restrictive: Like **Early Action** above but the student is limited to one Early Action application. Applicants should follow the college's Early Action policy.

Early Decision: This program allows a student to apply to a first-choice college early in the fall of senior year and receive a decision by mid-December that is binding. Students should continue to apply to other colleges using the Regular Decision option. However, under Early Decision, the student agrees to enroll if accepted and to withdraw other applications immediately.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): A special admissions program, which offers counseling, tutoring and educational assistance for low-income and first-generation college students. EOP is available at all public institutions in California upon application.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the basic form that must be filed to apply for federal financial aid. This is a government form that can qualify students for potential aid, awarded by the university. The FAFSA website is: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

GPA: Grade Point Average (see Weighted GPA). Most colleges want you to report your cumulative academic weighted GPA.

High School Code: Used by Educational Testing Service to identify each school. See the first page of this guide for your school code.

Humanities: Courses concerned with thought and human relations, philosophy, literature, classical languages and the fine arts.

Impacted Program or Major: A program, major or campus that has more applicants than available spaces. Entrance requirements are more competitive.

Liberal Arts: This term usually refers to courses in English, Social Studies and Foreign Language. Liberal arts colleges offer a four-year course of study, leading to the B.S. or B.A. degree.

Need Aware/Need Blind Admissions: Most colleges choose one of two approaches to admissions and financial aid: “need blind” or “need aware.” Need aware schools consider finances in their admission decisions. Need blind schools do not consider an applicant’s financial need when making admission decisions.

Net Price Calculator: Net price calculators are available on a college or university’s website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account. All colleges/universities are required to have this tool on their websites.

Portal: A college applicant portal contains key, personal information for every applicant at a college and allows you to update contact information, monitor application status, upload and track documents, and view the decision on the application.

Rolling Admissions: Colleges using this system notify an applicant of admission status soon after the application is complete.

Student Aid Index (SAI): SAI is an index number that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. The information you report on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to calculate your SAI.

SAT: This college admission entrance exam is administered by the College Board. See page 11.

Scholarship: A form of financial assistance that does not require repayment. Based on need or merit, scholarships are usually offered to students who show potential for distinction or who possess certain characteristics specified by the scholarship provider (such as community service, athletics, talent, hobbies, ethnicity, religious beliefs, etc.).

Test Blind: Colleges that are test blind do not factor test scores into admission decisions even if students submit scores.

Test Flexible: Schools that use a test-flexible admissions policy allow applicants to submit a variety of standardized test scores in support of their application.

Test Optional: A test-optional admissions policy means applicants can choose whether not to submit SAT or ACT scores.

Weighted GPA: Some schools give additional points for honors or Advanced Placement courses when determining the grade point average. For example, an “A” in an honors or AP course is weighted as 5 points rather than 4 and a “B”, 4 points rather than 3 in computing the GPA.

WUE: The Western Undergraduate Exchange is a program where students in Western states may enroll in participating 2 year and 4 year public colleges at a reduced tuition level; up to 150 percent of the institution’s regular in-state resident tuition rate.

Useful Websites

Naviance

Your school's Naviance website has extensive information in all areas listed below. Naviance allows you to complete interest surveys, search careers, colleges, and scholarships, and build a resume. Log-in using your Tam District school email and password when selecting "Continue with Single Sign On" at the appropriate site below:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Archie Williams | https://student.naviance.com/archiewilliams |
| Redwood | https://student.naviance.com/redwood |
| San Andreas | https://student.naviance.com/sanandreas |
| Tamalpais | https://student.naviance.com/tamalpais |
| Tamiscal | https://student.naviance.com/tamiscal |

College Searches on the Web

College Board
<https://www.collegeboard.org>

College Confidential
www.collegeconfidential.com

National Center for Education Statistics
<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Niche
<https://www.niche.com/>

Unigo
<https://www.unigo.com/>

College Applications and Information

California Community Colleges
www.cccapply.org

California State Universities
<https://www.calstate.edu/apply>

University of California
www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Coalition Application
www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

The Common Application
www.commonapp.org

Assoc. of Independent California Colleges/Universities
www.aiccu.edu

NCAA
<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Learning Differences

ACT Services for Students with Disabilities
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/accommodations.html>

College Board Accommodations
<https://accommodations.collegeboard.org>

ETS Documentation Policies for Testing Accommodation
www.ets.org/disabilities

College options for students with intellectual disabilities
<https://thinkcollege.net/college-search>

Financial Aid & Scholarships

FAFSA
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

California Dream Act Application
<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing>

Check Cal Grant status
<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>

California Student Aid Commission
<http://www.csac.ca.gov>

CSS/Financial Aid Profile
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>

The Go-To Guide for College Financial Aid
www.finaid.org

Big Future
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>

Western Undergraduate Exchange
www.wiche.edu/wue

Your School's Naviance site for scholarships

Career Information

Occupational Outlook Handbook
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

U.S. Department of Labor
www.careeronestop.org

Testing

ACT
<http://www.act.org/>

SAT
www.collegeboard.org

Khan Academy – Official Digital SAT practice
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/digital-sat>

The National Center for Fair & Open Testing
<http://fairtest.org/>

What Is WUE?

WUE is the Western Undergraduate Exchange, a program coordinated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Through WUE, students in Western states may enroll in participating two-year and four-year public college programs at a reduced tuition level: up to 150 percent of the institution's regular resident tuition. In all cases, WUE tuition is considerably less than nonresident tuition. For answers to many of the commonly asked questions about WUE, visit <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/wue-faq/>

Which States and U.S. Territories Participate?

Resident students from the following states and U.S. Territories may participate, if they meet eligibility requirements: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Eligibility

Many institutions require evidence of academic performance, such as ACT/SAT test scores or high school GPA, or place other conditions on WUE enrollment. Consult the WUE website for details.

Programs Available Virtually all undergraduate fields are available to WUE students at one or more of the participating colleges and universities. Some institutions have opened their entire curriculum on a space- available or first-come, first-served basis. Others offer only designated programs at the discounted WUE rate. To learn about the wide array of programs available, consult the searchable WUE database, located at www.wiche.edu/wue. For additional details, follow the links to the enrolling institutions' websites.

Application and Admission

Apply directly to the institution(s) of your choice for admission and WUE tuition status. **If applicable, mark prominently on the institution's application form that you seek admission as a WUE student.**

More Information

Information about specific programs offered through WUE can be obtained from the admissions office of participating institutions.

www.wiche.edu/wue