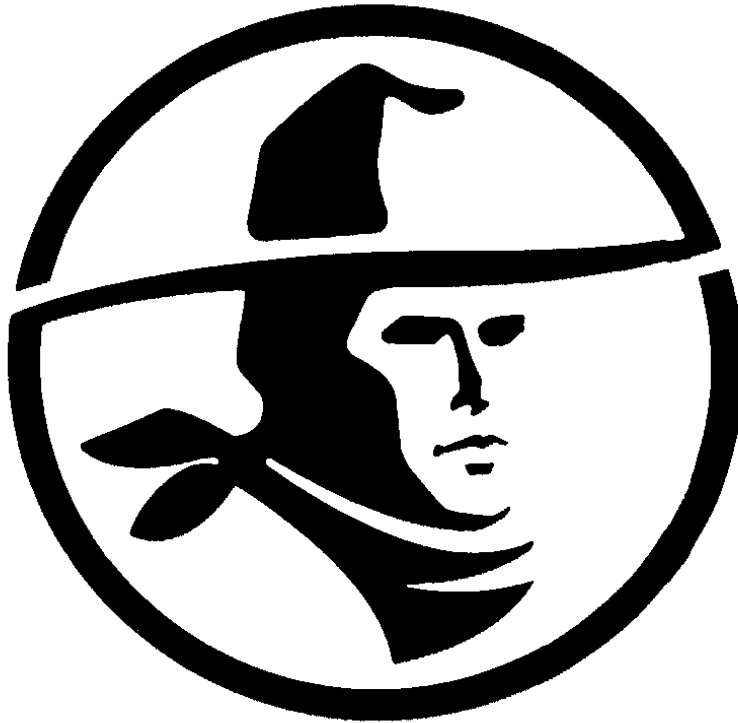


# Post-High School Planning Guide 2012/2013



**William S. Hart Union High School District**  
**21515 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350**  
**(661) 259-0033**  
[www.hartdistrict.org](http://www.hartdistrict.org)

William S. Hart Union High School District

Dear Parents and Students:

The William S. Hart Union High School District is pleased to present this reference guide for students and parents. I encourage you to carefully study this document and to spend time with your son or daughter in planning his/her post-high school learning experience. Your involvement in the selection of courses your son or daughter takes is important as they plan their future after high school graduation.

This guide is designed as a tool to assist in high school and post high school planning. By using this guide as a reference document, you can plan for the future in a more informed manner.

Very truly yours,

Robert Challinor  
Superintendent

The William S. Hart Union High School District, located in the northern end of Los Angeles County, serves the Santa Clarita Valley communities of Canyon Country, Castaic, Newhall, Saugus, and Valencia. The District, with an enrollment of over 23,000 students, operates six junior high schools, six comprehensive high schools, a continuation high school, a middle college high school, an adult school, a Regional Occupational Program, and an independent study high school.

This Planning Guide will be updated and revised each year by the District curriculum office, the pupil services office, and the six high school head counselors to include the most current information related to educational planning. Suggestions from students, parents, and staff are welcome.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNSELING SERVICES PHONE DIRECTORY .....	1
GUIDANCE SERVICES .....	2
DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PLANS.....	3
A-G REQUIREMENTS .....	4
REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS.....	5
ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM.....	6
HOW TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION .....	7
CALENDAR FOR PARENTS AND COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS .....	8
TEST PREPARATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND INTERPRETATION.....	21
FOUR YEAR PLAN.....	21
POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS.....	21
COLLEGE INFORMATION.....	15
COLLEGE COMPARISONS AND WORKSHEET.....	17
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM.....	20
COMPLETING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION .....	20
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.....	21
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM.....	22
PRIVATE COLLEGES IN CALIFORNIA .....	24
MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES .....	25
FINANCIAL AID .....	27
WEBSITES .....	27
GLOSSARY .....	34

# COUNSELING SERVICES PHONE DIRECTORY

## **Academy of the Canyons**

26455 N. Rockwell Canyon Road, Valencia, CA 91355  
Administration Ext. 3056

**Phone (661) 362-3056**

## **Jeneann Bowman Continuation High School**

21508 Centre Point Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350  
Counseling Office Ext. 159

**Phone (661) 253-4400**

## **Canyon High School**

19300 West Nadal Street, Canyon Country, CA 91351  
Counseling Office Ext. 131  
ROP Ext. 146 (251-0072)  
Work Experience Ext. 112

**Phone (661) 252-6110**

## **Golden Valley High School**

20501 Golden Valley Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91321  
Counseling Office Ext. 1130  
ROP Ext. 1147  
Work Experience Ext. 1130

**Phone (661) 298-8140**

## **Hart High School**

24825 North Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA 91321  
Counseling Office Ext. 131  
ROP Ext. 160 (254-4064)  
Work Experience Ext. 145

**Phone (661) 259-7575**

## **Learning Post**

26455 N. Rockwell Canyon Rd, Valencia, CA 91355

**Phone (661) 255-8338**

## **Saugus High School**

21900 West Centurion Way, Saugus, CA 91350  
Counseling Office Ext. 2340  
ROP Ext. 2602 (296-8600)  
Work Experience Ext. 4105

**Phone (661) 297-3900**

## **Valencia High School**

27801 N. Dickason Drive, Valencia, CA 91355  
Counseling Ext. 418  
ROP Ext. 437  
Work Experience Ext. 436

**Phone (661) 294-1188**

## **West Ranch High School**

26255 W. Valencia Blvd., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381  
Counseling Office Ext. 141  
ROP Ext. 154  
Work Experience Ext. 153

**Phone (661) 222-1220**

# GUIDANCE SERVICES

## COUNSELING STAFF

- COUNSELORS  
Counselors may be assigned by grade level, alpha last name, or by special programs.
- COUNSELING SECRETARY  
Provides general information and schedules appointments with counselors.
- ROP TECHNICIAN  
Provides ROP information and processes enrollment.

## DISTRICT CAREER CENTER

- Assists counseling and administrative staff with college and career exploration activities.
  - Janis Fiock – District Career Advisor  
(661) 259 – 0033 Ext. 434
  - Pam Malowe – Career Development Coordinator  
(661) 259 – 0033 Ext. 232
    - Provides job shadow and internship opportunities.

Parents and students are invited to call and arrange to come in to find out more about the services and resources of the Counseling Department and District Career Center.

## DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PLANS

As you are developing your plan, remember that one of the most important factors in determining college admissions eligibility is the pattern of college prep course work in high school.

A strong pattern of course work is especially important for students planning entry into competitive majors and/or to the more competitive colleges.

To develop an educational plan:

- Review graduation requirements
- Include all course work required for graduation and prerequisites for your future educational or career goals
- Check with specific colleges and universities for their detailed admission criteria and for high school prerequisites required for your specific major field of study.
- Talk with university representatives who visit high school campuses, or contact university admission offices by phone.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

COURSE	CREDITS
English	40.0
Math (including Algebra)	20.0
Science (One year Physical and One year Biological)	20.0
Social Studies (Total 30)	
Modern Civilizations	10.0
U.S. History	10.0
American Government/Economics	10.0
Health	2.5
Practical Arts	5.0
(Business, Family and Consumer Science, or Industrial Technology)	
Fine Arts	10.0
(or) Fine Arts with one year of Foreign Language (5.0 each)	
Physical Education	20.0
Electives	72.5
<b>Total Credits Required for Graduation</b>	<b>220.0</b>

All students must pass the California High School Exit Exam to receive a high school diploma.

All students must complete Algebra I in order to receive a high school diploma.

## The A-G Requirements

Complete a minimum of 15 units of coursework in these “a-g” areas (1 unit = 1 year)

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| a. History/Social Science  | 2 years  |
| b. English                 | 4 years (college prep only)                            |
| c. Mathematics             | 3 years (including Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II) |
| d. Lab Science             | 2 years  |
| e. Foreign Language        | 2 years (same language)                                |
| f. Visual/Performing Arts  | 1 year   |
| g. College Prep. Electives | 1 year   |

## Meeting the Requirements

	University Requirements	High School Requirements	NCAA Eligibility
A. History	2 years	Modern Civilization (10) US History (11) Govt. and Economics (12)	Modern Civilization (10) US History (11) Government and Economics (12)
B. English	4 years of college preparatory English	4 years of English	4 years of college-preparatory English
C. Math	Completion of: Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II	Must complete Algebra. Must have a minimum of 4 semesters of math.	3 years of Math (Algebra I or higher)
D. Science	Biology (UC and CSU) Chemistry/Physics (UC/CSU) Earth Science (CSU only)	Biology Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, or Physical Science	2 years of Science (*one lab) Biology 1-2, *Chemistry, *Physics (Human Anatomy, APES, Earth Science 1, Molecular Genetics) Extra Year
E. Language	At least 2 years of the same language	No language requirement	At least 2 years of the same language
F. Fine Art	2 semesters of the same class (Art 1A and 1B, Chorus A and Chorus B)	If no language taken, student needs any 2 Fine Arts. If 1 year of language is taken, student needs only 1 fine art.	<b>Not Required</b>
G. Electives	1 extra year of academics beyond the minimum. Third year of History will cover this.	Students must reach a total of 220 credits to graduate	2 extra years of academics beyond the minimum in Math, Science or Foreign Language. Division 1 only.
H. Health	<b>Not Required</b>	One health class required	<b>Not Required</b>
I. Practical Art	<b>Not Required</b>	One Practical Art class required. (Foods, Business, Networking, Drafting, Auto, ROP, etc.)	<b>Not Required</b>
J. CAHSEE		Must pass both the English and math sections of the CAHSEE	
K. PE	<b>Not Required</b>	4 semesters of PE or sports	<b>Not Required</b>

If a student has not met each requirement for college admissions, he or she may contact the individual university or college to research any possibilities to make up the deficiencies.

# REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM (ROP)

Whether a student plans to go on to college after graduation or to go directly to work, effective job skills are an asset. The ROP program allows students to become acquainted with specific jobs, thus assisting in career exploration and related decisions.

ROP courses may give the trained, experienced student an edge in obtaining entrance into a variety of occupational setting and/or related college majors. Examples of the value of the ROP experience for a college-prep student may be evidenced in a variety of ways, (i.e., letters of recommendation from professionals in the field, employability in a career-related area during the college years, experience to make appropriate career decisions, an economic method to achieve a career path).

ROP courses are offered in addition to a regular school day and priority enrollment is given to seniors and juniors. Sophomores who are sixteen years old may take an ROP class if there is room. Students must be enrolled in at least four classes in addition to ROP. Summer courses may be available.

## PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS

(Contact the ROP Advisor at your high school for more information)

Animal Care and Services	Health Careers, Intro
Animal Care and Services (Advanced)	Hotel and Restaurant Operations
Automotive Technology	Infant Care Occupations
Banking Occupations	Interior Design
Child Care Occupations	Law Academy- Sheriff Explorer (Beginning)
Construction Technology	Law Academy- Sheriff Explorer (Advanced)
Cosmetology	Law Enforcement
Culinary Arts	Medical Office (Introduction)
Culinary Arts (Advanced)	Offset Lithography
Dental Assistant	Pharmacy Assistant
Exploring Engineering Technology (Robotics, "EET")	Photography Digital
Emergency Medical Responder	Physical Therapy Assistant
Entertainment/ Performance Occupations	Plumbing
Fashion Merchandising	Retail Operations
Firefighting Technology	School Age Child Care Occupations
Firefighting Technology (Advanced)	Silk Screen Printing
Floristry	Silk Screen Printing (Advanced)
Floristry (Advanced)	Television Broadcast Journalism
Forensics	Travel Occupations
Forensics (Advanced)	Wild land Firefighting
Forestry Basics and Trail Construction	Virtual Enterprise
Graphic Design	

## ABOUT THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

### WHAT IS THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM?

It is a program of college-level courses and exams for secondary school students. About 90 percent of the colleges that most AP candidates attend give credit and/or advanced placement to students whose AP Examination grades are considered acceptable.

### WHAT IS AN AP COURSE LIKE?

It is a special college-level learning experience that most often lasts a full academic year. It is challenging and stimulating. Compared to other high school courses, it often takes more time. It also requires more work, gives greater opportunity for individual progress and accomplishment, and goes into greater depth.

### CAN I REALLY GET A YEAR OF COLLEGE CREDIT FOR AP WORK?

Possibly. Some of the most selective colleges are among the approximately 1300 institutions that consider acceptable grades on three or more AP Exams as evidence that the student has done work comparable to a year's academic program at college. More than 10,000 AP students are potentially eligible for sophomore standing each year. Each college decides which AP examination grades it will accept for credit and/or advanced placement. Students should check a specific college's policy.

### WHY ARE COLLEGES INTERESTED IN AP CANDIDATES?

Studies undertaken by individual colleges have shown repeatedly that AP students who take advanced courses in their first year of college do as well as or better than upperclassmen. Most AP students do extremely well throughout their college careers and a good number graduate with honors.

### WHAT DO AP EXAMS COST?

The fee is approximately \$86 for each exam taken.

### WHAT ARE AP EXAMS LIKE? WHEN ARE THEY GIVEN?

All AP Exams (except Studio Art portfolios) contain both multiple-choice and free-response questions that require essay writing, problem solving, and other skills. Most of the examinations are three hours long, but some take only an hour and a half or two hours. They are given every year in May, at any school that wishes to order and administer them. Twenty-nine examinations covering sixteen different academic fields are currently offered.

### HOW MANY STUDENTS PASS THE AP EXAMS EACH YEAR?

That depends on what is meant by "pass". Each college decides what AP Examination grades it will accept for credit and/or advanced placement. The great majority of colleges and universities accept grades of 3 and above, and quite a few consider grades of 2. The Director of Admissions of the college will be very helpful in this area.

### WEIGHTED COURSE POLICIES

Weighted courses can encourage student enrollment in an academically rigorous pattern of coursework. Students taking college-prep coursework beyond the minimum admission standards will broaden university admission options, strengthen preparation for college admission exams, and develop strong academic skills. And students will have a higher probability of acceptance into competitive majors (i.e., architecture, business, computer science, engineering, nursing, etc.). Universities give priority to qualified students who have taken AP and honors courses. To be weighted a course, must have Honors or AP in the title and be approved on the UC course list to receive the additional weighting. Weighted classes will also earn an extra grade point when calculating GPAs. Usually a class earns: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=) points. A weighted class earns: A=5, B=4, C=3 points. Students can ask to see the GPA almost at anytime. Usually the following is true:

Wm. S. Hart Union HS District	University of California	California State University
Weighted course(s) may be completed in grades 9-12.	Weighted course(s) must be completed in grades 10-12.	Weighted course(s) must be completed in grades 10-12.
Any number of available courses may be used in combination with standard courses to determine high school GPA and class rank.	UC awards up to eight honors points for UC approved honors and AP classes. A maximum of four points may be awarded in the 10 <sup>th</sup> grade.	CSU awards up to eight honors points for CSU approved honors and AP classes. A maximum of four points may be awarded in the 10 <sup>th</sup> grade.
High school GPA for commencement recognition and class rank is based upon all courses in grades 9-12.	"a-g" GPA for university admissions based upon those courses meeting UC "a-g" subject requirements, grades 10-12 (ninth grade courses fulfill subject requirements only).	"Overall" GPA for university admission is based upon all UC approved courses, grades 10-12 (ninth grade courses fulfill subject requirements only).

# ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

## JUNIOR YEAR

- ▶ April – EAP and STAR Testing
- ▶ May – SAT
- ▶ June – SAT II

## AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- ▶ SELF ASSESSMENT: values, goals, educational background (number of years of English, adv. math, lab science, foreign language, history; PSAT, ACT, SAT I, SAT II scores; overall GPA, a-f GPA; activities).
- ▶ Review college requirements
- ▶ List serious college options.
- ▶ Visit several colleges with parents.
- ▶ Attend District College and Career Fair.
- ▶ Compare colleges: take notes, complete worksheet, discuss facts and your feelings with parents.
- ▶ Develop rough draft of autobiographical essay for UC/independent admission.
- ▶ Students planning application to competitive colleges should test no later than October since college admission selections often begin in December.
- ▶ Verify a challenging senior class schedule; complete at least four academic courses this year to keep your skills up. (7 units must be completed junior/senior years.)
- ▶ Obtain ROTC scholarship application.
- ▶ Request information from college admissions office(s): college catalogs, application, costs, financial aid, major departments, activities of interest.
- ▶ Schedule any fall interviews (usually only independent colleges).
- ▶ Determine filing dates for private college admission application(s).
- ▶ **Be sure to spell your name the same on ALL forms.**
- ▶ Register for college admission testing: SAT or ACT in October; SAT I or SAT II in November (be sure to meet mail deadline).
- ▶ Athletes register for NCAA [www.clearinghouse.net](http://www.clearinghouse.net)

## OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

- ▶ CSU and/or UC applications are available on-line.
- ▶ Request any other college applications from college admission office.
- ▶ Filing period for UC systems: November 1-30. FILE NOV. 1 IF HOUSING IS A PRIORITY. Application filing period for CSU begins October 1st.

- ▶ Indicate a credential objective on college admission application if Education is a career goal. It may strengthen acceptance probabilities.
- ▶ Request any needed letters of recommendation (usually independent colleges).
- ▶ Listen to college speakers.
- ▶ Develop plans A, B, and C for college admission. It's best to make application to more than one college unless admission is not competitive. Admission plans: A = dream campus, B = probable admittance, C = looking for you! Remember: Meeting admission requirements does NOT "guarantee" admission to most universities.
- ▶ Take college admission tests if still needed (ACT/SAT I/SAT II). Registration fees must be mailed six weeks before test is administered; students planning application to competitive colleges should test no later than November since college admission selections often begin in December.
- ▶ Remember: you do NOT have to wait until you have completed all SAT/ACT/SAT II exams to make applications to colleges. When your scores arrive at the college, they will be filed with your application.
- ▶ Attend SAT/ACT prep workshops.
- ▶ Begin scholarship search and apply!
- ▶ Check the scholarship file in the Counseling Office or school daily bulletin or website and make appropriate application(s).
- ▶ Give the high school registrar written request to send an official copy of your transcript, meeting college timeline.
- ▶ File ROTC scholarship application.

## MARCH / MAY

- ▶ Most college acceptance notices sent.
- ▶ Going into military. Take ASVAB test if offered.
- ▶ College receptions for applicants.
- ▶ Visit colleges offering admission.
- ▶ Continue scholarship search.
- ▶ Make final choice of college from those offering admission.
- ▶ MAY: Advanced Placement Exams.
- ▶ Going to junior college – take placement tests.

## JUNE

- ▶ Announcement of Grant and Scholarship winner.
- ▶ Notify your counselor of college choice.
- ▶ Send "thank you" notes to all who helped.
- ▶ Request final transcript from high school registrar to be sent to your college of choice.

# CALENDAR FOR PARENTS AND COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

Dates, times, and locations of activities will also be announced in the principal's newsletter/senior bulletin.

P=Parents S=Students should do this

## SEPTEMBER

	GRADE LEVEL			
	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Review this booklet.</b> Be sure you have a clear understanding of graduation requirements, college/career requirements, and testing (high-school/college admission).	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop/update a written educational plan including all requirements.	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain a class schedule: check for accuracy.	S	S	S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure your fall schedule of classes includes college/major admission requirements.	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Join NHS (National Honor Society) and CSF (California Scholarship Federation) if eligible. For CSF, you must join four semesters to receive a seal bearer symbol on your diploma.		S	S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain ROTC scholarship application in Counseling Office.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> choices: college campuses/majors.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain test applications and register by mail for ACT/SAT/SAT II, if needed.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in extra curricular activities; some colleges consider experience of talent and leadership.	S	S	S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact Counseling Office for date(s) of college visitation and College and Career Fair.	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Pay PSAT registration fee. The PSAT is offered only in October. No "make-up" PSAT is available.		S	S	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Financial Aid Night.				S/P

## OCTOBER

	GRADE LEVEL			
	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Ask for necessary recommendation.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit Career Center, read senior bulletin; begin scholarship search.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> CSU and UC applications are online. Begin completing CSU or UC application online. Remember, applications do not need to be completed in one session.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Apply for EOPS and housing as directed.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Ask about scholarships throughout the year.				S

## NOVEMBER

	GRADE LEVEL			
	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit admission application to UC/CSU systems. <b><u>Submit by November.</u></b>				S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick up financial aid application in counseling office.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Military Academy goal? Contact an academy representative and counselor to plan your future. Sign up for the ASVAB test.		S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Have transcripts sent to requesting colleges/universities, if requested.				S

## DECEMBER

### GRADE LEVEL

	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit college campuses over vacation.	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail ROTC scholarship applications by first week of October.				S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete the financial aid forms.				P

## JANUARY

### GRADE LEVEL

	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure your spring schedule of classes includes college/major admission requirements.				S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Do your taxes or have an estimated tax.				S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit financial aid form in early January or February; FAFSA and Cal Grant forms	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Use PSAT scores to begin college search.			S/P	

## MARCH

### GRADE LEVEL

	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Register online for the SAT/ACT tests for the spring.			S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Continue your college search in the Career Center.			S	
<input type="checkbox"/> If interested in military, take ASVAB exam.			S	S

## APRIL

### GRADE LEVEL

	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan a challenging fall schedule of classes.	S	S	S	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check with counselor regarding community college summer or fall classes.		S	S	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check for additional scholarships in the counseling office.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> College acceptances begin to arrive.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Take ELM and EPT as directed by CSU college of acceptance.				S

## MAY/JUNE

### GRADE LEVEL

	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Announcement of Grant and Scholarship winners.			S/P	
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify counselor of any scholarships/grants received so award may be included in honors report.				S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for an official transcript to be sent by July 15.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a "thank you" note to teacher/counselor who wrote college recommendation.				S
<input type="checkbox"/> Take college admission tests and send scores to colleges under consideration.			S	

## SUMMER

### GRADE LEVEL

	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Take a community college course and get a head start on your college degree.	S	S	S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Get a job and save your earnings for college.	S	S	S	S

## PREPARATION FOR TESTING

### THE SOUNDEST PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING INCLUDES:

- ① College-prep English and advanced math classes each semester in high school
- ② Reading for pleasure as well as for homework assignments
- ③ Independent study in academic areas
- ④ Practice on the collegeboard.com website

- Begin review and study several weeks before the test; information regarding study guides and seminars are in the Counseling Center.
- Last day cramming does not work.
- Don't sit with your friends; awareness of others can hinder your performance.
- Bring a watch to keep track of the testing time; pace yourself.
- Be aware that the SAT is scored differently than the ACT. The SAT score is the total number of right answers MINUS a percentage penalty for wrong answers. The ACT score is the total number of right answers, and there is no penalty for wrong answers.
- Don't spend too much time on any one question; skip it and then come back to it if you have time. If you answer about 40~60% correctly, you will receive at least an average score.

## TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOPS

PSAT/SAT/ACT prep workshops are available and may help certain students develop test-taking skills, build self-confidence, and review math/verbal skills. Remember that the workshops require considerable effort, time (6-30 hours), and money (\$75-\$800 or more). The average gain in SAT section scores vary greatly. Consider whether an increase is likely to make a difference in college admission plans.

High school codes for all tests			
Canyon High School	053341	Valencia High School	053608
Hart High School	052120	Golden Valley High School	053871
Saugus High School	053336	West Ranch High School	053864

**NOTE:** Students making application to impacted majors will be required to meet a higher eligibility index; impacted major departments also require coursework beyond minimum subject requirements. Other testing site options are listed in each test registration packet.

# TESTING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

**NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to request that the testing organization send a copy of test (SAT/ACT/SAT II) scores directly to college(s). See glossary for definition of tests.**

## **STUDENT TIMELINES**

### **SOPHOMORES with Honors and AP classes**

#### **PSAT**

Sophomores are not eligible to enter competition for National Merit Scholarships. This is a "practice" test only.

Take June SAT II exam(s) related to any sophomore courses, (i.e., Biology, Chemistry), if UC bound and a strong student in the course.

### **JUNIORS**

Pay the PSAT registration fee to the high school financial office in August. PSAT is administered at the high school. PSAT scores and test questions are returned to students in January. The PSAT is offered only in October; make-up testing is available only by notifying national Merit Scholarship office (609)771-7070 and taking the December SAT.

The PSAT scores may help juniors: assess his/her ability to do college work, firm up college plans with parents, predict his/her college entrance exams scores for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), become familiar with the testing format of SAT, enter the competition for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship corporation, participate in the College Board's Student Search Service which provides information about college and scholarship opportunities, get them on mailing lists of colleges/programs due to area of degree interest.

Take the SAT and/or ACT in April, May or June. SAT/ACT/SAT II scores may be sent to college(s) under consideration. Colleges will "save" scores until student applies for admission.

Take 3 SAT II subject tests by June if you are considering application to a UC campus.

### **SENIORS**

Take the SAT or ACT in October if still needed.

Take the SAT II in October if still needed.

If you repeat a college entrance exam, the highest score will generally be used for college admission.

Students planning application to competitive UC campuses should have any remaining testing completed during October testing.

## **TEST DATES**

### **PSAT**

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be administered in October at each high school:

## **COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS**

All tests are on Saturday morning. Register by mail at least 6 weeks before the test date. Registration materials are available in the career center.

Special testing services may be available for students with handicaps or students who cannot test on Saturday for religious reasons.

### **SAT and ACT**

There are many test dates during 2011-2012, please refer to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for current dates

PSAT 2012 Test Dates: October 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

To be administered on either Wednesday or Saturday in mid-October depending on which school site.

## **OPTIONAL MAILING LISTS**

Many colleges distribute information to high school students by using selected mailing lists. When registering for college tests, student may request that his/her name be made available to colleges and scholarship agencies. By using this option, students may receive literature from colleges interested in attracting students with certain qualifications.

## INTERPRETING TEST SCORES

By using your test results, you can compare your scores with the scores of other students as well as to college admission competition categories.

1. Look at the Distribution of Scores, representing scores from low to high.
  - a. Only a few scores fall into the Low or High ranges, 2% in each category.
  - b. The ranges of Below Average and Above Average each contain 14% in each category.
  - c. As you can see, most of the scores (68%) fall into the Average range.
2. Compare the College Admission Averages to the curve of the Distribution of Scores. Colleges use test scores to help identify groups of students meeting their college admission standards. For instance, the U.S. Service Academies are in the category having the highest admission standards, with freshman students usually scoring in the top 2%. Notice that the open admission category is designed to serve all levels of ability. No admission testing is required.

**Note:** The 4-year college admission ranges indicate the test scores of **most entering students, not all**. Other freshmen are admitted based on an eligibility index and/or a combination of other factors, such as: pattern of coursework, grades in academic courses, major field, leadership ability, evidence of exceptional motivation, talents, recommendations, activities, overall GPA, etc.

3. Find where your test scores fall on the PSAT, SAT I, and/or SAT II scales. Look directly above each score to see the relationship of your score to others and to college admission categories. By looking directly below the test score area, your score may be compared to a percentile rank. The test scores used in this chart are those of college-bound students.
4. Become aware of the term percentile (%ile) rank. The %ile rank tells how many individuals in a group of 100 scored lower than you. For example, if your score is 59 you tested **HIGHER** than **59** students out of 100.

Other factors predicting successful college performance include:

- strong personal goal to obtain degree
- strong family values for higher education
- good study habits
- college-prep pattern of high school coursework
- more than minimum preparation in advanced math, lab science, and foreign language
- appropriate major field of study
- good health

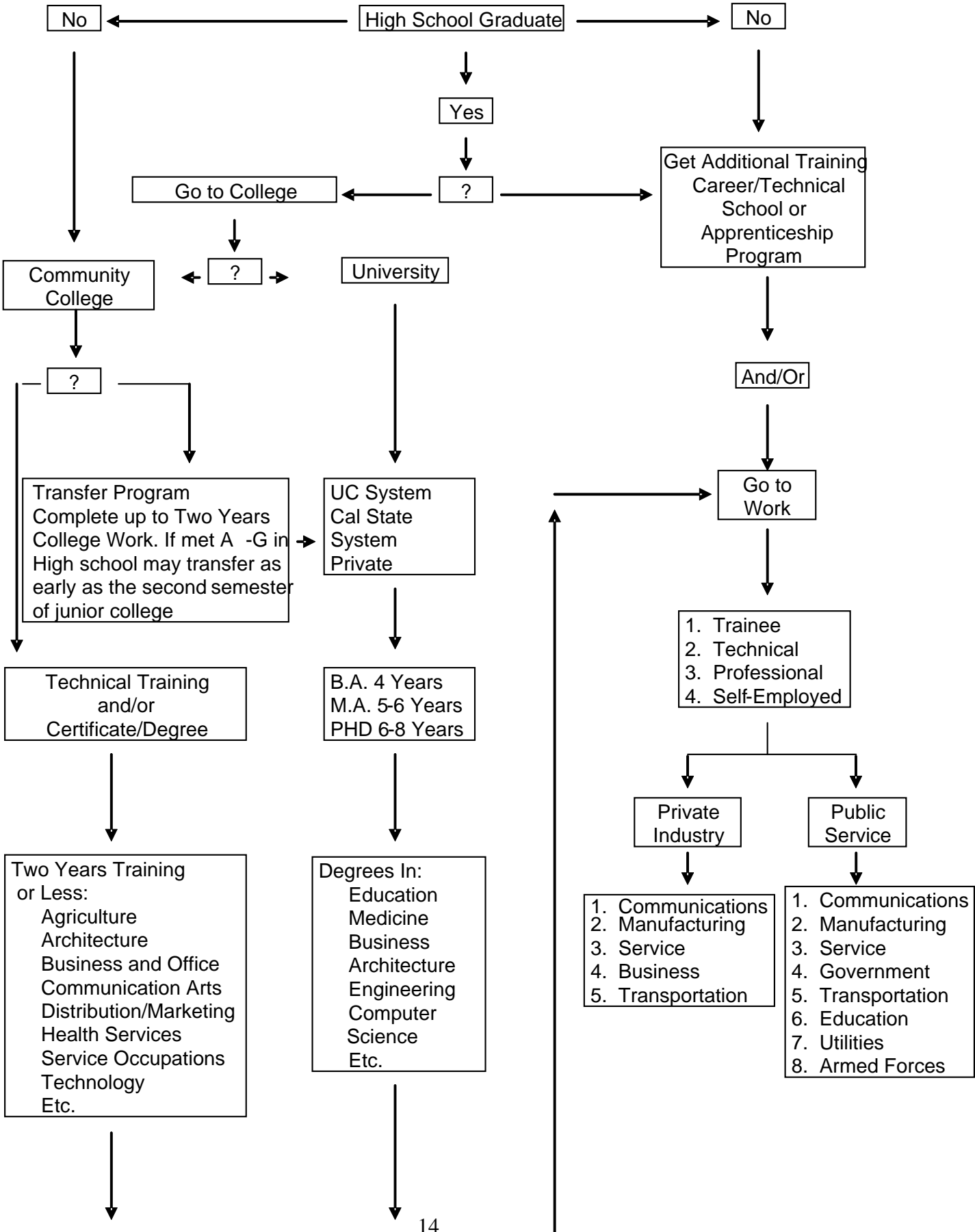
Universities recommend that all admission testing (ACT, SAT 1, SAT II) be completed during the second semester of the junior year. Test scores will then be available during the fall college application process.

## SUGGESTED COURSE SELECTIONS/ POSSIBILITIES

GRADE	GENERAL	UNIVERSITY PREP
9	English Science Physical Education Math Elective Elective	English Biology or Earth Science Physical Education College Prep Math Foreign Language Visual or Performing Art Elective (2 semesters that equal a year-long course)
10	English Science Modern Civilizations Math Health/Driver Education Physical Education	College Prep English College Prep Math College Prep Chemistry or Physics Modern Civilizations Foreign Language P.E./ Health
11	English U.S. History Math Elective Elective Elective	College Prep English College Prep Math U.S. History Foreign Language Physical Education/Elective Advanced Science
12	English Government/Economics Course as needed Course as needed Course as needed Course as needed	College Prep English Government/Economics College Prep Math College Prep Science UC Elective Course as needed

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6 Classes	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 or 6 Classes
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6 Classes	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 or 6 Classes

# Post High School Options



## COLLEGE INFORMATION

By the time you were three or four years old, you probably began thinking about what you wanted to do when you grew up. Perhaps you wanted to be a police officer, a nurse, and a famous dancer, actor, or football player. No doubt, you changed your mind many times as you were growing up. You may still need to consider various possibilities before making a career choice.

Education will play a big role in this decision-making process: Selecting the university or technical college that will meet your needs is not always easy. This booklet has been prepared to help you by providing information you need in order to make appropriate choices.

Colleges are similar to people with each having a different reason for being. Colleges vary widely in size, location, programs offered, and the kind of students they seek. All have one thing in common. They are places where people and ideas get together. However, the way this happens varies from one institution to the next. Thus, while all colleges and universities are right for some, no one college is right for everyone.

There are literally thousands of universities, colleges, and trade/technical schools, both in and out of state. In California, there are various college systems—the most common being: the University of California, the California State University, and the independent colleges and universities. There are also hundreds of two-year community colleges and trade schools. Together, they provide students with a wider range of choices and educational opportunities than can be found in any other place in the world.

### CHOOSING A COLLEGE OR CAREER/TECHNICAL SCHOOL

All students have a variety of opportunities for higher education and it may take years to explore all available options. Students who wait until their senior year often feel rushed and tend to make decisions without having all the necessary facts. Even 9<sup>th</sup> graders need to become aware of college opportunities, since college entrance often depends upon selecting an appropriate high school program.

Although college awareness ideally should begin in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the junior year is crucial! You should begin to gather information from the following sources:

1. Relatives and friends who have attended or are presently attending college
2. Your teachers and counselors
3. College Representatives - Meet with them when they visit your school.
4. Visit College Campuses either on the special college days set up for prospective students or by calling the college and arranging for a visit. Tours of the campus, departments of interest, classes, and dorms can be set up.

### WHAT THINGS SHOULD YOU CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A COLLEGE

#### Admission Requirements

Check the website before applying to determine if you meet all entrance requirements. This should be done for each college to which you apply as requirements may vary. Your SAT/ACT scores, GPA, and high school course work, including honors and AP classes, provide the basic information. Some colleges also look at class rank, extra-curricular activities, special talents, references, college major, and require two or more SAT II tests. Trade and other specialized schools may consider relevant courses taken, job experience, and special talents.

#### Location

- Distance from home
- Immediate surroundings
- Large city versus small college town

### **Size of Campus**

- Large schools (15,000-35,000 students) usually offer many majors, extensive activities, large libraries, some large classes, sometimes an urban atmosphere, perhaps nationally ranked athletic teams.
- Small schools (under 5,000 students) usually offer smaller classes, fewer majors, smaller libraries, fewer total activities, and often provide greater opportunities for participation on student government, the arts, student activities, and/or sports.

### **Programs Offered**

- Comprehensive versus special purpose
- Flexibility of program
- Academic policies (e.g., grading system)
- Innovations in teaching and learning (e.g., internships, study abroad)
- Courses and majors offered

### **Academic Reputation**

- General-overall
- Specific academic areas
- (Check several sources; one person's opinion may not be an accurate assessment)

### **Campus Environment**

- Physical characteristics of campus (e.g., landscaping, arrangement of buildings)
- Student dress
- Relationship between faculty and students
- Living arrangements (e.g., co-ed dorms, off-campus housing)
- Intellectual climate

### **Extra-Curricular Programs**

- Athletics
- School newspaper
- Student government
- Variety and range of clubs, activities, etc.

### **The Cost**

- California public college tuition and fees range from \$500 to \$14,000 per year.
- Independent college tuition ranges from \$6,000 to \$33,000 per year.
- **The cost of food, housing, books, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses needs to be considered.**
- Financial aid or scholarships are possibilities. Don't automatically rule out a college because of cost. Eliminating applying to a college because you and your family believe it to be too expensive may be premature. Apply to the college along with requesting financial aid. The financial aid officer will contact you concerning your eligibility for scholarships, grants, loans, work-study programs, etc. This is the time to decide with your parents whether or not attendance is financially feasible.

### **Two-Year versus Four-Year Colleges**

- What are the pros and cons in reference to costs, programs, locations, etc.?
- What feels most comfortable for you personally?
- Which will best help you to realize your career goals?

You should be aware that the University of California gives top priority to transfer students who have completed their first two years at a community college with a strong GPA.

### **College Tours**

The best way to select a campus is to see it for yourself. One visit may tell you more than all other sources combined. The sophomore and junior years are excellent times for students and parents to tour college campuses.

## COLLEGE COMPARISONS

Type of College	Fees, Tuition	Test Required	Subjects Required	Minimum GPA
Community College	*\$36 per unit + fees	Math and English Placement	None (a-g recommended)	None
Private College	Vary	Usually ACT or SAT I	Vary (a-g recommended)	about 2.0
Calif. State Univ.	*\$6,000/year	ACT or SAT I	a-g	**a-g 2.0
Univ. of Calif.	*\$13,200/year	ACT + Writing or SAT I and II	a-g	**a-g 3.0

\* Subject to change due to recent economic conditions.

\*\* A minimum GPA would require a very high SAT or ACT score

### College Comparison Worksheet

The criteria to be used when making college comparisons will vary according to student need. Add other criteria as appropriate before college. College information may be obtained through your counselor, college catalogs, and local college nights. Plan to tour the college campuses of your choice before your senior year of high school if possible.

Comparative Criteria	College A	College B	College C
Enrollment			
Cost			
Admission Requirements			
Test Required			
Majors of Interest			
Percent who Graduate			
Percent of Commuters			
Percent on to Higher Degree			
Housing Availability			
Application Fee			
Enrollment Deposit			
Typical Aid Package			
Percent of Students Receiving Aid			
Faculty-Student Ratio			
Average SAT/ACT Scores			
Percent of Freshmen Having Top 10% in Class Ranks			
Your Order of Preference			
Your Changes of Admission			

## Admission Competition

Admission Competition Categories	Examples of Colleges Within a Category	SAT I Scores (for 60% of Entering Freshman) Not including writing portion	Recommended H.S. Subjects
1. <b>Most Competitive</b> May only admit 2%-10% of applicants	U.S. Military Academies, Cal Tech, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Princeton, MIT, Harvey Mudd, Brigham Young	1300 to 1600	4 Years English 4 Years Advanced Math 4 Years Lab Science 3-4 Years Foreign Language AP and Honors course work recommended
2. <b>Highly Competitive</b> May only admit 2%-15% of applicants	UC Berkeley, Occidental, Claremont, McKenna, Duke	1250 to 1350	4 Years English 4 Years Advanced Math 4 Years Lab Science AP and Honors course work recommended
3. <b>Very Competitive</b> May only admit 12.5% of applicants	Most UC Campuses, Pitzer, Scripps, USC	1050 to 1200	See Category 4
4. <b>Competitive</b> May only admit 40%-60% of applicants	Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, Wittier, most CSU campuses	1050	4 Years English 3+ Years Advanced Math 3+ Years Lab Science 2+ Years Foreign Language
5. <b>Less Competitive</b> Admits most applicants	Biola, Point Loma, Loma Azusa Pacific	900 or less	See Category 4
6. <b>Less Competitive</b> Admit all: age 18 H.S. diploma or pass California Proficiency Test	Community College System	Not Required	Transfer student: see Categories 1-5. Vocation student, diploma specialty requirements
7. <b>Specialized</b> Admission criteria and competition varies	Specialized Colleges (Art/Music/ Theater Arts) and Trade/Technical Schools	Not Required	H.S. diploma/college requirements plus courses in area of interest/career

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE MAJORS –

College Major	College Prep Math	Lab Science	Foreign Language	Related Experience
Engineering	4 Years	4 Years	2 Years	ROP: Drafting, Electronics
Computer	4 Years	3-4 Years	3 Years	ROP: Computer Course
Nursing/Physical Therapy	3 Years	3 Years	2-3 Years	ROP: Nurse Assisting
Business Administration	3-4 Years	2 Years	2-3 Years	Banking
Architecture	4 Years	3 Years	2-3 Years	Drafting
Forestry	4 Years	3 Years	2 Years	
Science	4 Years		2-3 Years	

See your counselor for information about specific admission and/or major requirements to a particular college or trade school. Colleges may consider several or all of the following factors to determine admission eligibility: pattern of high school course work, grades in academic courses, test scores, college major, overall GPA, talents, leadership roles, community activities, evidence of exceptional motivation, letters of recommendation, athletic ability, related career exploration.

## THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

College of the Canyons provides high quality educational programs and services. It is a fully accredited, full-service college. It is the only community college in the Santa Clarita Valley, although students from the William S. Hart Union High School District may also attend other community colleges.

College of the Canyons offers:

- **General Education:** These courses are taken by students to meet general education requirements for associate degrees. University Center at COC offers multiple subject teaching credentials/Bachelors.
- **Transfer Education:** The College provides preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities in over 50 majors. These transfer courses are generally accepted by both the California State University and University of California systems.
- **Career/Technical Education:** Career education programs at COC include vocational and occupational courses that enable students to acquire job skills or prepare students for transfer to technical programs at four-year institutions. COC offers over 40 certificate programs.
- **Developmental Education:** Some courses in the English and Mathematics department are oriented toward allowing students to improve skills in these areas.

## COC/COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligibility for Admission-** Applicants who are high school graduates or who are 18 years of age or over may be admitted. A formal application for admission must be filed with the Admissions and Records Office. A COC representative visits each high school campus each spring to assist students with their admission and enrollment.
- **Placement Tests-** All new students are required to complete the COC placement tests in English writing skills, reading, and mathematics. There are no fees charged for these tests. See website [www.canyons.edu](http://www.canyons.edu) or call (661) 362-3457.
- **Fees-** Enrollment fees are \$36.00 per unit as mandated by the state legislature. COC Board Policy exempts currently enrolled high school students from paying these fees.

## PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES AT COC

- **Financial Aid Office-** Offers grant, loan, and work-study job opportunities to any COC student who establishes financial need by completing a FAFSA.
- **Scholarships-** From community groups and organizations, they can range from \$100 to \$5,000 and are made available intermittently during the year.
- **EOPS-** For students who may be economically disadvantaged and either have a learning disability or have parents who never attended college. There are registration and financial benefits.
- **Counseling/Program Advisement-** The goal of the counseling staff is to assist students in determining, analyzing, and understanding their interests, aptitudes, abilities, limitations, and opportunities.
- **Library Services-** Library personnel provide materials and services to assist instruction and enhance student success.
- **The Tutoring/Learning/Computing Lab (TLC Lab) -** The TLC Lab provides no cost tutorial assistance in English, mathematics, and other disciplines on a walk-in basis.
- **The Career Center-** The center offers the tools needed to help students explore and define occupational interests. It can help teach students to market themselves to potential employers and help students find full-time or part-time employment.
- **Athletics-** COC offers competition for men and women in 16 sports. The college is a member of the Western State Conference.
- **Campus Activities and Student Life-** COC offers many activities including Associated Student Government, clubs and organizations, and the Cougar Volunteer Service Program.
- **Advanced Scholastic Program for High School Students-** High school students are permitted to take college courses if they meet certain requirements.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FILLING OUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

- The content will influence the Admissions Committee. Allow yourself sufficient time to fill out the application. A “rush job” results in careless errors. Work at home, alone, in a quiet place where you can give the job the consideration it deserves.
- Read directions carefully; follow them accurately.
- Read all questions on the form and think about your answers before you begin to write.
- Write a rough draft of essay questions. Ask your English teacher to approve this before submitting it in your application form.
- Make your answers truthful, specific, and concise.
- Complete your application carefully. Many colleges will refuse a request for a second application form.
- Make sure to use spell-check.
- Answer all questions.
- An application fee is required.
- Fill out a transcript request card in the Registrar’s Office in order to send an “official” transcript.
- Applications for housing may or may not be included with the college admission application. Many colleges do not send students the housing application until the college admission application has been received. Since housing is often in short supply, it is important that students make application at the earliest possible date.
- If eligible, apply for EOP (Educational Opportunity Program).
- Males may register for the Selective Service.
- Pay attention to links to FAFSA (financial aid).

## **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

- Some private colleges and scholarships will request a letter of recommendation.
- Colleges are looking for personal insights about student applications, not a reiteration of grades and test scores. The most effective letters are usually obtained from teachers or counselors who know the student very well.
- The most competitive colleges usually prefer letters from teachers of college prep courses, (i.e., English, Lab Science, Advanced Math, and Foreign Language). These faculty members will witness strengths in their classroom. These teachers are often better able to promote admission than, for instance, an administrator who has not had such extended personal interaction.
- When requesting a letter or recommendation, allow the faculty member ten to fourteen days for completion.
- Make personal contact with the faculty member. DO NOT assume the letter will be completed if you send a request by mail.
- Be sure to give the faculty member an addressed, stamped envelope containing the names of the individual/office to receive the letter.
- Write a short “thank you” to the individual who has taken the time to support you in this way.

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

There are twenty-three campuses of the California State University and Colleges, with an enrollment exceeding 430,000 students and more than 200 degree programs, constitute one of the largest systems of higher education in the Western World.

- Students need to complete A-G requirements and take either the SAT or ACT.
- Entry-level math and English tests may be required.

**GPA REQUIREMENT-** The SAT or ACT scores are combined with overall GPA (all course grades 10-12 except P.E./athletics) to determine admission qualification. Incoming freshmen must have an Eligibility Index that places them among the upper one-third of California high school graduates.

**MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY INDEX-** The higher your GPA, the lower your test score can be to still be eligible for admittance. Conversely, the higher your SAT, the lower your GPA can be to still be eligible for admittance. Check [www.csumentor.com](http://www.csumentor.com)

\*Students making application to an impacted major may be required to meet higher admission standards.

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES

### **California Maritime Academy of the State University**

200 Maritime Academy Dr.  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 648-4222

### **California State University, Bakersfield**

9001 Stockdale Highway  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
(805) 664-2011

### **California State University, Channel Islands**

One University Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
(805) 437-8400

### **California State University, Chico**

1<sup>st</sup> and Normal Streets  
Chico, CA 95929  
(916) 896-6886 ([infor@avax.csuchico.edu](mailto:infor@avax.csuchico.edu))

### **Calif. State University, Dominguez Hills**

1000 E. Victoria Street  
Carson, CA 90747  
(310) 516-3300

### **California State University, Fresno**

Shaw and Cedar Avenues  
Fresno, CA 93740  
(209) 278-4240

### **California State University, Fullerton**

800 N. State College Blvd.  
Fullerton, CA 92831-3599  
(714) 278-2086

### **California State University, Hayward (East Bay)**

25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.  
Hayward, CA 94542  
(510) 885-3000

### **Humboldt State University**

1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 826-4402

### **California State University, Long Beach**

1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90840  
(310) 985 4111

### **California State University, Los Angeles**

5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032  
(213) 343-3000

### **California State University, Monterey Bay**

100 Campus Center  
Seaside, CA 93955  
(408) 582-3518

### **California State University, Northridge**

18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330  
(818) 885-1200

### **California State Polytechnic University**

3801 W. Temple Ave.  
Pomona, CA 91768  
(909) 869-7659

### **California Polytechnic State University**

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
(805) 756-1111

### **California State University, Sacramento**

6000 "J" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 278-6001

### **California State College, San Bernardino**

5500 State College Parkway  
San Bernardino, CA 92407  
(909) 880-5000

### **California State University San Marcos**

820 W. Los Vallecitos Blvd.  
San Marcos, CA 92069  
(916) 750-4000

### **California State College, Stanislaus**

801 Monte Vista Ave.  
Turlock, CA 95380  
(209) 667-3122

### **San Diego State University**

5300 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182  
(619) 594-6336

### **San Francisco State University**

1600 Holloway Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
(415) 338-1113

### **San Jose State University**

One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192-0009  
(408) 924-1000

### **Sonoma State University**

1801 E. Cotati Ave.  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
(707) 664-2880

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

University of California has built an international reputation for academic excellence with undergraduate education as one of its highest priorities. It has outstanding academic programs, faculty, libraries, and research facilities. Admission is becoming more competitive. Many major departments require additional preparation in math and laboratory science beyond the “a-g” pattern of minimum subject requirements. Not only does the student have to take the SAT or ACT, but they also have to take the SAT II.

Part of the application is the **PERSONAL STATEMENTS**. Here are some tips:

- All campuses require two personal statements with a combined total of 1000 words.
- Begin rough draft in September; don’t wait until the last minute in November.
- If you write your first draft in pencil, you can erase mistakes and correct copy as you write.
- Put your rough drafts aside for 24 hours, then reread.
- Answer the questions precisely. They are watching to see if you follow directions.
- Make corrections for sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Ask someone else to read and evaluate your paper; your English teacher may be able to give you some pointers. The statements should reflect your own voice and give them a true sense of who you are.

### **Outline of Autobiography:**

Each paragraph should develop and discuss only one idea and lead easily into the next topic. Include as much of the following information as possible, though not necessarily in this order:

- a. Family background information should describe how it related to your life as a future college student, including size of family and parental information. Avoid unnecessary detail about the family, and **DO NOT** begin the first paragraph as “I was born in...” Try to be as original as possible.
- b. Financial background information should describe why you need financial help, projected extent of parent support, parents’ occupation and income range.
- c. High school and college background information:
  1. Academic: Give an honest appraisal of your work in school, including those courses you enjoyed most, as well as honest reasons for any low grades such as employment, illness, etc.
  2. Extra-curricular activities, special hobbies, or talents (musical instrument, writing, painting, singing, etc.) should also be included.
- d. Community involvement (outside of school) should include church groups, service organizations, work experience, and other special interests pursued in your spare time.
- e. Statement of your educational goals should include why you want to go to college. Specify careers you are considering, even if you are an undeclared major. Incorporate in this section why you chose a particular college using factual reasons (i.e., interest in nursing school, friend’s recommendation/reputation of the engineering department). (This may require requesting further information about the campus and the department to which you are applying.) Explain the relationship between your educational plans and stated career goals.
- f. Incorporate any other information asked for by specific colleges or scholarship programs.
- g. Remember, if the college finds you marginal in terms of acceptance, your essay may play a very important part in the admission decision. Since you will not know prior to applying where you will fall in the applicant pool, you should complete your essay with care.

<b>Excerpts from University of California Freshman Eligibility Index</b>							
“a-g” GPA	2.82	2.85	2.95	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.3
ACT Composite	36	35	31	28	22	17	12
SAT Math & Verbal	1600	1570	1370	1270	1070	840	570
<b>Three SAT II tests are required but not included in the above index.</b>							

- Students making application to impacted/competitive majors or campuses may need stronger GPA’s/scores/pattern of coursework for acceptance as freshmen.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUSES

University of California Berkeley  
120 Sproul Hall #5000  
Berkeley, CA 94720-5800  
(510) 642-3175 ([ouars@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:ouars@uclink.berkeley.edu))

University of California Davis  
175 Mark Hall  
Davis, CA 95616  
(916) 752-2971 ([thinkucd@ucdavis.edu](mailto:thinkucd@ucdavis.edu))

University of California Irvine  
204 Administration Bldg.  
Irvine, CA 92697-1075  
(714) 824-6703 ([oar5@uci.edu](mailto:oar5@uci.edu))

University of California Los Angeles  
1147 Murphy Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1436  
(310) 825-3101 ([ugadm@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:ugadm@saonet.ucla.edu))

University of California Merced  
P.O. Box 2039  
Merced, CA 95344  
(209) 724-4400  
(<http://admissions.ucmerced.edu/>)

University of California Riverside  
1138 Hinderaker Hall  
Riverside, CA 92521  
(909) 787-3411 ([ugadmisson@pop.usr.edu](mailto:ugadmisson@pop.usr.edu))

University of California at San Diego  
0-021 Admissions  
La Jolla, CA 92093  
(619) 822-0123 ([admissionsinfo@ucsd.edu](mailto:admissionsinfo@ucsd.edu))

University of California Santa Barbara  
1234 Cheadle Hall  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
(805) 893-2485 ([appinfo@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:appinfo@sa.ucsb.edu))

University of California Santa Cruz  
Cook House Administration  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
(408) 459-4008 ([admissions@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:admissions@cats.ucsc.edu))

- The ACT or SAT and SAT II exams may be completed in May/June of the junior year.
- If students take both the ACT and SAT, or retest, the higher score will be used for admission.
- Incoming freshmen must have an eligibility index as indicated at the bottom of the previous page, placing them among the top 12 ½% of California high school graduates; higher indexes are used for many majors.

## INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The hundreds of independent (privately supported) institutions in the United States have a wide range of characteristics. Since the tuition is paid by the student rather than by public tax dollars, the cost to the family may be greater than the cost in a public university. Financial aid is still available, based upon need.

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

There are great differences in size, educational purpose and emphasis among these institutions. Some are large and offer both undergraduate and graduate programs. Most campuses may emphasize a particular vocation or religious emphasis. Specific information about the requirements and educational opportunities available at any independent college in the United States is available through your counselor.

### A SAMPLING OF INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Azusa Pacific University	New College of California
Biola University	Northrop University
California Baptist College	Occidental College
California College of Arts and Crafts	Pacific Oaks College
California Institute of the Arts	Pacific Union College
California Institute of Technology	Pepperdine University
Center for Early Education	Pitzer College
Chapman College	Point Loma
Christ College	Pomona College
Claremont McKenna College	St. Mary's College
Cogswell College	San Francisco Art Institute
College of Notre Dame	San Francisco Conservatory
Concordia University	Scripps College
Dominican College of San Rafael	Simpson College
Fresno Pacific College	Stanford University
Golden Gate University	United States International
Harvey Mudd University	University of La Verne
Holy Names College	University of the Pacific
Humphreys College	University of Redlands
Loma Linda University	University of San Diego
Loyola Marymount	University of San Francisco
Marymount College (PV Campus)	University of Santa Clara
Masters College	University of Southern California
Menlo College	West Coast University
Mills College	Westmount College
Mount St. Marys	Whittier college
National University	Woodbury University

# MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES

**The advantages of military service include:**

## IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

1. Educational and career training (technical and professional)
  - College degrees—associate, bachelor's, graduate
  - Vocational or technical certificates
  - Certificates of completion of civilian apprenticeship programs
  - High School diplomas or equivalency documents
2. Opportunity to become a commissioned officer through ROTC or military academies
3. Travel
4. Specific guaranteed training
5. A community with a variety of attractions
6. Free medical and dental care
7. Lower cost Commissary and Post Exchange services
8. Guaranteed pay
9. Promotion opportunities
10. Trained consultants and counselors, wide resources and references

## LONG-TERM BENEFITS

1. G.I. Bill
2. Scholarships and fellowships
3. Pay bonuses
4. 30-day paid vacation every year
5. Development of leisure time skills
6. Certain housing, medical, and educational services for families
7. Low cost life insurance
8. FHA In-Service Insured Loan for buying a home
9. Lifetime retirement benefits after 20 years service
10. In career civil service, the veteran has absolute job retention rights over all non-veteran Federal workers

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT AID PROGRAMS

If you are willing to serve for a period of time in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, you will find that some very generous scholarships and student aid programs are available to you. In some cases, you can receive an education first, and serve an equivalent amount of time after you graduate. There are also programs that permit you to enter the service and accumulate money for an education while you complete your enlistment period.

The college scholarship programs pay full college tuition for up to four years of undergraduate study, plus all instructional fees, including cost of textbooks. Students also receive \$100 per month for living expenses for a period up to 40 months, and pay for summer training and travel. You would be required to serve four years on active duty in the regular service, as a commissioned officer, after college graduation.

### Recruiting Offices

U.S. Army (259-0896), U.S. Navy (259-6493), U.S. Air Force (255-5484), U.S. Marine Corp (259-6481)  
21515 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

# UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

## Locations

Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840  
Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut 06320  
Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York 10996  
Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland 21402  
United States Military Academy, West Point, New York 10996

## Costs

None. Full U.S. Government scholarships are awarded which cover tuition and room and board. Each student also receives a stipend (\$400-\$600 per month) to meet costs of books, supplies, clothing, and personal expenses.

## Admission Requirements

Apply spring semester of junior year. Contact the appropriate liaison officer for specific requirements of any academy.

### Example U.S. Air Force Academy

1. Admission is based on a composite score based on academic and leadership competencies:
  - 70% - Academic Competencies
    - High School Coursework  
4 years college prep English, 4 years advanced math, 3 years lab science, 3 years foreign language (desirable: typing, computer science)
    - Number of Honors, Advanced Placement and/or accelerated courses
    - GPA (in academic courses only)
    - Test scores: PSAT (pre-candidate only), SAT, ACT (complete in junior year)
  - 30% - Leadership Competencies
    - Physical aptitude (pull-ups, sit-ups, pushups, running)
    - Athletic activities
    - Extra curricular activities (i.e., school offices, clubs, drama, music, scouts, church, organizations, etc.)
2. Academic majors offered:
  - Science, engineering, computer science, social sciences, humanities, operations research, space operations, and aerospace science
3. Graduates:
  - Have five year military obligation
  - Receive second lieutenant commission
  - May enter pilot training program (about 2/3 of class)
  - May enter career support areas (about 1/3 of class)
  - May enter medical school (up to 2% of class)
  - May apply for advanced degree programs

Contact an academy liaison officer (9<sup>th</sup> grade is NOT too early) to develop appropriate plans to meet all academy requirements and timelines for admission.

**NOTE: Apply for a nomination through your Congressperson and take the SAT and ACT Examinations by your junior year.**

# FINANCIAL AID: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO GET IT

The basic question of how to finance a college education is uppermost in the minds of students and parents. It should be understood that the family's financial strength is dependent upon a combination of things such as assets, liabilities, family size, age of parents and medical expenses. Parents and students are responsible to help pay for college costs. If the costs cannot be met, then the student has the opportunity to apply for financial help.

When computing college costs, it is important that you include all costs for you to attend school. Food, clothing, transportation, and medical expenses are included in the cost of your education, along with fees and books.

All students should apply for financial aid even if they think they do not qualify. Thus, the rule of thumb is: ALWAYS APPLY - you will be told if you do not qualify. Remember, two thirds of all college students receive some type of financial assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to meet all financial aid deadlines on time. Information concerning sources of money qualifications and deadlines can be obtained from the following:

1. The daily bulletin
2. Counselors in charge of scholarships and financial aid
3. Reference materials found in the Counseling Office and public library
4. Newsletters sent home to parents
5. The Annual College and Career Fair
6. The Financial Aid Office of the college of your choice

## DETERMINING FINANCIAL AID

The most important criteria for qualifying for financial aid is NEED as defined by the following equation:

$$\begin{array}{rcc} \text{Cost of Attendance} & - & \text{Expected Family Contribution} & = & \text{NEED} \\ \text{(Variable)} & & \text{(Constant)} & & \text{(Variable)} \end{array}$$

Thus, a student who qualifies for financial aid will receive more money if he or she attends a private college with high tuition costs than if he or she attends a state college.

The first step in determining NEED is for the student to submit the Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA) to the College Scholarship Service (CSS) during the designated time period (generally sometime in February of the senior year.) The CSS is a non-profit agency used for need analysis processing. CSS will inform the student of the amount the student and family are expected to contribute toward college costs. The college Financial Aid Office will then utilize this expected contribution to determine if NEED exists and, if so, how much. Some private and out-of-state colleges require a form called the PROFILE to be filed in addition to the FAFSA. You must check with the Financial Aid Office of the college(s) to which you are applying to determine if this is a requirement. If you are planning to attend a California college, you should file the GPA Verification Form to apply for CAL Grants.

## **FINANCIAL AID CALENDAR FOR SENIOR YEAR**

### **Community and Four Year Colleges\* Trade and Technical Schools**

If you are wondering whether you should make application, you probably should. This process is necessary not only for grants, but also for some scholarships, low interest loans, and appropriate financial aid packages.

- SEPTEMBER**
- Apply for a social security number if you have not already obtained one.
- OCTOBER**
- Obtain the number for financial aid and/or college admission.
- DECEMBER**
- The arrival of the financial aid material in the Counseling Office will be announced in the daily bulletin by December. Pick up the FAFSA, Cal Grant Supplement, and the California Student Financial Aid Workbook in the Counseling Office.
  - The Spanish language version of the FAFSA, Cal Grant Supplement, and the California Student Financial Aid Workbook will be available in the Counseling Office.
  - Keep working on the forms.
  - Be sure to use the same version of the student's name on all forms. (Not: John Smith, Johnnie Smith, and Jon Smith).
  - When completed, make a copy of all forms. When it is time to renew, much of the information may be the same.
- JANUARY - FEB.**
- Submit FAFSA as early as possible. Completed income tax forms for the current year will facilitate filling out these forms. This is a lengthy process; do not wait until the March deadline.
  - Request a "receipt of mailing" from the post office. If your forms are lost in the mail, the financial aid offices will allow you to submit a duplicate form **if** you have a receipt. There is an additional postal fee.
  - Mail Cal Grant form.
- MARCH**
- Students will receive an acknowledgment that the FAFSA form has been received. Check for accuracy of submitted information. If you have not already done so, mail it now!
- APRIL**
- Students will receive student aid eligibility form for the Pell Grant. Mail this form to the college of your choice.

## **TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID**

### **Grants**

These awards are made to students by state and federal governments on the basis of demonstrated financial need.

### **State Grants**

#### **CAL GRANT A**

Must have at least a 3.0 GPA.

#### **CAL GRANT B**

Must have at least a 2.0 GPA. This is for students who can demonstrate a financial need.

#### **CAL GRANT C**

For students having a financial need enrolling in a trade school or vocational course in California.

#### **PELL (Basic) GRANT**

Pell Grants are the largest source of free money from the federal government for students with financial need: Pell grants are awarded to every undergraduate who qualifies and has not already earned a bachelor's degree. It provides up to \$5,550 (for 2011-2012), depending on your expected family contribution, cost of attendance, and whether you are attending full or part time. It can be used to pay for tuition, fees and living expenses at any qualifying college, including a California Community College like College of the Canyons. You can receive only one Federal Pell Grant a year, which can be used to attend only one college at a time.

### **Loans**

#### **Stafford Loan:**

1. \$500-\$5,500 per year up to \$20,500.
2. Low fixed interest rate (approximately 3-4%), first payment due 6-9 months after graduation, maximum term is up to 25 years
3. Eligibility depends upon family size, income, etc.; easier to qualify for loans than for grants

#### **Supplemental Loans for Students and Parent-Plus Loans (SLS and PLUS)**

1. Variable interest rate loan that is adjusted annually not to exceed 12 percent. REPAYMENT BEGINS IMMEDIATELY.
2. Eligibility depends upon credit standards, which will be determined after all financial aid forms have been received. Some colleges may have earlier deadlines.

## Scholarships

These awards are based upon such criteria as academic achievement, leadership, talent, motivation, and promise. Sometimes need is also considered. Many community organizations, employers, unions, banks, churches, service clubs, the military, as well as the colleges themselves, sponsor scholarships.

**REMEMBER:** It is the student's responsibility to check out all available information, handle required paperwork (e.g. arranging for letters of recommendation and transcripts), and meet all other deadlines. Many scholarships go unused or to others because some students, believing they don't have a chance, choose not to apply. However, the only way to get a scholarship is to give it a try. The key to winning is to **APPLY! APPLY! APPLY!**

### EXAMPLES OF AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

1. **RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)** - value may exceed \$100,000. Many public and private universities throughout the country (e.g. UCLA, Stanford) provide ROTC programs. Military obligation incurred.
2. **CAMPUS-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS** - application is generally part of the college admission process; value varies.
3. **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON** - \$10,000
4. **HENRY MAYO NEWHALL** - \$7,000
5. **BANK OF AMERICA** - \$1000 - \$5,000
6. **CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION** - \$1,000
7. **ZONTA** - \$1,000
8. **ELKS** - \$1,000 - \$15,000
9. **CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION-HART CHAPTER** - \$500
10. **PHI DELTA KAPPA** - \$500 - \$1,700
11. **SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** - \$250 - \$7,000

These and many more scholarships will be available throughout the school year. Seniors are encouraged to keep in close contact with the Scholarship Counselor and to give themselves time to meet all deadlines.

# College, Financial Aid, Career Websites

## Financial Aid Information

- Cal Grant Information  
[www.CSAC.ca.gov](http://www.CSAC.ca.gov)
- California Colleges Information Site  
[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)
- Common Black College Application and Scholarship Site  
[www.eduinonline.com](http://www.eduinonline.com)
- Community College Financial Aid  
[www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com)
- Entrepreneurship Scholarship Information  
[www.entrepreneurU.org](http://www.entrepreneurU.org)
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)  
[www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)
- Financial Aid Easy Planner  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Financial Aid Calculator  
[www.californiacolleges.edu/applications/ucpais/](http://www.californiacolleges.edu/applications/ucpais/)
- General  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.FinAid.org](http://www.FinAid.org)  
[www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund  
[www.hsf.net/](http://www.hsf.net/)
- Sallie Mae/College Answer  
[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
- Scholarships  
[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

## College Information

- Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities  
[www.aiccu.edu](http://www.aiccu.edu)
- California Colleges Information Site  
[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)
- Christian College Fairs  
[www.nccf.us](http://www.nccf.us)
- College Campus Tours  
[www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)
- College and Career Search  
[www.collegeboard.com/html/careerbrowser.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/html/careerbrowser.html)
- College of the Canyons  
[www.canyons.edu](http://www.canyons.edu)
- Common Black College Application  
[www.eduinonline.com](http://www.eduinonline.com)
- CSU Admissions  
[www.csumentor.edu/](http://www.csumentor.edu/)
- Entrepreneur Programs  
[www.entrepreneurU.org](http://www.entrepreneurU.org)
- Hispanic Colleges  
[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net) UC Admissions
- Historically Black Colleges  
[www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/whhbcu/edlite-index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/whhbcu/edlite-index.html)
- National College Fairs  
[www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)
- Peterson's College Search Program  
[www.petersons.com/college](http://www.petersons.com/college)

Resources for College for Students with Learning Disabilities of AD/HD

[www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=524&g=1](http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=524&g=1)

Tribal Colleges

[www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/whetc/edlite-index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/whetc/edlite-index.html)

UC Admissions

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions)

U.S. Dept. of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/students/prep/college/consumerinfo/choosing.html>

U.S. Dept. of Education's College Navigator

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

## Career Resources

California Colleges and Career Information Site

[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)

California Career Resource Network

[www.californiacareers.info](http://www.californiacareers.info)

Career Exploration (Career Voyages)

[www.careervoyages.gov](http://www.careervoyages.gov)

College and Career Search

[www.collegeboard.com/html/careerbrowser.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/html/careerbrowser.html)

Engineering Careers

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

Entrepreneur Programs

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

Occupational Outlook Handbook

[www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

U.S. Dept. of Labor

<http://stats.bls.gov/>

Misc. Career Links

Animal Career Sites

American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners: [www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org)

American Veterinary Medical Assoc: [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

American Zoo and Aquarium Assoc: [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)

Animal Behavior Society: [www.animalbehavior.com](http://www.animalbehavior.com)

Dolphin Trainer: [www.dolphintrainer.com](http://www.dolphintrainer.com)

Elephant Sanctuary: [www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com)

Engineering: [www.jets.org](http://www.jets.org)

Healthcare Career Links

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

[www.discovernursing.com](http://www.discovernursing.com)

ACT and SAT Information

ACT

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

SAT

[www.collegeboard.com/splash](http://www.collegeboard.com/splash)

Free Online SAT & ACT Prep

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

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)

[www.collegeboard.com/splash](http://www.collegeboard.com/splash)

United States Military Information

Air Force

[www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com)

Army

[www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

California National Guard

[www.calguard.gov](http://www.calguard.gov)

Coast Guard

[www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)

Marines

[www.marines.com/page/usmc.jsp](http://www.marines.com/page/usmc.jsp)

Navy

[www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)

Military Careers

[www.careersinthemilitary.com](http://www.careersinthemilitary.com)

Free AVAB Prep Quiz

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

#### United States Military Academies

Air Force Academy

[www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil)

Coast Guard Academy

[www.cga.edu](http://www.cga.edu)

Merchant Marine Academy

[www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

U.S. Military Academy (West Point)

[www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu)

Naval Academy

[www.usna.edu/admissions](http://www.usna.edu/admissions)

#### Apprenticeship Programs

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

#### Job Shadowing and Internship Opportunities

<http://hartdistrict.org/index.php/students/career-center>

# GLOSSARY

**AA (Associate of Arts):** A two-year community college degree.

**AS (Associate of Science):** A two-year community college degree.

**Academic Calendar:** Breaks the school year into one of the following:

Semesters: two terms of 17-18 weeks

Quarters: three terms of 11 weeks (fourth term optional).

Trimesters: two terms of 15 weeks (third term optional).

**Accreditation:** The recognition by an outside agency that a school maintains high standards which enable students to qualify for admission to other accredited institutions.

**ACT (American College Test):** A four-year college admission test covering: English, social science, and mathematics. The majority college admission test in 28 states. (See SAT.)

**Admission Requirements:** A set of rules established by each college for a student to be accepted.

**Advanced Standing:** When a student has completed more than 12 college credits.

**AP (Advanced Placement):** A system by which college freshmen may bypass entry-level courses by proving that they have taken the equivalent in high school. College credit may be awarded by many colleges if a student earns a certain grade on a specially designed College Board exam at the conclusion of an AP course. AP courses taught within the WSHUHSD include English, European History, U.S. History, Calculus, Spanish, French, Biology, Government, Physics, and Computer Science.

**A-G Pattern:** Refers to the list of subjects required for admission to the University of California and the California State University.

**Audit:** To attend a class for the purpose of reviewing the information. No tests, grades, or credits are given.

**BA (Bachelor of Arts):** A four-year college degree.

**BS (Bachelor of Science):** A four-year college degree.

**CAL Grants:** California financial aid. Available to students having a financial need as they continue their education at a college or vocational school. Forms available in the Counseling Office in December.

**California Proficiency Test:** A state exam to qualify for a high school equivalency certificate. Students must

remain in school until results are received. Applications are available at each high school. The test is held at various local colleges and testing sites.

**Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA):** Sponsored by the College Board, this agreement establishes a common date, May 1, which is the earliest time a subscribing college may require an accepted applicant to say whether he or she plans to attend.

**Class Rank:** A student's standing as compared with that of the other members of the class, based on GPA grades 9-12.

**College Board:** Company which provides college entrance testing, such as SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL, PSAT, etc. ETS (Educational Testing Service) is the testing division. Visit the [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) website.

**College Catalog:** A book published by the college describing requirements for admission, degrees, services, and course descriptions. The Career Center contains most college catalogs and the addresses of most other colleges.

**CSF (California Scholarship Federation):** State-wide honor society designed primarily for the academically oriented, college-bound student. Eligibility for membership depends upon last semester's final grades. Students who qualify for four in the senior year become Seal bearers at graduation. Membership is neither automatic, mandatory, nor retroactive. Join at the beginning of a semester, if eligible. See CSF Advisor for eligibility requirements.

**CSU (California State University):** The 23 public state campuses, such as CSUN (California State University at Northridge) and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**Credit or "semester hours" or "unit hours" or "quarter hours" or "unit":** A way of referring to the number of credits which are earned in a course. Approximately 60 total units are needed for an AA degree, and 124 total credits for a BA degree for schools on a semester calendar. If a class meets three hours per week, it is usually a three unit course.

**Cumulative Record:** The complete record of all courses and grades earned. Your transcript contains your cumulative record.

**Degree:** Titles given to college graduates upon completion of a program. A two-year degree is an AA (Associate of Arts), a four-year degree is usually a BA (Bachelor of Arts), a fifth or sixth year degree is often a

MA (Master of Arts), with a Doctoral degree requiring approximately five additional years beyond the BA.

**Early Admissions:** This plan allows students to begin college work after their junior year of high school. This program usually is limited to exceptional students.

**Early Decision:** Some colleges offer to notify applicants of acceptance or rejection during the first semester of their senior year. There are two types of early decision plans: the single-choice plan and the first-choice plan.

**Early Evaluation Procedure:** In the single-choice plan, students cannot apply to other colleges until they have been notified by the early decision college. In the first-choice plan, students may apply to other colleges, but name the early decision college as the first choice and agree to enroll at that college and withdraw all other applications if accepted.

**Early Evaluation Procedure:** A plan under which applicants to Ivy League institutions receive, between November 1 and February 15, an evaluation of their chances for acceptance. Categories used are likely, possible, unlikely, and insufficient evidence for evaluation. Final notification is made on a common date in April.

**Educational Opportunity Program (EOP):** CSU program that provides admission and academic assistance to historically low-income and educationally disadvantaged students. In many cases it offers financial assistance to eligible students.

**Elective:** A course needed for graduation credit, but not one of the specific course requirements.

**Fee:** A sum of money which must be paid for a variety of things in college, such as admission, registration, graduation, health services, etc.

**Fee Waiver:** A form available to students having family income less than approximately \$16,000 per year. The Fee Waiver Form is submitted instead of money when applying for college testing or admission.

**Financial Aid:** Money which may be derived from a variety of sources (grant, loan, scholarships, work-study), which helps pay for college costs. The “package” of funds is determined by family financial need and the availability of funds.

**Financial Need:** The difference between the cost of education and what the family or the applicant can reasonably be expected to contribute.

**GED (General Educational Development Examination):** A series of tests that adults take to qualify for a high school equivalency certificate or diploma. Students may not take the GED until they reach 18 years of age.

**GPA (Grade Point Average):** A student’s average grade, computed on a four point scale: A=4, B=3, C=2, D= 1, F=0; weighted courses: A=5, B=4, C=3. The GPA for CSU system includes all courses except PE in grades 10 - 12. For the UC system, the GPA includes those grades earned beyond the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the “a-g” pattern of courses. High school class rank is based upon courses “a-g” completed in grades 9-12.

**Grants:** Payments made to students by various organizations, including CAL Grants from the State of California. Grants do not have to be paid back.

**Impacted Program:** A college degree program (e.g. engineering, computer science) which may be temporarily closed to new students due to heavy enrollment or may require supplementary screening of student records for selection of strongest candidates.

**Lower Division:** Refers to courses usually completed in the first two years of college.

**MA (Master of Arts):** A college degree usually requiring about one year in a planned series of courses following the Bachelor’s degree.

**Major:** The main area of study in college, usually requiring about one year in a planned series of courses during the four-year program.

**Minor:** Approximately 18 credits in an area outside major department.

**Need Analysis:** A technique used to estimate a student’s need for financial assistance to help meet education expenses. It consists of two major components: (1) estimating the family’s ability to contribute to educational expenses, and (2) estimating the student’s educational expenses.

**Package:** The financial aid offer from the institution which is usually made up of a combination of grant, loan, and/or scholarship money.

**Parents’ Confidential Statement (PCS):** A form used to determine how much a family will be expected to contribute to a student’s college costs.

**Pell Grant Program:** Qualified students who enroll at least half time at an eligible institution of higher education, and who demonstrate a financial need, may receive a Basic Grant. This grant may be used at community colleges, universities, or trade schools.

**Prerequisites:** Courses, test scores, and/or grade level that must be completed before taking a specific course.

**Private College:** A school which is not supported by state taxes. Also referred to as an independent college.

**PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test):** A shortened version of the SAT offered in October for high school juniors. Honors level sophomores may take the PSAT as a practice test.

**ROTC:** Many colleges have units of the Reserve Officers Training Corps that offer two and four year programs of military training culminating in an officer's commission. In some colleges, credits for the courses can be applied toward a degree. ROTC Scholarships are available which pay for full educational costs in both public and private colleges, including UCLA, Cal Tech, Stanford, Harvard, etc. Further information also available in the Counseling Office.

**Rolling Admissions:** This means that a college gives an admission decision as soon as possible after an application is completed and does not specify a notification deadline.

**SAT I (Scholastic Aptitude Test):** A four-year college admission exam measuring verbal and math reasoning plus a standard written English test (see ACT). Most California colleges accept the SAT or the ACT.

**SAT II:** One hour exams offered in 14 different subjects. The UC system requires three SAT II's including:  
English composition  
Mathematics  
Social studies or foreign language or science or English Literature

**Scholarships:** A gift of money awarded for achievement, skills, talents, and/or financial need.

**Student Aid Commission:** The California State agency which administers a number of aid programs including the CAL Grant program.

**Summer Session:** College Summer School. Open entry, without formal admission, makes it possible for students to take classes at almost any campus and then transfer it to the "home" campus towards their degree. Students

who plan to continue in the fall must file for fall admission.

**TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language):** An English exam for foreign students used for placement in college English classes.

**Transfer Courses:** College courses giving credit which may be transferred to a four-year college.

**Transfer Students:** College students who transfer from one college to another, usually at the end of the sophomore year. It is not recommended changing colleges during the junior or senior year, when the student is completing major requirements.

**Tuition:** A fee that is paid for instruction in a private school, college, or university.

**UC (University of California):** Ten campuses make up the UC system: UCI (Irvine), UCLA (Los Angeles), UCSD (San Diego), UCB (Berkeley), UCSB (Santa Barbara), UCR (Riverside), UCSC (Santa Cruz), UCD (Davis), UCM (Merced), and UCSF (San Francisco). UCSF is not open for freshman admissions.

**Undergraduate:** College student who has not yet received a bachelor's degree.

**Upper-Division Course:** Courses designated for the junior and senior years of college.

**Weighted Courses:** A policy which rewards accelerated and/or extended academic performance by giving a bonus grade point for each honors and AP course. Students completing courses so designated have traditionally been given extra consideration during the college admission process. Some colleges use weighted grade point averages while others may use other methods to give the well prepared student an edge in the admission process. The more selective the college and/or major field of study, the more "weight" given for accelerated and/or extended academic coursework in the college admission decisions.

**Work-Study:** A federally funded program that makes part time jobs available to students with financial need.