

College Tips

UC/CSU admissions: Minimum UC/CSU Requirements- Meet A-G requirements and minimum weighted 10-11 A-G GPA (**UC** min. 3.0/No min. SAT/ACT test score. **CSU** min. 2.0 & meet the **CSU Eligibility Index.**) (www2.calstate.edu/apply/eligibility-index) **CSU's give priority admission to students living in their geographical region.** (Sacramento State) You will need to be more competitive for acceptance at other CSU's. Review **Impaction** on the CSU website. **UC: Comprehensive Review**-they look at 14 factors (GPA, Test score, Rigor, service, quality of senior year courses, improvement, talents etc). **EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)** is designed to improve access and retention of low-income and educationally disadvantaged students to CSUs and UCs. Applying under EOP (on the application) may provide a better opportunity for admission. **UC/CSU application deadline (Nov.30)** Don't wait until then to apply. One application for each system, but you must pay for each university in which you send an application. Don't choose schools you don't want to attend. (DUH!) **Fee Waivers** are in the application. If you qualify you can apply to 4 UC's and 4 CSU's for free! **Send the information** (transcripts/test scores) **when it is requested!** UC's will request a final transcript by July 1st. Some CSUs may ask for a transcript earlier. Pay close attention to requests UC/CSU's communicate on your portal. Don't miss deadlines. Don't submit your application without having a counselor review it. Attend lunchtime application workshops.

Choosing Schools- Pick a range of schools. (**Dream, Possible/Probable, Sure thing**) In most situations, apply to at least 3, but no more than 10 to 12. **Do some research! You choose them, not them choosing you.** Don't apply to schools just because they send you an encouraging letter in the mail. Look at Public and Private. Don't think about money yet. Remember, this is not your final college decision, applying now prolongs your opportunity to consider a school and gives you the rest of the year to learn more. Visit a campus if possible!

Should I declare a major? It depends on the school and the major. In some circumstances (ie. highly impacted majors) some factors should be considered before choosing a major. One is: **what is more important, the major or the college/university? Admissions to a college/university also means admission to a department. A highly competitive dept. could keep you out of the college/university. If the application allows for two majors, you might want your second choice to be something less competitive. (ie. undeclared)** If there is only one choice, your decision should depend on what your chances are of acceptance under that major. **For highly competitive majors- If you don't declare it when you apply, you may have difficulty changing into that major later. (ie. Engineering at a Berkeley) A lot to consider.**

SAT/ACT- 4 year colleges require at least one of these exams. Bring the required photo ID and necessary paperwork on the testing date. Most colleges/universities accept the December tests. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you qualify for an SAT/ACT Fee waiver. You may already be qualified without knowing it. If you are not sure, see your counselor.

ACT plus writing—Oct. 27, Dec. 8 SAT Reasoning- Nov. 3, Dec. 1 (the writing portion is not used for the CSU)
SAT Subject Tests- Not generally required for UC/CSU. However, required at some selective private colleges and recommended for selective majors at some publics.

Private Schools- Most regular admission deadlines are after **Nov. 30**; many in Jan. and Feb. These schools will usually require **letters of recommendation and secondary school reports** in which counselors need to participate. If the school gives you an option to use the **Common Application**, use it rather than their own application. **When you need assistance (and you will), set up a preliminary appointment with your counselor (4 weeks or more before the deadline)** where you can discuss your plans. Your counselor will probably give you a **worksheet which requests specific resume information and other subjective information.** If you already have a resume, counselors can use that too. After that initial appointment work together with your counselor to ensure your deadlines get met.

Community College- The application process begins November 1 and continues through the spring.

What not to do:

Do not: put a transcript request or recommendation request in a counselor's box without first having an appointment with him/her. We will do nothing with it.

Do not: send your counselor an online request for transcript or secondary school report without first meeting with him/her. (ie. Common Application, Send Edu)

Official Transcript Requests:

See **Ms. Robinson**, the registrar in the front office, to send official transcripts. **The Common Application and Send Edu** allow transcripts to be sent online. **Work with your counselor to determine the right process for you.**

If you are **applying to UOP, please use the Common Application and not Send Edu**. The Common Application can be used for as many as 700 private colleges. If you use it for UOP and want to apply to other private colleges, you won't need to duplicate your efforts.

Early Decision/Action – Many private schools have an early admission option which is probably sometime in November. This can be helpful if they attach large scholarships or grants only to students who have applied during early admission. Early Decision is binding. Early Action is not binding. **Talk to your counselor if you are considering this option. There are pros and cons for doing this.**

Scholarships: Check the JFK website (under counseling) every couple of weeks for the latest. Local is better. Use Fastweb and other major scholarship search engines as secondary sources. Try to apply to at least one per month.

Grants: Need based financial aid usually offered by the government and/or college/university. You will apply for this by filling out the **FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov) or Dream Act** between October 1 and March 2nd. **The district will submit your Cal Grant form for you.**

Join Remind: To receive important notices from the counseling office regarding college and/or graduation information, do one of two things: **1. to receive messages via text "@86heg4" to the number 81010. You'll receive a welcome text from Remind.**

Senior meetings (individual meetings with counselors) will be taking place from now into November.

Some helpful Websites:

UC: universityofcalifornia.edu

Compare Colleges: usnews.com/college

College Search: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

Scholarships: jfk.scusd.edu (look under counseling) , Fastweb.com, Collegeboard.org

ACT: actstudent.org

SAT: Collegeboard.org

Assist.org (college search)

CaliforniaColleges.edu(great place to start)

AICCU.EDU (Assoc. of Ind. California Colleges and Universities)

cacareezone.org (career assessment and information)

www2.calstate.edu/apply

<https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test> (personality profile)