College Match Day

Discovering the Right Fit

Junior Lesson Fall 2026



Counseling Presentation Norms

- Engage actively
- Listen to understand
- Be respectful and patient

Lesson Objective:

By the end of today's lesson:

- Learn what a reach, match, and likely school is and how to identify yours
- Begin to create your own list based on the match and fit criteria you selected

Table Share/Think Pair Share

Why do you want to go to college?

What is your ideal academic environment?



Do you think you are ready to go to college? Why or why not?

What career do you want to pursue?

Why College?



What do you think are some things that you should consider when choosing a college or university?



Things to think about

- Size and Location
- Public or Private
- Academic options
- Affordability
- Extracurriculars

- Acceptance rates
- Range of GPA
- Application process
- Test score req's
- Diversity

Asking Smart Questions

Instead of: Is this school good or bad?	**Instead of:** What's the right college?	**Instead of:** What's the best college?
Ask: Is the school good for **ME**? What are its strengths?	Ask: What are my priorities? Will **I** be successful?	Ask: What's the best college for me? Where can **I** thrive?

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Does this school offer the major and opportunities I want?
- Can I imagine spending 4 years here and being happy?
- Would I feel comfortable in the campus environment?
- Would this school help me achieve my future goals?
- Can I afford this school with financial aid & scholarships?
- Does this school offer me academic and social and emotional support?

REACH SCHOOLS (DREAM)

- Admission is possible but not likely.
- Your academic profile is **below or near** the average admitted student.
- Even strong applicants may not be admitted.
- Reach schools often have lower acceptance rates and receive many more qualified applicants than available spots.

Recommend 1 – 2 schools on your list

MATCH SCHOOLS (STRONG FIT)

- You have a realistic chance of being admitted.
- Your academic profile is **similar** to the average admitted student
- These schools are often the strongest fit for your college list
- You would be happy to attend if admitted.

Recommend 3 – 4 schools on your list

LIKELY SCHOOLS (SAFETY)

- Your grades, coursework, and other qualifications are stronger than those of many admitted students
- The school's admission rate and your qualifications make admission very likely.
- You meet all admission requirements and exceed many of them.
- You would be happy to attend this school, even though it may not be your top choice.

Recommend 1 – 2 schools on your list

College List Tips



Tip 1 Aim for between 8 to 12 colleges

Tip 2 Create a balanced list of schools

Tip 3 Make note of your “why” for each college

Tip 4 Good options vs. one “dream” school

Tip 5 Only apply to schools you’d like to attend

Tip 6 Consider cost & Financial Aid

Net Price Calculator

A Net Price Calculator helps you estimate what a college might actually cost your family after grants and scholarships are applied

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How to find:

- Google: *[College Name]* Net Price Calculator

What you will need:

- Parent Income
- Household Size
- Number of family members in college
- Student income (if any)
- Assets or Savings

Building a College List

10:00

Part 1: Identifying your Preferences

- Choose a preference worksheet to fill out 2yr CC or 4-Yr
- Answer based on what YOU want in a college or university
- Log into Aeries to view your transcript if you need it to answer any questions
- If there is time, go back and do the other worksheet

10:00

Part 2: Research to Find Your Match

4-year Match & Fit worksheet

- Log in to your CA Colleges account
- College tab > College Search Tool > Search for a school you are interested in to complete your table

2-year Match and Fit Worksheet

- Go to programfinder.com > Select field of Interest
- Find a College that has the program you are interested in
- Follow the steps above to complete your table

Activity 1

Identifying Your Preferences

College & University Options

- Choose a preference worksheet to fill out
- Answer all the questions based on what **YOU** want in a college or university
- Log into Aeries to view your transcript if you need it to answer any questions
- If there is time you will be able to go back and do the other worksheet later

10:00

2-year CC or 4-year University

Activity 2

Research To Find Your Match

Match & Fit Table Research

10:00

4-year Match & Fit worksheet

- Log in to your CA Colleges account
- Hover over the “College” tab, click on College Search Tool, search for a school you are interested in
- Click through each of the tabs to complete your Match Table

2-year Match and Fit Worksheet

- Go to www.programfinder.com or www
- Select a field of interest
- Once the map pops up, unclick “High School Districts”
- Find a College that has the program you are interested in
- Log into your CA Colleges account to search the College website to complete your Match Table

Saving Your College List in Your California Colleges Account

Add to College List

Log into your CA Colleges Account

Find a college to research using your Match & Fit Table

❤️ the college fits your criteria

Edit College Plan

Go to:

My Plan → My College Plan

Click the edit icon in the Edit/Delete column

Complete boxes

Degree Type

Major

Identify: Match, Reach, or Safety

Click the ✔ to save

Don't Forget, Identify Your Picks

REACH SCHOOLS

MATCH SCHOOLS

LIKELY SCHOOLS

Final Reminders

- Continue having conversations about what you want to do after high school with your family
- Start thinking about what you want to do as a career, what you enjoy, and what community colleges that you are interested in
- Keep these papers in a safe place, you will be continuing the search for colleges during your 1 on 1 registration meetings in February

Day 2
(during Registration)

★ Continue to Build your College List

★ Continue Exploring Colleges

College Match Day Part 2

- Log into californiacolleges.edu with your SVUSD student email.
- Go to **My Plan** at the top of the page, hover on the text, then select My Goals.
- Click on **College Goals** and select Goal #1 and write your response in the space provided.
- Using your Match and Fit Table from the College Match Day lesson that you started and continue researching schools you are interested in or want to learn more about.
    - Extra sheets are available if you don't have the one that you started or want to use a different research worksheet
- Remember to favorite the colleges that you are researching to save them for when it's time to complete your applications next year.

Saving Your College List in Your California Colleges Account

Add to College List

Log into your CA Colleges Account

Find a college to research using your Match & Fit Table

❤️ the college fits your criteria

Edit College Plan

Go to:

My Plan → My College Plan

Click the edit icon in the Edit/Delete column

Complete boxes

Degree Type

Major

Identify: Match, Reach, or Likely

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Don't Forget, Identify Your Picks

REACH SCHOOLS

MATCH SCHOOLS

LIKELY SCHOOLS

Don't Forget: Identify Your Picks

REACH SCHOOLS	These schools may be more selective (look at the percent of applicants admitted) and your academic record may be on the lower end of what the college typically accepts. You may be admitted. **Recommend 1 – 2 schools on your list**
MATCH SCHOOLS	Typically your academic record will be similar to the "average" student admitted to this school. You are likely to be admitted. **Recommend at least 3 – 4 schools on your list**
LIKELY SCHOOLS	Your academic record exceeds the school's requirements. You will be a very competitive applicant for admission. Also consider adding a financially safe school as well! **Recommend at least 2 schools on your list**

Time To Explore

College Tour Website

- Santiago Canyon College
- Santa Ana College
- Cypress College
- Cerritos College
- Fullerton College





Future Ready!
Application
Day Campaign:

October 2027!


HOW TO BUILD YOUR COLLEGE LIST
REACH
MATCH
SAFETY