INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to provide college admission planning information for students who are juniors in high school. It provides specific strategies for students to prepare them for the college selection process and the college fair experience. It is not designed to be a comprehensive guide to the admissions process, but a beginning and source of motivation for students. Although the guide has been designed for use during the junior year, students will be able to use the information throughout the senior year as well.

THE 24th ANNUAL EAST BAY COLLEGE CONNECTION FAIR

The twenty-fourth annual East Bay College Connection will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. This is your opportunity to meet with representatives from two-year and four-year colleges and universities throughout the U.S. In addition, a number of workshops will be offered throughout the day. You should plan your time wisely in order to take full advantage of this event. Professional high school counselors will also be on site for consultation.

Over 160 college representatives will be available in McKeon Pavilion and Madigan Gymnasium. The College Counseling Center and the workshops will be in various sites on campus, and a map will be made available that day to give you directions. This fair is one of eight in California conducted by the Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC).

For further information about this fair, please feel free to contact either of the co-chairpersons:

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The East Bay College Connection fair committee gives special thanks to Esther Lopez and Janet Appel (De La Salle High School), and Lisa Sciacca (Carondelet High School) for updating this guide.
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GOING TO A COLLEGE FAIR

WHY GO?

A college fair is designed for you and your parents to gather a great deal of information in a short period of time. You will be able to meet with and ask questions of over 160 representatives of colleges and universities that are located all over the United States and abroad.

There will be ongoing special interest workshops you can attend on topics such as:

- Applying to the University of California
- Applying to California State Universities
- California Community Colleges
- Independent Colleges and Universities
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Financial Aid (in English and in Spanish)
- First in Family to College (Admissions Basics)
- The Admissions Process—Beyond the Basics
- The Scholar-Athlete
- College Selection for Students with Learning Disabilities

Local guidance counselors, who will listen to your questions and suggest things for you to consider, will staff a College Counseling Center. They will also have reference books available for answering factual questions about the colleges.

HOW TO PREPARE

- Know your academic and personal profile
- Know what you are looking for in a college
- Know where to find the answers
- Decide on about eight colleges that fit your assessment
- Register for the fair at www.wacaccollegefair.com or fill out an Inquiry Card for each college and bring them to the fair (see sample Inquiry Card on page 21).

HOW TO GET TO THE FAIR

The East Bay College Connection will be held at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. It is a free event. There will be a free shuttle bus running from the Orinda BART station to the site of the fair. Parking is limited, so take advantage of public transportation! But if you must drive, come early, carpool with your friends, and follow the directions below:

From San Francisco Bay Bridge or San Rafael/Richmond Bridge, take Highway 580 into Oakland. Then take Highway 24 toward Walnut Creek. Go through the Caldecott Tunnel and take the third exit (Orinda/Moraga). Turn right and follow Moraga Way for several miles to the signal at Moraga Road; turn left. At the first signal, turn right onto Saint Mary’s Road. The campus is about one mile further on your right.

From Walnut Creek/Highway 680, take Highway 24 west toward Oakland to the Central Lafayette exit. Go right under the freeway, then right onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard. After one block, turn left onto Moraga Road. Go 1/3 mile and turn left onto Saint Mary’s Road. Go about four miles. The Saint Mary’s campus will be on your left.

For more information or specific directions, please call (925) 631-4224 or visit http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/node/3245
WHEN YOU ARE AT THE FAIR

- Bring a backpack to carry home college brochures.
- Bring a pencil or pen and something to write notes on.
- If you registered for the event at www.wacaccollegefair.com, bring your barcode. If not, bring your Inquiry Cards, filled out. See page 21 for more information.
- Have some questions to ask the college representatives:
  - My areas of interest include ___________. What does your school offer me in those areas?
  - What unique programs or majors are available?
  - What is the average class size? Are teaching assistants used?
  - What is the diversity of your school (geographically, racially, socially, economically)?
  - What is the average time from entrance to graduation?
  - What tests do you require (SAT Reasoning Test / SAT Subject Tests / ACT / TOEFL)? Do you use the SAT Writing section in evaluating freshman applicants, or do you only use the Critical Reading and Mathematics sections? Do you require the ACT Writing section?
  - What was the average GPA of last year’s freshmen class? What were the average SAT and ACT scores of last year’s freshmen class?
  - What is the total estimated cost of attendance for one year?
  - How is financial aid awarded? Is admissions need-blind? What if I am admitted from a wait list?
  - What is the average financial aid package?
  - What percentage of your students are awarded financial aid?
  - What types of scholarship opportunities are available? Are the scholarships renewable?
  - Is on-campus housing guaranteed for the freshman year? For all four years?
  - Is there ample parking available? Are freshmen allowed to bring cars to campus? Is there a fee?
  - Is an interview necessary or recommended?

ESTABLISHING YOUR COLLEGE CRITERIA

Some questions to ask yourself in order to know what colleges to consider:

- Why do you want to go to college?
- Do you have a specific career goal or major in mind?
- Do you have special interests, talents, or hobbies that you wish to pursue in college?
- Do you have personal criteria, such as geographic location, class size, or financial restrictions?
- What colleges might you be eligible for based on your GPA, standardized testing scores, and the college curriculum?
- Do you feel strongly about other considerations, such as level of academic competition, nature of the athletic program, special programs, support for a learning disability, religious affiliation, single sex or coed, or quality of residential life?

Where to find names of colleges that might be a good fit based on your answers to these questions:

- Check websites for college search programs (see page 18).
- Consult guidebooks in the Guidance Department or Career Center at your high school (see page 20).
- Ask questions of college representatives when they visit your school or at a college fair.
- Attend presentations and receptions offered by colleges on weekends or evenings during the week, generally at local hotels.
- Talk to other students and alumni. Contact graduates of your high school who attend colleges to which you are interested in applying.
- Visit and tour campuses. Many colleges offer open houses on week-ends, usually in the spring or fall, for prospective and/or admitted students and their families.
- Arrange an interview when you visit a campus, either with a current student or admissions personnel. If you can’t visit the campus, ask if an alum is available to meet with you locally.
California has the largest community college system in the nation, enrolling over 2.3 million students. Community colleges are two-year institutions which prepare students for various careers or for transfer to a four-year college or university. There are 112 different community colleges within California. Visit www.cccco.edu for the location and information on each program.

To enroll in a community college, you must be 18 years of age, or have completed high school, or have passed an equivalency exam. Applications are available in the spring for fall entrance. The cost of community college includes tuition, fees, books and your transportation, but it is by far the least expensive option for obtaining higher education in this state. Tuition is $46 per unit. Since student fees vary, please consult each campus for specifics.
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

There are 23 campuses in the California State University system. The campuses, located from Humboldt (near the Oregon border) to San Diego (near the Mexican border), enroll over 400,000 students collectively, and offer over 1,800 bachelor’s and master’s degree programs. The sizes vary, from California Maritime Academy’s 1000, to CSU Northridge’s 35,000. Some campuses are rural (Chico or Humboldt), while others are in the center of the city (San Diego, San Jose or San Francisco) or in a suburban area (Sonoma). Applications are available online and will contain information regarding admissions requirements. You should contact individual campuses for specific questions regarding their programs. Visit www.csumentor.edu for more details.
Minimum Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible for admission if you:

- Have or will have graduated from high school.
- Meet the eligibility index with your grade point average and test scores (see the formula below and the table on the right).
- Have or will have completed with semester grades of C or better the pattern of courses listed below under subject requirements which total 15 units (a "unit" is one year of study in high school). See table on page 9.

You may be required to meet higher admission requirements for impacted programs and campuses. More than half of the CSU campuses are currently impacted. Most campuses admit students interested in impacted major as "pre" majors (i.e. Pre-Nursing).

Eligibility Index

Use this formula to see if your grade point average and test scores meet the required eligibility index:

\[
\text{Eligibility Index} = \frac{(\text{Your GPA}) \times 800 + \text{SAT Reasoning Score}}{1800}
\]

You can also use the following formula to calculate your GPA:

\[
\text{GPA} = \frac{(\text{Your GPA}) \times 200 + \text{ACT Scores}}{1000}
\]

*Exclude 9th grade, PE, ROTC, and all non-college prep courses taken in the 10th and 11th grades. Do not include grades you expect to earn in courses during the remainder of 12th grade.

- You may claim honors points in UC certified honors or AP courses (an A in an honors course will receive a total of 5 points; B, 4 points; and C, 3 points) in calculating the GPA for a maximum of eight semester courses taken in the 11th or 12th grad, including up to two IB, AP or honors courses with 11th or 12th grade course content taken in the 10th grade.
- California residents must have a minimum index of 2900 using SAT Reasoning scores or 694 using ACT scores.
- California nonresidents must have a minimum index of 3502 using SAT Reasoning scores or 842 using ACT scores.
- If you apply for admission before you graduate from high school, you should compute your GPA using grades earned in college prep courses completed in the 10th and 11th grades. Do not include grades you expect to earn in courses during the remainder of 12th grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Reasoning Scores</th>
<th>(Your GPA) x 800 + SAT Reasoning without Writing score</th>
<th>&gt; My index is:</th>
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<td>2.32 23 1050</td>
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<td>2.00 30 1300</td>
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Below 2.00 does not qualify for regular admission.
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM

The University of California system has ten campuses, nine of which serve undergraduates as well as graduate students. The tenth campus in San Francisco is a health sciences graduate school only. The ten campuses, as listed below, have their own distinctive environmental characteristics as well as particular degree programs. You are encouraged to investigate the campus of your interest and read about its offerings carefully before applying. Visit the Admissions pages of UC web sites for specific information. The application is available online in August.

Please note that being eligible for admission to the UC system is no longer a guarantee of admission to any specific campus. Entrance to several campuses within the UC system has become very competitive. When a campus cannot admit all eligible applicants, it uses standards that are more demanding than the minimum requirements to accept students. Visit http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman to access a wealth of information.
UC Entrance Examination Requirement

Freshman applicants must submit the following test scores:

- The ACT Assessment plus Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test. The critical reading, mathematics, and writing scores on the SAT must be from the same sitting. Students who take the ACT must report their scores on each section as well as their composite score, from a single sitting.

- While SAT Subject Tests are no longer required for UC admission, some campuses strongly recommend that students vying for slots in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject proficiency. Please consult http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html for specific recommendations by campus. In addition, the University encourages students to submit Subject Test scores if they want to demonstrate mastery of a particular subject, or if they wish to satisfy one or more “a-g” requirements listed above by presenting qualifying scores on SAT Subject Tests.

- Students applying for admission to the fall term must take required and recommended tests no later than December of their senior year, preferably earlier, to ensure that their application receives prompt and full consideration.
University of California Eligibility for Admission
Fall of 2012 and beyond

All California high school seniors who fulfill the following three requirements will be entitled to a comprehensive review of their applications at each UC campus to which they apply. If you are interested in entering the University of California as a freshman you will have to satisfy these new admission requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses ("a-g" courses), with at least 11 finished prior to your senior year. Please see the table on page 9 for those required courses.

2. Earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better (3.4 if the applicant is not a California resident) in these courses with no semester grade lower than a C.

3. Take the ACT with Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test by December of your senior year. Although Subject tests were required in the past, you will not have to take SAT Subject Tests for admission. They are recommended in some cases, however. See page 9 for more information about Subject Tests.

California students are guaranteed admission if:
● they rank in the top 9 percent of California high school students, according to the admissions index (Eligibility in the Statewide Context).
● they rank in the top 9 percent of their graduating class at a participating high school (Eligibility in the Local Context).

Eligibility in the Statewide Context

UC's scholarship requirement defines the grade point average (GPA) you must earn in college-preparatory ("a-g") subjects and the admissions test scores you must achieve to be considered for admission. To determine if you meet this requirement, the University uses something called an eligibility index. You can see whether or not you meet the scholarship requirement by using the eligibility index found on the UC admissions website http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/california-residents/admissions-index/

Calculating the GPA

The University calculates your preliminary GPA based on the grades earned in the “a-g” courses taken in the 10th and 11th grades (including the summers after 9th, 10th and 11th grade). Points are assigned to each grade (A=4 points, B=3 points, C=2 points, D=1 point, F=0 points), and the GPA is calculated by adding together your points and dividing by the number of courses. Pluses and minuses are not included in the GPA calculation.

The University assigns extra points for up to eight semesters of UC certified honors level work:

A = 5 points
B = 4 points
C = 3 points

No more than two year long UC-approved honors-level courses taken in the 10th grade may be given extra points. A grade of D in an honors or Advanced Placement course does not earn extra points. Acceptable honors-level courses include UC-approved honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, Higher Level and designated Standard Level International Baccalaureate courses, and college courses that are transferable to UC.

The “a-g” courses in which you earn D and F grades must be repeated. Consult with your guidance counselor or college advisor to determine how these grades can be improved. If you repeat an “a-g” course in which you received a D or F, the original D or F will not be used in your GPA calculation, and only the new grade will be used. If you repeat a course in which you initially earned a grade of C, the second grade will not be used.

Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)

Students who rank in the top 9 percent of their graduating class at a participating high school are guaranteed admission to the University. This path is referred to as Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC). If your California high school participates in the program – and most do – the University will identify the top 9 percent of students on the basis of GPA in UC-approved coursework completed in the 10th and 11th grades.
To be considered for ELC, students must complete the following specific courses by the end of their junior year:

a. History/social science, 1 year;
b. English, 2 years;
c. Mathematics, 2 years;
d. Laboratory science, 1 year;
e. Language other than English, 1 year;
f. College-preparatory elective (chosen from the subjects listed above or another course approved by the university), 4 courses.

These students will be guaranteed a spot at one of the nine UC campuses, though not necessarily at their first-choice campus, and will be notified after applying of their ELC status. Admission will be contingent upon completion of remaining eligibility requirements prior to enrollment. Your parent must sign a release in order for your high school to submit your high school transcript for ELC consideration.

**Path to Admission by Examination Alone**

If you do not meet the requirements for Eligibility in the Statewide Context or Eligibility in the Local Context, you may qualify for admission to UC by earning high scores on the ACT plus Writing or SAT Reasoning Test and two SAT Subject Tests. *Admission by examination alone is not guaranteed.*

To qualify by examination, you must achieve a minimum UC Score total of 410 (425 for nonresidents). In addition, you must earn a minimum UC Score of 63 on each component of the ACT or SAT Reasoning Test and on each SAT Subject Test. To calculate your scores for this path, go to: http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/examination/index.html

You may not use an SAT Subject Test to meet these requirements if you have completed a transferable college course in that subject with a grade of C or better.
CALIFORNIA PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

California’s 70+ independent schools, located as far north as Redding and as far south as San Diego, offer students a rich diversity of educational programs. They range in size from very small (Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula which enrolls a mere 355), to very large (the University of Southern California in Los Angeles enrolls over 33,000 students). Most, however, are relatively small (around 1,500) and offer students a personalized campus community life. Among the independents are major research universities, comprehensive universities, liberal arts institutions, religiously affiliated colleges, women’s colleges, and specialty schools. Some examples of each are as follows:

**Major Research:**
- California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech)
- Stanford University
- University of Southern California

**Comprehensive:**
- Loyola Marymount University
- University of the Pacific
- University of San Diego
- Santa Clara University

**Liberal Arts:**
- Occidental College
- Pomona College
- Saint Mary’s College of California

**Religious:**
- Biola University
- California Baptist College
- Pepperdine University
- Westmont College

**Women’s:**
- Mills College
- Mount Saint Mary’s College
- Scripps College

**Specialty:**
- American Academy of Dramatic Arts
- California College of the Arts
- Harvey Mudd College (engineering, math and science)

Admission is based on more than grades and scores. Other factors considered include high school program of study, extracurricular activities, honors earned, essay, letters of recommendation, special interests and talents, and personal potential. Each application is reviewed individually by two or three people before a decision regarding admission is made. In terms of selectivity, these schools run the gamut, so there is bound to be a good match for you.

When applying to an independent college or university, an online application is preferred. In many cases, you may apply to independent colleges and universities using the Common Application, which can be found at www.commonapp.org.

Since independent colleges and universities do not receive money from the state, they generally cost more than public institutions. But do not let this dissuade you from applying! Independent schools are often able to offer substantial financial aid packages, which can make them affordable. Many offer merit scholarships, in addition to need based grants. Another factor to keep in mind is that these schools graduate the majority of their students in four years. College counselors advise students to apply to the independent schools that appeal to them and to apply for financial aid. Decide whether or not the school is the one for you after you receive your acceptance letter and financial aid package.

FACTS at a GLANCE for California Independent Colleges and Universities

- 86% of students receive financial aid
- 12:1 Average Student-to-Faculty ratio
- 75% 5 year Graduation Rate
- Award 21% of undergrad degrees in California

**Helpful websites for more information:**

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) website at www.aiccu.edu

Information about independent, non-profit college and universities in California at www.californiacolleges.edu
CALIFORNIA PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
- California College of the Arts, S. F.
- Cogswell Polytechnical College, Sunnyvale
- Dominican University of California, San Rafael
- Golden Gate University, S.F.
- Holy Names University, Oakland
- John F. Kennedy University, Pleasant Hill
- Menlo College, Atherton
- Mills College, Oakland
- Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont
- Patten University, Oakland
- Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga
- Samuel Merritt College, Oakland
- San Francisco Art Institute, S.F.
- San Francisco Conservatory of Music, S.F.
- Santa Clara University, Santa Clara
- Stanford University, Stanford
- University of San Francisco, S.F.

SAN DIEGO METRO AREA
- National University, San Diego (Systemwide Office)
- Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego
- San Diego Christian College, San Diego
- University of San Diego, San Diego

OUTLYING CITIES
- Fresno Pacific University, Fresno
- Humphreys College, Stockton
- Pacific Union College, Angwin
- Simpson University, Redding
- Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula
- University of the Pacific, Stockton
- Westmont College, Santa Barbara
- William Jessup University, Rocklin

LOS ANGELES BASIN AREA AND ORANGE COUNTY
- American Academy of Dramatic Arts/West, Los Angeles
- American Jewish University, Bel Air
- Art Center College of Design, Pasadena
- Azusa Pacific University, Azusa
- Biola University, La Mirada
- California Baptist University, Riverside
- California Institute of Technology, Pasadena
- California Institute of the Arts, Valencia
- California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks
- Chapman University, Orange
- Claremont McKenna College, Claremont
- Concordia University of California, Irvine
- Harvey Mudd College, Claremont
- Hope International University, Fullerton
- La Sierra University, Riverside
- Laguna College of Art and Design, Laguna Beach
- Loma Linda University, Loma Linda
- Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
- Marymount California University, Rancho Palos Verdes
- Mount Saint Mary's College, Los Angeles
- Occidental College, Los Angeles
- Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles
- Pacific Oaks College, Pasadena
- Pepperdine University, Malibu
- Pitzer College, Claremont
- Pomona College, Claremont
- Scripps College, Claremont
- Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo
- University of La Verne, La Verne
- University of Redlands, Redlands
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- University of West Los Angeles, Inglewood
- Vanguard University of Southern California, Costa Mesa
- Whittier College, Whittier
- Woodbury University, Burbank
OUT-OF STATE COLLEGES

Why Consider Out-Of-State Colleges and Universities?

- To experience a physical climate different from California; e.g. four distinct seasons
- To experience different social atmospheres and local cultural differences
- To meet other students from diverse backgrounds who have grown up in another part of the country, in different settings, situations and cultures
- To gain independence by being further from home
- To find more options for different types of colleges

Information To Know When Considering Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

- Public universities typically charge higher rates of tuition for out-of-state students
- Private universities charge the same tuition rates regardless of where a student lives
- At some public out-of-state colleges and universities, there are tuition reduction programs for CA students that can make the cost of attendance similar to in-state costs, i.e. The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) http://wue.wiche.edu
- Some colleges have special scholarships for “non-resident” students to help lower the cost of attendance.
- Cost of living in some out-of-state locations is less than CA costs, which can lower the cost of attendance.
- Some states have higher standards for admission to public universities for out-of-state students, compared to in-state students.
- Some states treat in-state and out-of-state students the same in admissions requirements. Check websites of individual colleges for information on admissions policies for out-of-state students.
- Private college may sometimes consider geographic diversity as a benefit to their campus community and give preference to out-of-state students.
- Some out-of-state colleges have honors programs to attract high achieving students and award merit scholarships to those students.
- Sometimes travel time to home from major airport hubs (e.g. Denver, Phoenix, Seattle) is less than a drive home from southern California.

What is RACC?
The Regional Admission Counselors of California (RACC) is composed of college admission professionals who represent public and private not-for-profit colleges and universities outside the state of California. Members work closely with students and families of California while partnering with high school, community college and independent counselors throughout the state. All of these out-of-state institutions have dedicated the necessary resources for a regional office to serve Californians by providing information on educational opportunities out of state. There are over 70 colleges and universities that are members of RACC.
For a list of member colleges and the area representative visit: www.regionaladmissions.com
VISITING A COLLEGE CAMPUS

It is essential to visit a campus before you enroll. The best time to visit is when the school is in session so that you can observe student life and sit in on a class or two if possible. Most campuses offer information sessions and tours all year long. You should call or register online before your intended visit for specific tour times and meeting places, a map and parking options.

How to get the most out of a campus visit:

- Read the school’s viewbook, visit the school’s website, take a virtual “tour,” and review the course offerings in your anticipated major beforehand. Course catalogs with course descriptions are generally found under “Academic” information, or “Publications” on college websites.

- Be prepared to ask questions, such as:
  - What special academic programs do you offer?
  - Do you offer any unique majors?
  - Is it easy to enroll in the classes you need to take?
  - How easy is it for students to study abroad?
  - Does financial aid cover study abroad expenses?
  - What are the most popular campus clubs, organizations, and activities?
  - What types of sports programs/activities are available? Can you “walk-on” a sports team?
  - What happens on weekends? Is there a lively arts and/or music scene?
  - What are some of the current issues among students?
  - Other than the library, where do students study?
  - Is there easy computer access and availability?
  - Do I need to bring my own computer?
  - What security services are available?

- Plan to eat a meal or snack on campus so that you can check out the student facilities and get a feel for the campus “culture.”

- Try to visit a class, talk to students, and meet with professors in your areas of interest. The Office of Admission can generally help arrange a class visit if you call well in advance of your visit.

- Visit the library and a freshman residence hall.

- Don’t schedule more than two visits in a given day. The information will blur. Keep a journal of your observations - what you liked and disliked, and what impressed you about the campus or the people you talked to. Take pictures, too. Along with your notes, they will help you review the schools you visited at the end of your trip.

FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

The cost of going to college is a common concern for parents and students. From the modest cost of attending a community college to the higher price of going to an independent college, there is the need to cope with the challenge of paying for college. This section will give you some basic information about financial aid for the college years.

WHAT IS THE COST OF GOING TO COLLEGE?

Tuition and Fees
- Tuition charges help pay for the cost of instruction.
- Some colleges charge fees in addition to tuition. There can also be fees to cover additional expenses if you take certain college classes (e.g. fees for lab materials in chemistry).
- Independent college tuition is significantly higher than public colleges. Check college catalogs or websites for information on tuition and fees.

Room and Board
- Students living away from home have both housing and food (or “board”) costs. Most 4-year colleges provide campus housing for freshman students.
- Check college websites for on-campus room and board costs and meal plans. Some schools require freshmen to purchase 20 meals per week, others offer an option of 14 per week.

Travel
- You should consider the cost of traveling to and from home and college. Estimate the number of trips home during the college year.
- Some colleges allow freshmen to have cars on campus, but there may be parking fees involved.

Books
- All college textbooks must be purchased or rented.
- Book costs can add up to $1,000 per year.
- Finding used textbooks at a campus bookstore or online retailer can help reduce book costs.

Personal Expenses
- These will vary, but can include items such as toiletries, haircuts, clothing, and entertainment expenses.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR FINANCIAL AID?

- You must have “need” to qualify for most sources of financial aid. College costs minus your family contribution equals your financial “need.”
- Family contribution is determined from the information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some factors involved in estimating family contribution are income, assets, the age of your oldest parent, as well as the number of children in the family and the number in college.
- There are merit-based scholarships available at some colleges, as well as grants that do not need to be repaid.
- The college Financial Aid office will put together a financial aid package. Many private/independent colleges have a great deal of money to offer students with financial need.
WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID?

COLLEGES: Every college has a Financial Aid office that helps students find grants, loans, scholarships, and work study—jobs on or near campus.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA: The Cal Grant program awards grants that help pay tuition costs for California students going to a California public or independent college or trade school.

LOANS: Request information from the Financial Aid office at the college you will attend about loans that are available to parents and students. Some families take out equity line loans on their homes. Avoid private loans, if possible.

MILITARY: The military services have opportunities that range from ROTC scholarships to attendance at West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Force or Coast Guard Academy.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: The Pell Grant program provides funds for low-income students to attend college.

SCHOLARSHIPS: National and local scholarships are available to high school seniors and continuing college students each year. For information on these opportunities, contact your high school guidance office or Career Center, and visit www.finaid.org and www.fastweb.com.

WHAT APPLICATIONS ARE NEEDED TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)
- All colleges want this form completed on or after January 1 of the senior year. In California, March 2nd is the deadline.
- Access the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Attend a Cash for College Workshop if you do not have internet access at home. To locate the workshops, offered in January and February, visit www.csac.ca.gov and click on the “Cash for College” tab.
- Complete the online FAFSA form in January or February of your senior year. You will need a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to be able to complete the FAFSA online. Apply for your PIN online when you start your FAFSA.
- The FAFSA form gives “basic” financial aid information to the U.S. Government and to your colleges.
- The FAFSA is required in order to qualify for federal financial aid programs and the Cal Grant program.
- No fee is involved; the FAFSA is a free form.

CALIFORNIA GRANT APPLICATION: CAL GRANT GPA VERIFICATION FORM
- If you are planning to attend a California college, you must complete the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form. Print out the form at www.csac.ca.gov.
- This form asks your high school counselor or registrar to calculate your grade point average (GPA). Be sure to mail the completed form before its deadline (March 2nd of your senior year). Purchase a Certificate of Mailing at the Post Office to prove you mailed the form by the deadline.
- Your school may opt to submit the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form for you electronically. See your high school guidance office or Career Center to determine whether or not your school will submit the information for you.

INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS AND/OR THE “PROFILE”
- The CSS/Financial Aid Profile is required by some private/independent colleges. There is a fee for the CSS Profile. Some colleges have their own financial aid supplement in addition to, or in place of, the Profile. Colleges requiring the Profile form are listed at the College Board website: www.collegeboard.com. Click on “College Planning.”
- Parents should visit each college website’s financial aid page to determine if an institutional financial aid supplement is required. There is usually no charge for an individual college’s supplemental financial aid application.
- Check deadlines carefully and submit applications on time. Private/independent colleges often require all financial aid forms be completed and submitted by early to mid-February.

FINANCIAL AID WORKBOOK AND THE WEB
- One of the best sources of financial aid information is the Fund Your Future Financial Aid Workbook, issued each year by the California Student Aid Commission. This workbook explains how to apply for federal and state financial aid opportunities including grants, loans, and work-study programs. Download the guide at http://www.csac.ca.gov.
- Start searching for scholarships during the junior year of high school. Start at www.finaid.org, or try one or more of the search engines listed on page 18 of this publication.

CHECKLIST FOR SENIORS APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID
- Find out the cost of attendance (COA) at the colleges to which you plan to apply.
- Talk with your parents about how college costs will be paid.
- Plan to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online in January of the senior year.
- Some private colleges require the CSS Profile. It is available online at: https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp
- Determine colleges’ financial aid application requirements by visiting each college’s financial aid web pages.
- Research the deadlines and application requirements for merit scholarship opportunities at each college.
- Check with your Career Center about local scholarships.
- Learn about the Western Undergraduate Exchange at www.wiche.edu/wue (tuition discounts and merit scholarship opportunities at each college).
- Meet or beat all deadlines!

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL AID
- Contact your high school guidance office or Career Center.
- Use net price calculators on college web sites to help determine what you can expect to pay at a college. Colleges are required to have these available to you online.
- Ask the Financial Aid offices at the colleges to which you are applying for assistance. Make an appointment if your family finances are complicated or in jeopardy.
- Read the Fund Your Future Financial Aid Workbook for information about federal and state financial aid programs.
- Attend Financial Aid Night at your school, if available.
- See the IRS website about higher education tax credits.
STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test):
The preliminary/practice SAT is administered nationally in October. Students become familiar with the type of questions found on the SAT. Junior year scores can qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Registration is at the high school. Visit www.collegeboard.com for more details.

ACT Aspire:
A group of tests given at some schools that assesses college and career readiness in English, math, reading, science and writing. Visit www.discoveraspire.org for more details, and contact your high school guidance office or College/Career Center to determine if, and when, ACT Aspire is offered.

SAT Reasoning Test:
A college admissions test required by many colleges and universities as part of the college admissions process. This is a 3 hour, 45 minute test that measures critical reading, writing, and mathematics skills. Register online at www.collegeboard.com and visit www.collegeboard.com/practice to access a free practice test and sample questions. A redesigned SAT will be implemented in March, 2016, and a new PSAT will be given in Fall, 2015, reflecting this change.

SAT Subject Test (subject-based tests in history, literature, mathematics, science, and languages):
Some colleges and universities require these tests for admission; be sure to check each school's requirements. Each test is one hour long. Register at www.collegeboard.com and visit www.collegeboard.com/practice to access test preparation advice.

SAT Score Choice:
Information about the College Board's Score Choice policy can be found on its website, www.collegeboard.com. Students should consult with their high school guidance office or Career Center before choosing this option, as colleges have different policies on whether they will allow students to use the score choice option or not.

ACT (American College Test):
A college admissions test required by many colleges and universities as part of the college admissions process. It is a three-hour test comprised of four parts: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An optional writing test has been added for those students applying to the University of California and some other colleges and universities. Registration information and materials are available in the guidance office or College/Career Center of your high school. Visit www.actstudent.org for more details and to register online.

AP (Advanced Placement):
Advanced Placement exams are given in May. Scoring a 3, 4, or 5 (out of 5) will often enable a student to receive college units of credit upon matriculation to a college or university. Pick up the Advanced Placement Bulletin from your guidance office or Career Center for more information about the tests and college credit policies. Register for these tests at your high school, generally early in February.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language):
A college admissions examination required of students whose first language is not English, or who have had fewer than three years at a high school in which English is the primary language of instruction. Visit www.ets.org/toefl for more details and to register online.

*Almost all colleges and universities will accept both SAT Reasoning Test and ACT scores. Information regarding specific testing requirements is available in your high school guidance office or College/Career Center, and at college websites. To locate test optional and test flexible colleges, visit www.fairtest.org.

CALCULATING YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Grade Point Averages (GPAs) are calculated in a number of ways. Below are four common ways in which GPAs can be calculated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of semester or trimester grades</th>
<th>multiplied by the number of grade points below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>x 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>x 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>x 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>x 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add together all grade points to find your grade point Total. Use this Total in the calculations below.

- **Basic (non-weighted) Grade Point Average**
  All grades on the transcript are used. No extra weight is given for Honors or AP courses.

  The Total divided by the number of semester or trimester term grades = GPA

  (NOTE: Many schools do not use P.E. or R.O.T.C. grades when calculating the basic GPA.)

- **Weighted Grade Point Average**
  Same as the basic (non-weighted) grade point average, except add the number of terms of AP courses, Honors courses, or courses taken at the college level to the Total before dividing by the number of semester or trimester grades.

- **UC GPA**
  Use only grades received in “a – g” subjects for courses taken in the 10th and 11th grades. See the pages on the UC system in this guide for detailed directions.

- **CSU GPA**
  Same as the UC GPA

  Note: CSU and UC assign weight to AP, IB and college level courses taken in the 10th and 11th grades, as well as some Honors level courses. See your school’s UC “a-g” list for more information. “Google” University of California course lists and search for your high school.
POPULAR INTERNET WEB SITES
(All web addresses are subject to change without notice)

College Search Process
Art Schools
Black Collegian
Campus Tours
Catholic Colleges and Universities
College and college major search
Colleges of Distinction
Colleges That Change Lives
College View
Colleges & Careers (Princeton Review)
Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Nursing Programs
Peterson’s
Schools in the USA
Western Undergraduate Exchange
Women’s Colleges
XAP

www.aicad.org
www.blackcollegian.com
www.campustours.com
www.catholiccollegesonline.org
www.collegeboard.com/psatextra
www.collegesofdistinction.com
www.ctcl.org
www.collegeview.com
www.princetonreview.com/college/
www.hbcuconnect.com
www.allnursingschools.com
www.petersons.com
www.schoolsintheusa.com
www.wiche.edu/wue
www.womenscolleges.org
www.nationalappcenter.com

College Applications and Information
University of California
California State University
California State University Application
California Private/Independent Colleges
California Community College Information
Community College Transfer Agreements
College Options in California
Common Application
Universal Application

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions
www.calstate.edu
www.csumentor.edu
www.aiccu.edu
www.cccco.edu
www.assist.org
www.californiacolleges.edu
www.commonapp.org
www.universalcollegeapp.com

Standardized Tests
American College Test (PLAN/ACT)
College Board (PSAT/SAT/AP)
TOEFL
Free SAT Preparation
Free SAT and ACT Preparation

www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.ets.org/toefl
https://quickstart.collegeboard.org
www.number2.com

Financial Aid/Scholarships
Commercial/Private
FinAid
Fastweb
Scholarships 101
Scholarships

www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.scholarships.com
www.scholarshipsearchsecrets.com

Government
California Student Aid Commission
Student Aid on the Web
FAFSA4caster
FAFSA

www.csac.ca.gov
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Athletics
NAIA
NCAA
NCAA eligibility and online application

www.naia.org
www.ncaa.org
http://eligibilitycenter.org
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AA (ASSOCIATE OF ARTS) or AS (ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE): A two-year college degree.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR: Breaks the school year, typically into one of the following:
  - Semester: two terms of 17 - 18 weeks
  - Quarters: three terms of approximately 12 weeks
  - Trimesters: three terms of 11 weeks
  - 4-1-4: two terms of 13 - 15 weeks, with a one month January/winter term in between.

ACCRREDITATION: The recognition by an outside agency that a school maintains high standards that enables students to qualify for admission to other accredited institutions.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: A set of rules established and required by each college for admission.

ADVANCED STANDING: Admission status when a student has completed more than 12 college credits.

“a-g” PATTERN: Refers to the list of subjects required for admission by California’s four year public universities.

AUDIT: To attend a class for the purpose of reviewing the information. No grades or credits are given.

BA (Bachelor of Arts) or BS (Bachelor of Science): A four-year college degree.

CAHSEE (California High School Exit Examination): Statewide exam given to students in all California public high schools. Currently, students must pass the exam, in addition to meeting all other state and local requirements, in order to receive a high school diploma. The exam has two parts: English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics. It is administered in the 10th grade, and can be taken again in the 11th and 12th grades if the student has not passed each section with a minimum score of 350.

CAL GRANT: California financial aid for California residents enrolling in California colleges and universities. It is available to students demonstrating financial need. Eligibility is based on income and grade point average. Forms are available online at the California Student Aid Commission web site.

CEEB CODE: The College Entrance Examination Board Code is a unique identification number which is assigned to each high school, college, and university in the U.S. and is used by standardized testing agencies like The College Board and ACT. For high schools, the CEEB code is a six-digit number; for colleges, the CEEB code is a four-digit number.

CHSPE (CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAM): A state exam allowing students 16 years or older the opportunity to qualify for a high school equivalency certificate. Registration materials are available in the high school guidance office or Career Center. Students must remain in school until results are received and parental approval for withdrawal has been granted. The test is offered three times a year.

CLASS RANK: A student’s standing based on his/her GPA as compared with that of the other members of the class. In a class of 100, the best student would be number 1; the poorest, number 100. Some schools do not rank, or rank the class in ten percent groupings (deciles) or twenty percent groupings (quintiles).

COLLEGE CATALOG: A book published by a college describing requirements for admission, majors, degrees, services offered, and course descriptions. High school Career Centers have many college catalogs. Most colleges post their current catalogs at their websites under “Academic Information” or “Publications.”

“CREDIT” / “SEMMESTER HOURS” / “UNIT HOURS” / “QUARTER HOURS” / “UNIT”: Ways of referring to the number of credits that are earned in a course. Approximately 64 total credits are needed for an AA degree and 128 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-credit course. A full-time student at college is usually defined as one who attends three to four classes and earns a minimum of 12 credits per semester.

CSF (CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION): Statewide honor society designed primarily for the academically oriented, college-bound student. Eligibility for membership depends on the previous semester’s final grades. Students who qualify for four out of their last six semesters (including one senior year semester) become Sealbearers at graduation. Membership is neither automatic, mandatory, nor retroactive. Join the first weeks of a semester, if eligible. See your high school’s CSF Advisor for eligibility requirements.

CUMULATIVE RECORD: The complete record of all courses and grades earned. Your transcript is a copy of your cumulative record; it must be signed by a school registrar, counselor, or administrator to be considered “official.”

DEGREE: A title given to college graduates upon completion of a program. A four-year degree is usually a BA (Bachelor of Arts) or a BS (Bachelor of Science); a 5th or 6th year degree is often an MA (Master of Arts) or an MS (Master of Science); and a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) requires approximately five additional years beyond the BA or BS degree.

EARLY ACTION: Under this admission plan, highly qualified candidates who apply early may receive offers of admission by mid-December. Unlike the Early Decision plan, the Early Action plan does not allow an institution to request that an applicant make a prior commitment to matriculate, indicate college preferences, or make any response to an offer of admission until the May 1st Candidate’s Reply Date.

EARLY ADMISSION: This plan allows students to begin college work after the junior year of high school. The program is generally limited to exceptional students. Starting college before high school graduation may negate a student’s eligibility for federal and/or state financial aid.
EARLY DECISION: Under this admission plan, students apply early and receive notification of admission or denial early (typically, the application is due in November and students receive notice in December). If a student is admitted under this plan, he/she is committed to attending and must immediately withdraw any other outstanding applications.

GRANTS: Payments made to students by various institutions and organizations, including CAL GRANTS from the State of California. Grants are monies that do not have to be paid back.

IMPACTED PROGRAM: A college degree program, such as computer science, which may be temporarily closed to new students due to large enrollment, or which may require supplementary paperwork and/or screening as a result of strong competition for the limited spaces available.

LOWER DIVISION: Refers to courses usually completed in the first two years of college.

MAJOR: A student’s main area of study in college.

MID-YEAR REPORT: A transcript with a student’s progress after a term or semester of classes have been completed.

MINOR: Approximately 18 semester credits in an area outside a student’s major area of study.

PELL GRANT: A financial aid program administered by the Federal Government. Pell Grants are available to students with financial need and may be used at many types of colleges and vocational schools. Apply in January or February of the senior year by submitting a FAFSA form.

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

PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT COLLEGE: A school that is not supported by state taxes.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS: A college admissions process which allows students to be admitted on an individual basis when all required documents have been received and reviewed, provided space is available. Students should apply early for optimum chance of acceptance.

ROTC (RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS): Some colleges have units of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps that offer two-year and four-year programs of military training culminating in an officer’s commission. In some schools, credit for the courses can be applied toward a degree. ROTC scholarships often pay for full college tuition.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Gifts of money awarded for achievement, skills, talents and/or financial need. Most scholarships are awarded to high school seniors in the spring term and can range from several hundreds of dollars to thousands of dollars.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT: A form that may be required by a college or university as part of the application for admission. The form is completed by an administrator, counselor, or college advisor, and describes the personal qualities and academic strengths of the student.

SIR (STATEMENT OF INTENT TO REGISTER): This form must be returned (postmarked or submitted electronically) to the college of your choice by a specified date, usually May 1st. This confirms your intent to register at that college and reserves a spot for you. A deposit may also be due on May 1.

TRANSCRIPT: A copy of your official record of grades and courses from the time of entrance into high school to the end of the last semester of the senior year. A 7th semester transcript includes all courses taken from the start of 9th grade until the end of the fall semester of 12th grade.

TRANSFER STUDENTS: College students who transfer from one college to another, usually at the end of the sophomore year.

TUITION: A fee that is paid for instruction at a school, college, or university.

UNDERGRADUATE: A college student who has not yet received a bachelor’s degree.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES: Courses designated for the junior and senior years of college.

WAIT LIST: In addition to accepting and denying applicants, many colleges place students on a wait list. Students who are wait listed may be admitted if space becomes available.

WORK STUDY: A federally-funded program that makes part-time jobs available to students with financial need.

SUGGESTED READING

- Admission Matters
- Barron’s Best Buys in College Education
- The Best 373 Colleges (Princeton Review)
- The College Handbook (College Board)
- The College Board Book of Majors
- College Board International Student’s Handbook
- The College Finder
- The College Solution
- Colleges that Change Lives
- College Unranked
- Cool Colleges
- The Fiske Guide to Colleges
- Harvard Schmarvard
- Insider’s Guide to Colleges
- The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities
- Looking Beyond the Ivy League
- Peterson’s Guide to Colleges in the West
- Peterson’s Guide to Four-Year Colleges
- Peterson’s Guide to Two-Year Colleges

(Many of these books have updated editions each year.)
REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM COLLEGES

There are two ways to request information from colleges at the fair: registering for the event online, or providing colleges your information using the inquiry card below.

Register Online

By registering for the event in Moraga ahead of time, you will be given a barcode to print at home and bring to the event. Colleges can then scan your barcode at their individual tables, saving you the time and hassle of filling out inquiry cards, and your data is automatically uploaded by the college. To register for the event and receive your barcode, go to www.wacaccollegefair.com.

Sample Inquiry Card

If you prefer, you may also use the following inquiry card at the event (also available in your guidance office, College and Career Center, and at the college fair). To save you time at the college fair, we suggest you fill the card out once and make many photocopies that you can bring with you to hand to the colleges in which you are interested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>East Bay College Connection Fair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: __________________________ Grade: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address: ________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City: __________________________ State: ___ Zip: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone #: ( )____________________ Gender: M F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: _________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: __________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School: ____________________ CEEB: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School’s City: __________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please send me the following information:

- Admission Application
- Scholarships/Financial Aid
- Viewbook
- Athletic Programs