

# COLLEGE BOOK FOR

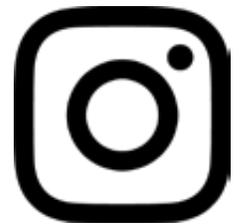


# JUNIORS



**CLASS OF 2022**

# Watch your social media posts, college admission officers are!



**Your social media presence** can affect your college admissions as more schools are reviewing prospective students' social media posts. Avoid being denied admission, or worse, having your acceptance rescinded. Inappropriate social media posts can be the reason for this. Ask yourself the following questions:

- When others look me up online, what do they see?
- What impression would they have of me after looking at my profile online?
- Am I easy to find?
- What is my overall online presence – polished or questionable?

Remember that when applying to college, it is vital for you to show your best, authentic self in both your college application and online. Below are some tips to help you manage your digital presence according to The Princeton Review:

1

Watch the name —keep it simple and professional.

2

Check your privacy settings - Monitor your privacy settings so that you know who can look you up, see your wall, tag you in pictures, and more.

3

Curate your online photo libraries - Any sort of illegal or objectionable behavior deserves a delete!

4

Google yourself - Search for your name on Google—you might be surprised what shows up on the first few pages. While you can not always delete the results, you can be proactive about what you post online.

Keep in mind, social media can boost your chances as long as you keep it positive and professional.



# COVID 19 ADMISSIONS UPDATE

## UC

**UC approved** the suspension of the exam requirement for all freshman applicants until fall 2024 and is continuing to address the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

- **Test-optional** for fall 2021 and fall 2022: Campuses will have the option to use ACT/SAT test scores in selection consideration if applicants choose to submit them, and will develop appropriate policies and procedures to implement the Board's decision.
- **Elimination of writing test:** The University will eliminate altogether the SAT Essay/ACT Writing Test as a requirement for UC undergraduate admissions, and these scores will not be used for fall 2021 admissions.

**Check for Updates here:** <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

## CSU

**High School Guidance** - Class of 2022 no test decisions have been made by the CSU system.

**Check for Updates here:** <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/freshman/Pages/first-time-freshman-guidance.aspx>

## Private University

Each private university will have its own admissions requirements. Make sure you visit the school's website to keep up to date on the testing policy.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SECTION

# 1

### WHAT IS THIS BOOK?

Welcome Class of 2022.....	4
Being On-Track for Graduation .....	5
Graduation Requirements .....	6
Monthly Planner .....	8
Using Naviance .....	10

## SECTION

# 2

### LET YOURSELF SHINE!

How to Become a Competitive Applicant.....	12
Exploring Your Personality .....	13
What are Your Strengths? .....	14
What is the PSAT?.....	15
Linking Your PSAT to Khan Academy.....	16
What are the ACT and SAT? .....	20
Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment .....	22
The Early Assessment Program (EAP) .....	23

## SECTION

# 3

### WHERE DO I FIT IN?

Finding your College.....	24
Your Best "Fit".....	24
Other "Fits" to Consider .....	27
What is Your Academic Profile .....	28
Naviance Connection-SuperMatch College Search.....	28
College Preferences Checklist .....	29
Your College List.....	30
College Rep Visits .....	31
Visiting with Colleges .....	32
Building your Resume .....	33
Highlighting Your Accomplishments.....	36

## SECTION

# 4

### UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS

California's Public and Independent Colleges and Universities Map.....	38
CSU, UC and Community Colleges systems .....	40
Independent Colleges and Universities.....	42
National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) .....	43
United States Service Academies.....	44
Take a Moment-Reflect .....	45

## SECTION

# 5

### HOW DO I AFFORD COLLEGE

Sticker Price vs. Net Price.....	46
Types of Financial Aid .....	47
Financial Aid Facts .....	48
Financial Aid for California Students.....	49
Other Types of State Aid .....	51
In-State Tuition Exemptions and AB540 .....	52
Junior Financial Aid "To Do's" .....	53

## SECTION

# 6

### SNEAK PEEK...SENIOR YEAR

Applying to College .....	54
Where to Apply .....	55
College Application Questions You Need to Answer / PIQs .....	56
Common App Essay Prompts .....	58
Matching Your Common App and Naviance Accounts.....	60
Summer "To Dos" .....	61

# WHAT IS THIS BOOK?

**WELCOME!** Every 11th grader who's gone on to college has had similar questions at one point or another: Is college for me? How do I apply? What about the money?

To help in your journey, this Handbook has been created just for you. You'll find information on how to make the year count - for academics, extracurriculars, and postsecondary preparation.

This is a key year when you will be planning for college by taking college entrance exams, researching colleges, creating your college list and learning about financial aid.

Although the college application process begins in earnest in Senior Year, there are steps you should take throughout the Junior year to ensure you're a competitive applicant next Fall 2021. Take an honest look at where you are now and talk to your counselor about what colleges you are looking for.

A word about Naviance.

Naviance is a web-based College Access application that the District provides free for students and teachers. The goal of Naviance is to provide an in-depth tool for students to begin the process of self-discovery, career research, college matching. Throughout this workbook, you will find references to tasks in Naviance. We hope you will explore them to discover all your options.

Have a happy, productive and inspiring Junior year!



## BEING ON-TRACK FOR GRADUATION

While this book is designed to make sure you are ready to apply for and enroll in college in your senior year, you first need to graduate from high school. Answer the questions below to determine if you are on the right track for high school graduation.

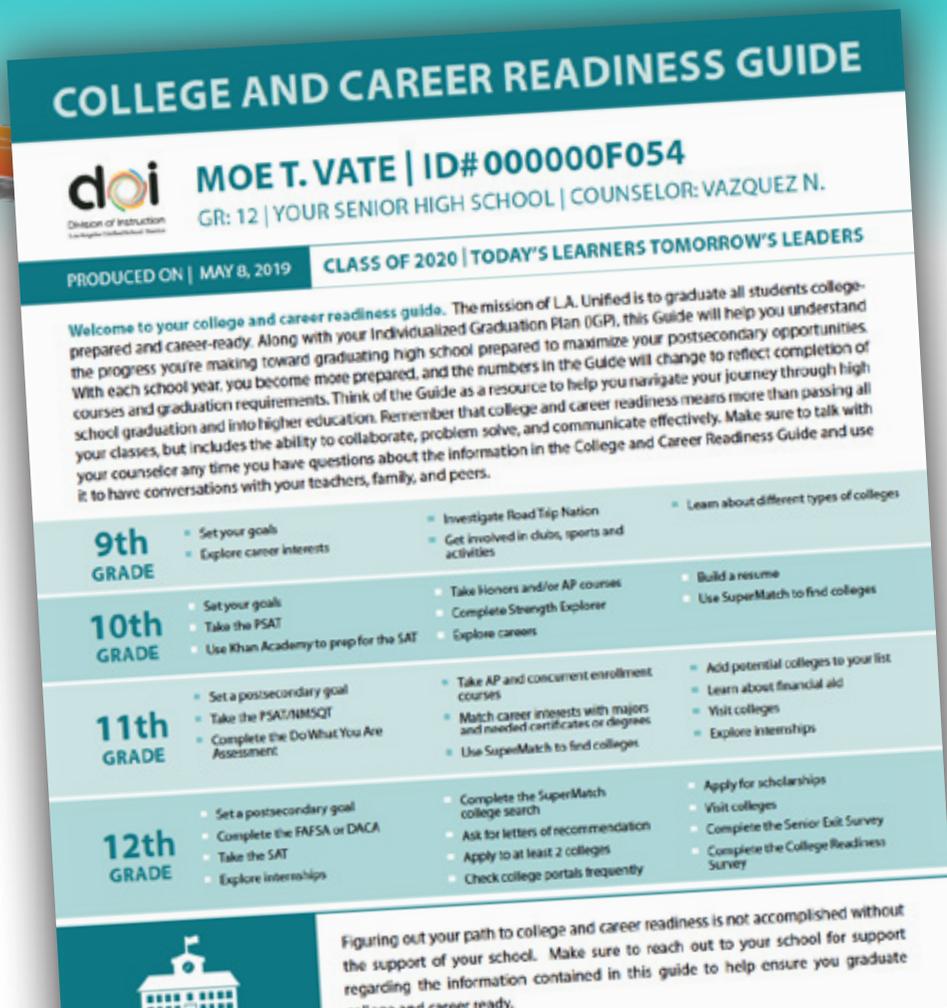
### CIRCLE "YES" OR "NO" FOR EACH REQUIREMENT BELOW:

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| YES | NO | I am taking and passing all the required courses for the state and the District, and completing all the a-g required courses. Note - Earning grades of C or better in a-g required courses will make you eligible for four-year colleges (see page 6 and 7). |
| YES | NO | I am completing the mandatory requirement of submitting my <b>*Service Learning Project</b> .  |
| YES | NO | I have selected my <b>*career pathway</b> .  |
| YES | NO | I am on track to meet the 210 credits needed to graduate.  |
| YES | NO | I am completing the health and physical education courses needed.  |

If you answered NO to any of the above questions, **\*see your counselor** to make sure you get back on track.



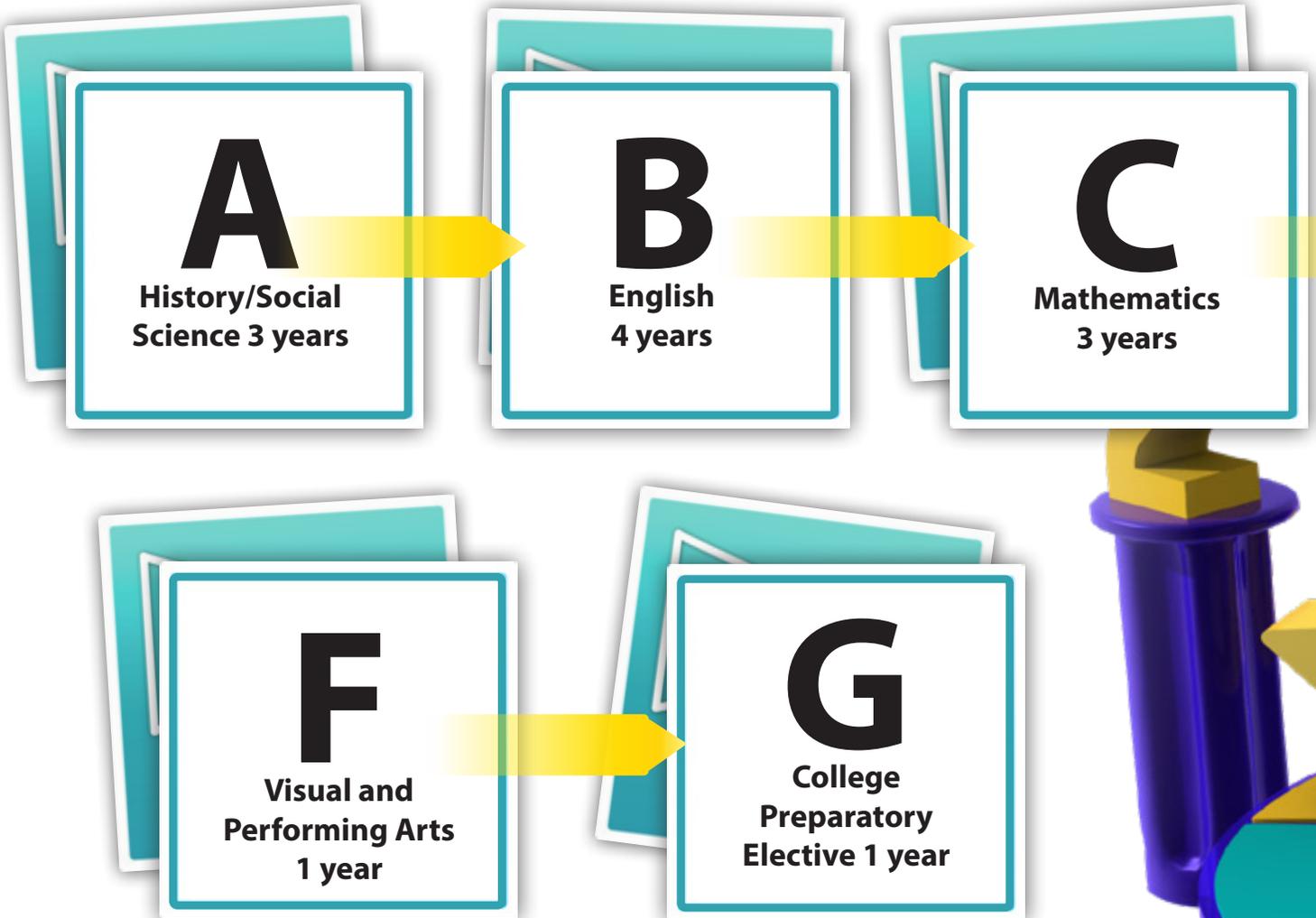
**The District has a new College & Career Readiness Guide - personalized to your progress.** It allows you to track your completion of required courses, your performance on standardized tests and college entrance exams. **It is available from your counselor.**



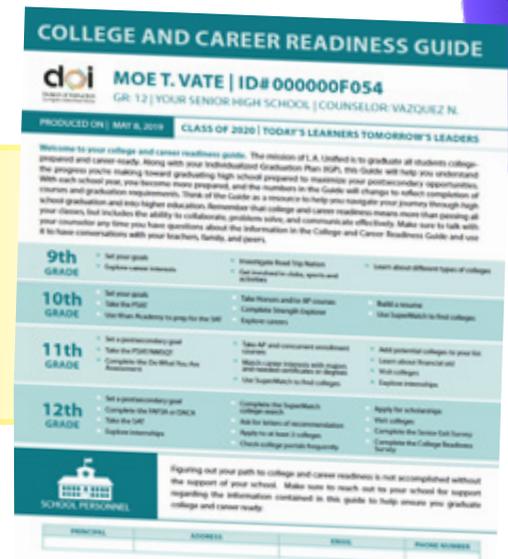
# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## LA UNIFIED A-G REQUIREMENTS

The following required courses must be completed with a "C" or better in order to be considered for enrollment in the University of California or California State University systems:



To verify your **a-g Requirements** status, ask your school-site counselor for a copy of your **College and Career Readiness Guide**.



**D**

**Laboratory  
Science  
2 years**

**E**

**Language  
Other Than English  
2 years**

**Other Graduation Requirements**

Principles of American Democracy	1 semester
Economics	1 semester
Physical Education	2 years
Health	1 semester
Total Numerical Credits	210

**Non-Course Requirements**

Service Learning	
Career Pathway	

*Graduation  
Requirements*

# MONTHLY PLANNER

TRACK YOUR "TO DO'S" HERE

## AUGUST



• Meet with your counselor to make sure you are enrolled in all the right classes

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## SEPTEMBER



• Talk to your counselor about planning to take the PSAT/NMSQT when it is offered.

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## OCTOBER



• Start researching your college options- Naviance has many tools to help

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## NOVEMBER



• Visit MyStudentAid, a mobile app to help you estimate the cost of attendance

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## DECEMBER



• Talk to your counselor about taking the SAT Subject exams

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## JANUARY



• Start researching summer programs- many have early deadlines

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## FEBRUARY



• Consider taking the ACT

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

### MARCH



- With your family, make an appointment to discuss your College and Career Readiness Guide with your counselor

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

### APRIL



- Take the In-School SAT at your high school (some schools may offer it in March)

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

### MAY



- Finalize your summer plans - volunteer, take a class, accept a job

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

### JUNE



- Visit potential colleges- either online or in person. You can learn a lot from a college's website

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

### JULY



- Get your FSA ID- you will need this before you can fill out the FAFSA:  
<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

### AUGUST



- Check out the UC application. It opens on August 1st  
<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/>

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

## USING NAVIANCE

When thinking about your plans after high school, your first stop should be Naviance. This platform is where you can find college planning and career assessment tools, identify your potential college options and manage your college applications. By completing the grade-level tasks, you should be on your way to a great start to self-discovery.

### JUNIOR YEAR TASK CHECKLIST:

- Complete ***Build Your Resume***
- Complete ***Do What You Are*** Assessment
- Create a ***Post-Secondary Goal***
- Complete ***SuperMatch College Search***
- Add one college to your ***Prospective List***



## HOW LAUSD STUDENTS LOGIN TO NAVIANCE

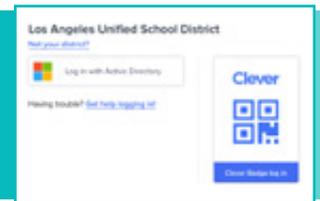
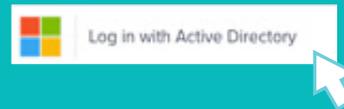
1. Go to the webpage for the Division of Instruction Guiding Postsecondary Success (GPS) <https://achieve.lausd.net/GPS>



2. Scroll down to the Naviance login links. Select Naviance Student login.



3. On the Clever LA Unified page, select login with Active Directory.



4. Enter your LAUSD Single Sign-On information.

A screenshot of the LAUSD Single Sign-On login form. At the top left is the LAUSD logo. Below the logo, the text "Sign in with your organizational account" is displayed. There are two input fields: one for the email address (containing "someone@example.com") and one for the password. Below the fields is a blue "Sign in" button. At the bottom, there is a note: "Enter your full LAUSD email address and password to Log In. e.g (msmith@lausd.net, mary.smith@lausd.net)".

5. After clicking on **Next**, you will be on the Naviance Student landing page.
6. To sign in without using the link, go to <http://bit.ly/naviancelogin-s>.

# LET YOURSELF SHINE

## HOW TO BECOME A COMPETITIVE APPLICANT

No matter your college goal, going above and beyond the minimum will always be rewarded. To make sure you spend your junior year making your resume shine, check out the following tips:

### COLLEGE GOALS!

#### Take Challenging classes

- Take Honors, AP or IB courses
- Explore a 4th year of math & science
- Enroll in dual enrollment college classes

#### Engage in Extra-curricular Activities

- Stand out from the crowd
- Develop leadership skills
- Extend learning and networking
- Pursue your passions

#### Raise Your GPA

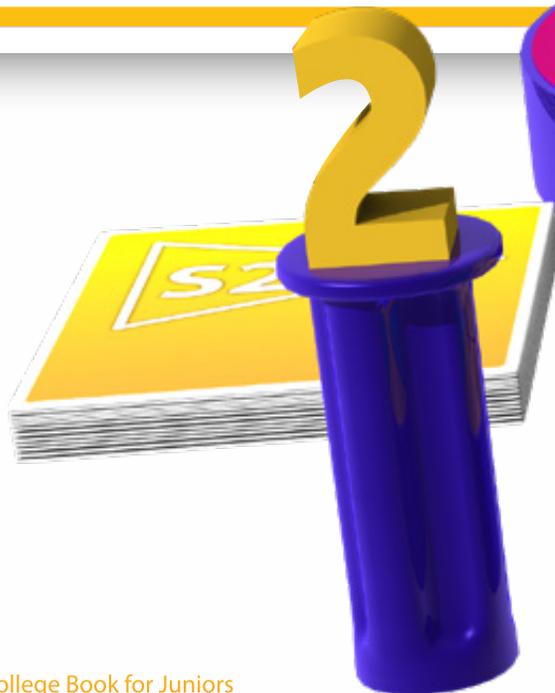
- Impacts college & financial aid eligibility
- Biggest factor in college acceptance
- Retake D or Fail to increase GPA

#### Explore Colleges and Careers

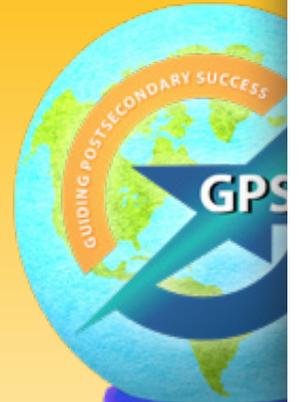
- Complete **Do What You Are** in Naviance
- Attend college and career fairs
- Visit colleges in person or virtually
- Start a list of colleges or career trainings

#### Practice Testing

- Link PSAT scores and practice on Khan Academy
- Take ACT-SAT Second Semester
- Participate in SAT School Day
- Retake exams to improve scores

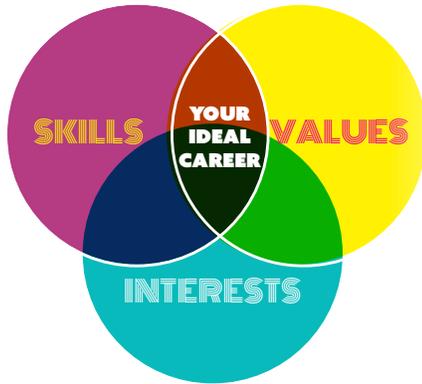


Let Yourself Shine



## EXPLORING YOUR PERSONALITY

In this section, you will log in to Naviance to complete the **Do What You Are** activity. This short quiz will provide you with important information to help you understand how your skills, values and interests can help you discover your ideal career.



## YOUR RESULTS WILL HELP YOU:

- Learn about careers matched to you
- Understand your personal strengths and discover blind spots
- Decode your **Preferred Learning Style** and **Interpersonal Negotiating Style**

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Colleges', 'Careers', 'About Me', and 'My Planner'. Below this is a 'Quick Links' sidebar with sections for 'INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT ME' (Resume, Game plan, Documents, Journal, Survey history) and 'OFFICIAL THINGS' (Profile, Inbox, Account, Test scores). The main content area is titled 'Do What You Are' and shows a progress bar with three steps: 'Intro', 'Take Assessment', and 'STEP 3 View Results'. The assessment was completed on Oct 28, 2019. The results show a personality type of **ISTJ**. It lists preferences for Introvers, Judges, Sensors, and Thinkers. A paragraph at the bottom describes the characteristics of people like the user.

Naviance | Student

Home | Colleges | Careers | About Me | My Planner

### Quick Links

#### INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT ME

- Resume
- Game plan
- Documents
- Journal
- Survey history

#### OFFICIAL THINGS

- Profile
- Inbox
- Account
- Test scores

#### SURVEYS

## Do What You Are

Intro Take Assessment **STEP 3** View Results

Completed on Oct 28, 2019

### Your personality type is: **ISTJ**

**Introvers prefer to:**

- focus their attention inward
- consider things fully before responding
- concentrate on one project at a time
- work at a careful but steady pace

**Judgers prefer to:**

- make many decisions as part of their work
- work in a predictable environment
- complete their responsibilities before relaxing
- maintain control over projects

**Sensors prefer to:**

- focus on "what is" rather than "what could be"
- work with real things rather than ideas
- apply past experience to solving problems
- receive specific and realistic directions

**Thinkers prefer to:**

- analyze problems logically
- weigh pros and cons, and make decisions objectively
- be tough negotiators
- be motivated by achievement

People like you are quiet, serious, and conscientious. You typically think before you speak, and are pretty cautious about jumping into new experiences. Since you are so private, you rarely share your feelings or reactions with people you don't know well. You need a good deal of time alone and while you enjoy the company of a small group of close friends, you are rarely the one to initiate getting together. You are also selective about your interests, usually preferring to study things in depth or participate in physical or hands-on activities. You are careful with facts, money, and possessions, and you may have an excellent memory for details. Practical and realistic, people describe you as matter-of-fact, polite, and responsible.

## WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?

Complete the following after doing the assessment and reviewing your full **Do What You Are** report. The report can be found at the bottom of your personality type results.

**How accurately did the Personality Profile describe you? (Circle one)**

Not Accurately

Somewhat Accurately

Very Accurately

Your personality type code is

--	--	--	--

List 3 strengths that you agree with from your overview report:

<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	

List 3 blind spots that you agree with from your overview report:

<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	

List 3 of **Your Related Careers** by clicking on the **See Related Careers**

Select 1 Skill or Knowledge

Wages

<b>1</b>			
<b>2</b>			
<b>3</b>			

List 3 of **Your Related Majors**

<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	

## WHAT IS THE PSAT?

Visit MyStudentAid, is a mobile app to help you estimate the cost of attendance 8, 9, 10, and 11th grade can take the PSAT test. While this test is not required by colleges, it is the Pre-SAT and offers you the chance to practice.

What was your  
10th grade score?

The 11th grade test is called the PSAT/NMSQT, and is co-sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). This is an important test as your scores on this test are viewed by many non-profit organizations for scholarship consideration.

Talk to your counselor about registering and practicing!

**YOUR SCORE TODAY**

**Your Total Score**

**960** | 320 to 1520

You are in the **51<sup>st</sup>** percentile

You scored equal to or higher than 51% of students

**Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score**

**430** | 160 to 760

You are in the **31<sup>st</sup>** percentile

Your score shows that you're almost on track to be ready for college, but you need to keep building your skills.

**Your Math Score**

**530** | 160 to 760

You are in the **69<sup>th</sup>** percentile

Your score shows that you're on track to be ready for college.

**Your Test Scores\***

Reading **23** | 8 to 38

Math **26.5** | 8 to 38

Writing and Language **20** | 8 to 38

\* Additional detailed scores, like test scores, provide students with a deeper understanding of their performance. Test scores are also used to calculate your NMSC Selection Index.

**psat.org/myscore**

Go online for your full report

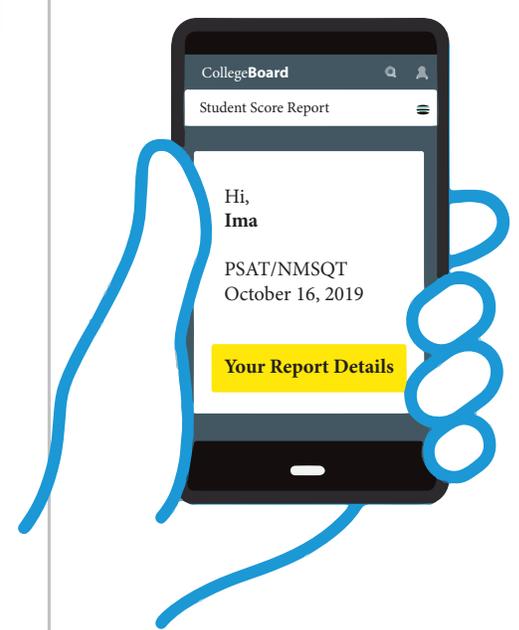
**Ima,** this was your score when you took the test; it is not a measure of how far you can grow!

**+130 pts**

Students with scores like yours increased their performance from the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> to the SAT<sup>®</sup> by 130 points after 10 or more hours of personalized practice on Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>.

© 2018 College Board. College Board, AP, SAT, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Board. BigFuture is a trademark owned by the College Board. PSAT/NMSQT is a registered trademark of the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. National Merit and the corporate "Lamp of Learning" logo are federally registered service marks of National Merit Scholarship Corporation. All other marks are the property of their respective owners. Visit the College Board on the web: [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org). You can also visit National Merit Scholarship Corporation at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org). Khan Academy is a registered trademark in the United States and other jurisdictions.

Ima B. Student 2018, 11th Grade



## LINKING YOUR PSAT TO KHAN ACADEMY

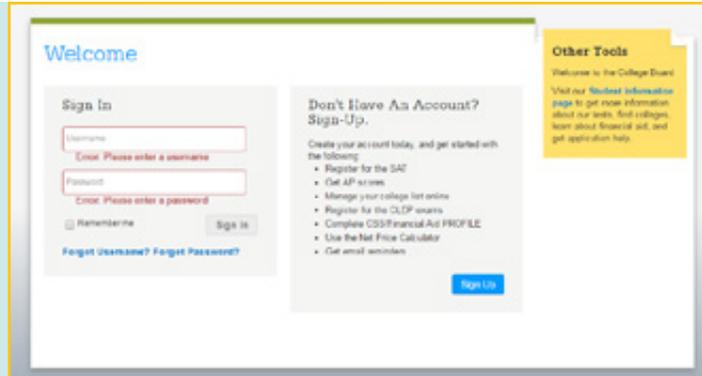
Once logged in, you will see your College Board Dashboard (dashboards may vary based on PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10th, 11th PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT)

### STARTING WITH YOUR COLLEGE BOARD ACCOUNT FIRST

1

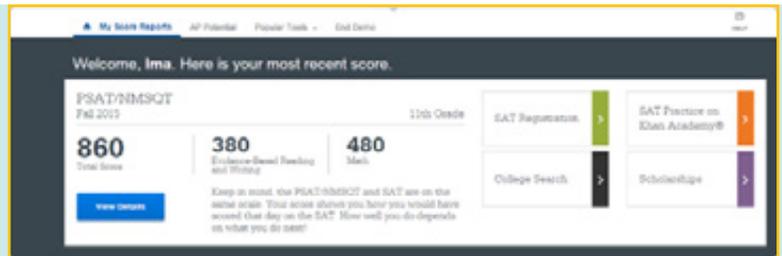
You can sign in to your existing College Board Account or create one here:

(If you have not taken an assessment, go directly to: [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org))



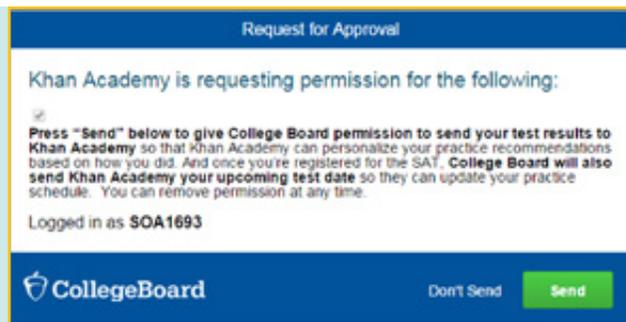
2

Once logged in to College Board, you will be able to link to Khan Academy by clicking on the SAT Practice on Khan Academy Icon!



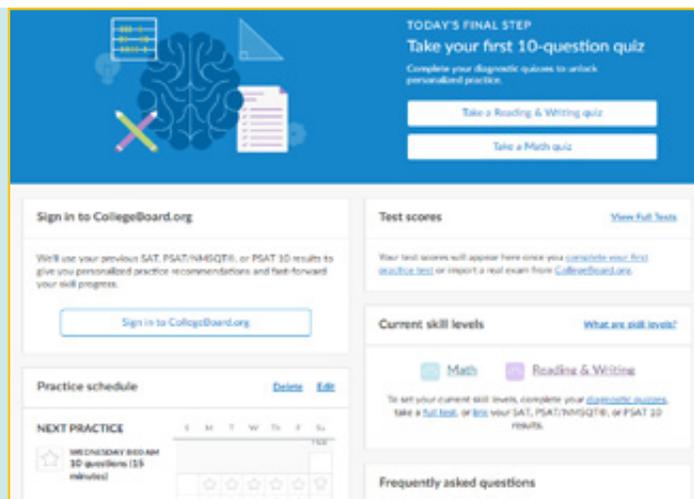
3

When prompted, you will be able to link your accounts by clicking **Send!**



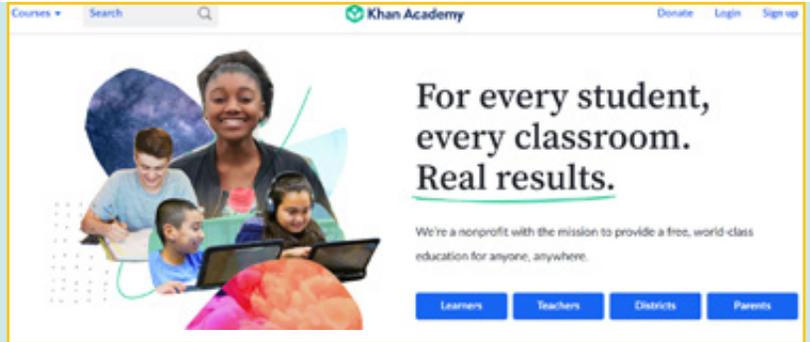
4

Once the scores are linked, you can begin to practice your skills immediately using your personalized learning roadmap!

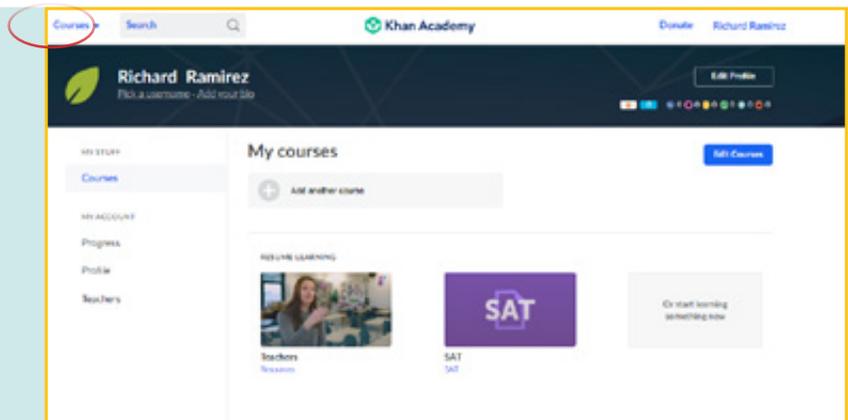


## STARTING WITH YOUR KHAN ACADEMY ACCOUNT FIRST:

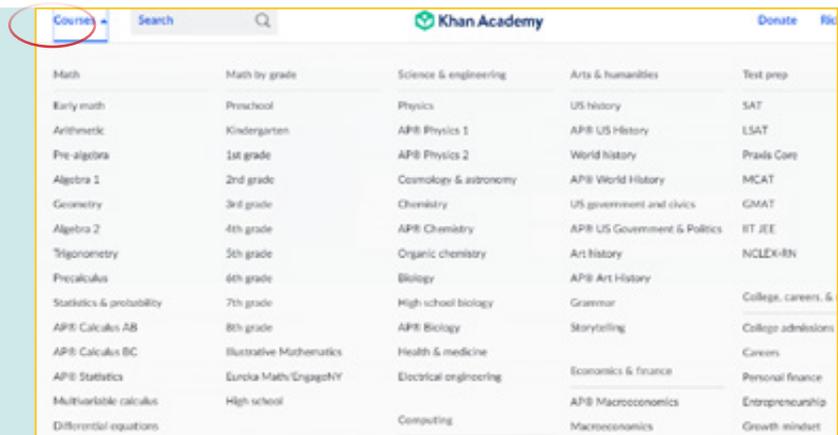
1 You can log in to Khan Academy using school email, gmail, Clever, etc...



2 Once logged in, navigate to the subjects tab on the top left.



3 Then, you should click on SAT under the Test Prep link.



Linking your accounts will further personalize your practice: the practice recommendations on Khan Academy will be based on your PSAT/NMSQT results.

All future scores from the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9 will also be sent to help customize your practice and recommendations on Khan Academy.

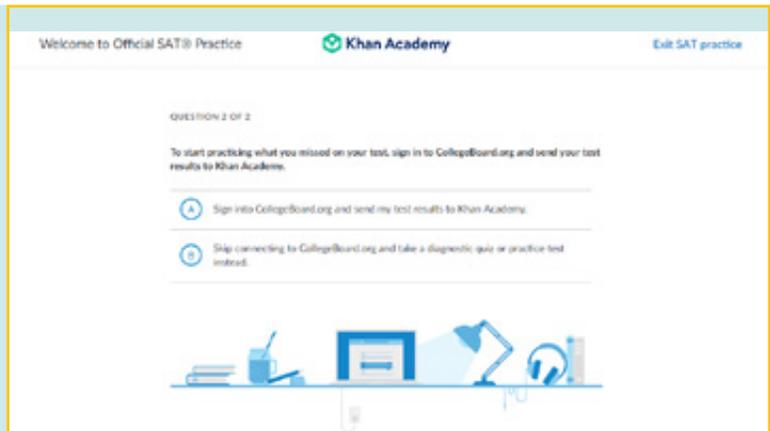
You will be able to jump right into practice without having to take any additional diagnostic quizzes or practice tests.

4

You will be asked two questions:

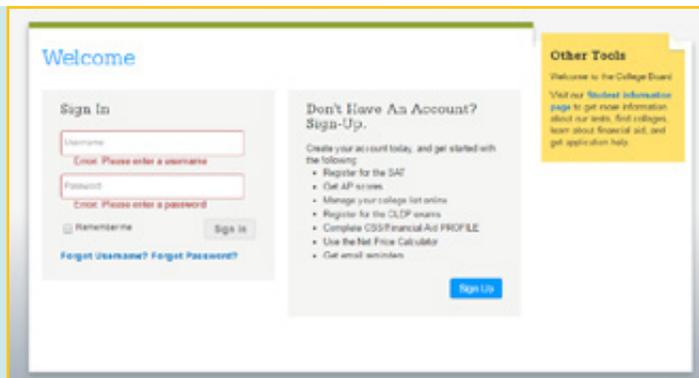
1. Zip Code
2. PSAT Taken

Choose A to link accounts from PSAT  
Choose B for Diagnostic Quizzes (No PSAT)



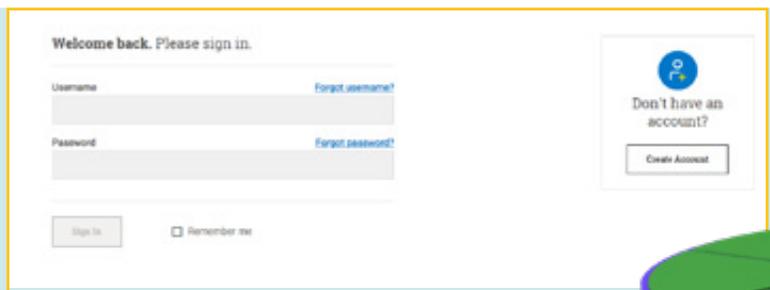
5

Now, you can sign in to your existing College Board account.

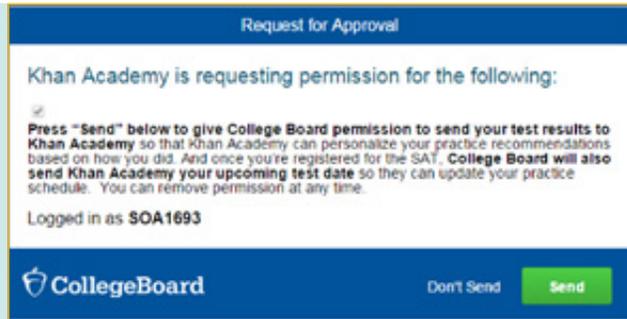


6

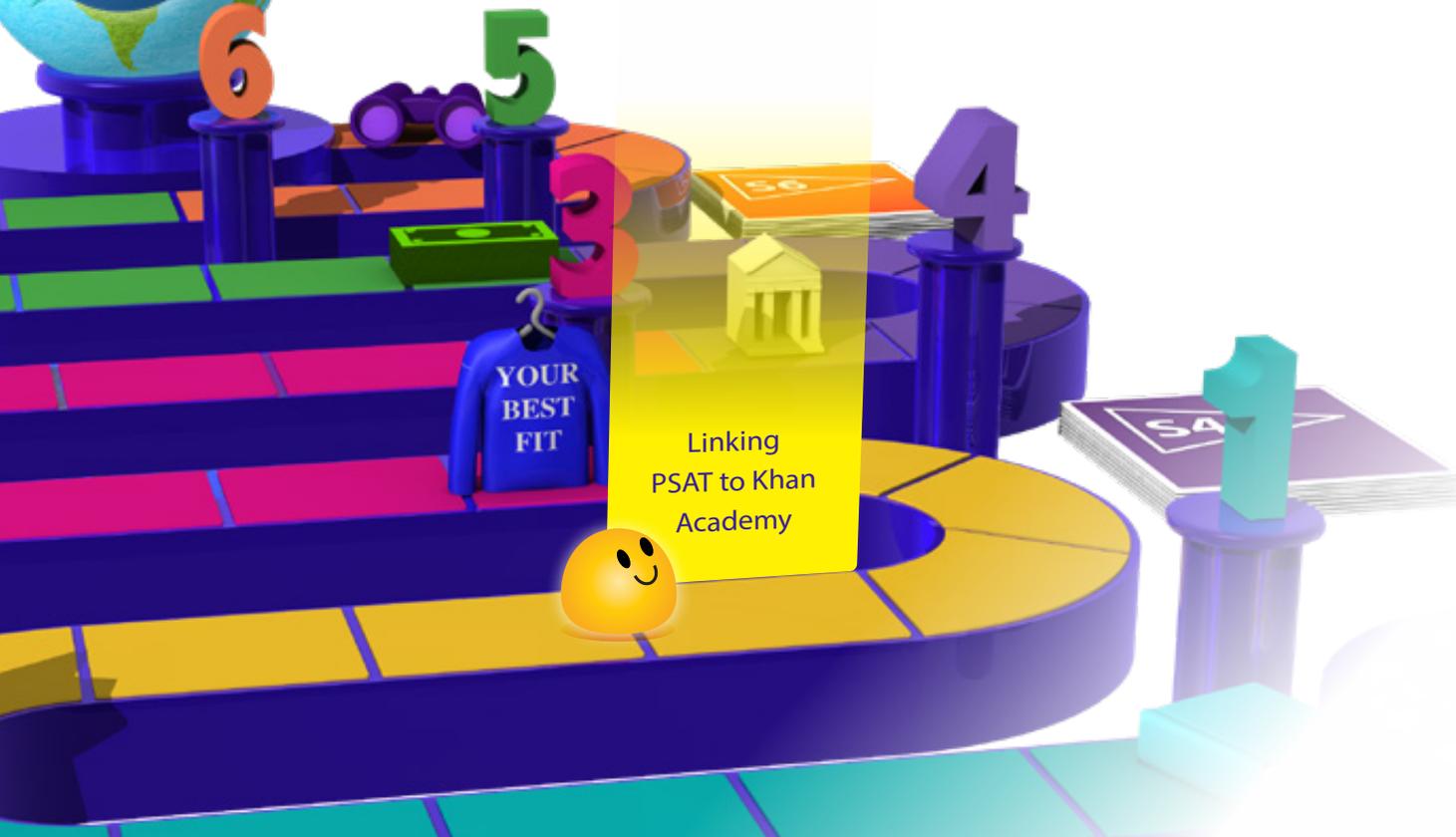
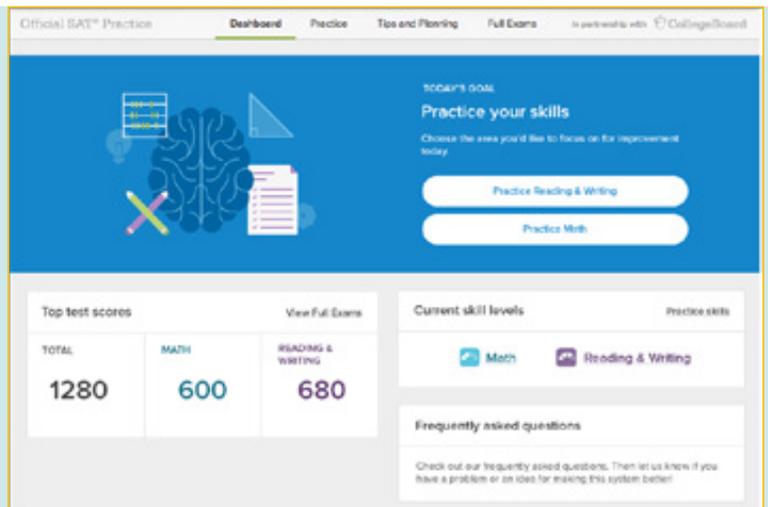
Create a College Board account if you do not have one



7 When prompted, link your scores by clicking the **Send** button.



8 Once the scores are linked, you can begin to practice your skills immediately using your personalized learning roadmap!



## WHAT ARE THE ACT AND SAT?

### WHY TEST?

Most colleges today rely on multiple measures to help them figure out how students qualify for college admissions. Besides your grades, many colleges will also require you to submit scores from one of the two national college entrance exams: the ACT or the SAT.

While taking multiple tests might seem overwhelming, remember that practice makes better. Taking the ACT and SAT multiple times can help you become more comfortable with the format. Combined with some test prep, you can help increase your scores and make yourself more competitive.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**SAT** | [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

Test Date	Test	Registration	Late Registration
September 26, 2020	SAT Subject Tests not offered on this date	August 26, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
October 3, 2020	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	September 4, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for mailed registrations) September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
November 7, 2020	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	October 7, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for mailed registrations) September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
December 5, 2020	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	November 5, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for mailed registrations) September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
March 13, 2021	SAT Subject Tests not offered on this date	February 12, 2021	February 23, 2021 (for mailed registrations) March 2, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)
May 8, 2021	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	April 8, 2021	April 20, 2021 (for mailed registrations) April 27, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)
June 5, 2021	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	May 6, 2021	May 18, 2021 (for mailed registrations) May 26, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)

**ACT** | [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Test Date	Test	Registration	Late Registration
October 10, 17, 24, 25, 2020	ACT	September 25, 2020	September 19 - October 2
December 12, 2020	ACT	November 6, 2020	November 7 - November 20
February 6, 2021	ACT	January 8, 2021	January 9 - January 15
April 17, 2021	ACT	March 12, 2021	March 13 - March 26
June 12, 2021	ACT	May 7, 2021	May 8 - May 21
July 17, 2021*	ACT	June 18, 2021	June 19 - June 25

### When signing up . . .

- Seriously consider signing up for the SAT with Essay. Many colleges recommend or require it (see page 1 for updates).
- Decide if you want to complete the Student Search Service, which helps you connect with nearly 1,900 eligible colleges, universities, scholarships and other educational programs that are looking for students like you. This isn't required, but it is worth it if you want colleges and scholarship organizations to find you.

Your counselor can help you sign up! You should also know that L.A. Unified will pay for all 11th graders to take the SAT during the school day in the Spring semester.

**Your Local District  
SAT School Day Administration**

DATE:



**On test day, bring:**

- printed admission ticket required for entry to the test center
- acceptable photo ID
- No. 2 pencils with soft erasers - mechanical pencils or pens are not allowed;
- an acceptable calculator for math section (check the ACT and SAT websites for details on what type of calculator is allowed).

**Using phones, smartwatches and certain other electronic devices is prohibited in test centers. Staff at your test center may collect devices.**

**WHAT ARE THE ACT AND SAT?**

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?**

Students are increasingly taking both the ACT and SAT. To answer which one you will do better on, we recommend taking both the ACT and SAT at least once in 11th grade. There are key differences that might mean one test score is better than the other.

What's the same?																							
<b>SAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No penalties for guessing</li> <li>• Curriculum focused content</li> <li>• Score choice</li> <li>• Optional essay</li> </ul>	<b>ACT</b>																					
What's Different?																							
<table border="1"> <tr><td>Overall Time</td><td>3 hours</td></tr> <tr><td>Reading</td><td>65 minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>Writing</td><td>35 minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>Math (No Calculator)</td><td>25 minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>Math (Calculator)</td><td>25 minutes</td></tr> </table>		Overall Time	3 hours	Reading	65 minutes	Writing	35 minutes	Math (No Calculator)	25 minutes	Math (Calculator)	25 minutes	<b>ACT</b> <b>TIMING &amp; SCORING</b> <b>SAT</b>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Overall Time</td><td>2 hours 55 minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>Reading</td><td>35 Minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>English</td><td>45 Minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>Math</td><td>60 Minutes</td></tr> <tr><td>Science</td><td>35 Minutes</td></tr> </table>	Overall Time	2 hours 55 minutes	Reading	35 Minutes	English	45 Minutes	Math	60 Minutes	Science	35 Minutes
Overall Time	3 hours																						
Reading	65 minutes																						
Writing	35 minutes																						
Math (No Calculator)	25 minutes																						
Math (Calculator)	25 minutes																						
Overall Time	2 hours 55 minutes																						
Reading	35 Minutes																						
English	45 Minutes																						
Math	60 Minutes																						
Science	35 Minutes																						
Total Points   200 -800			Total Points   1-36																				

**EXAM TRACKER**

Test Date	Test	Registration

**SAT SUBJECT TESTS**

While SAT Subject Tests are not required, they are an admission advantage. Some campuses recommend that freshman applicants interested in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject proficiency. Find recommendations on Admissions websites. Submission of these test scores (just like submission of AP and/or IB scores) may positively add to the review of your application. Select 3 Subject Tests you want to take on the day of the exam. If you are taking a math exam, it **MUST** be Math 2.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

AP Exams are given in high schools in May of each year. These exams are offered to give you opportunities to demonstrate college-level achievement. AP Exams are scored on a scale of 1 - 5. Scores of 3, 4, or 5 on the exams may earn you college credit or exempt you from lower-division courses.

Colleges use the AP scores in different ways. Check with each college you are thinking about applying to, and learn more about their AP exam acceptance policy. See your counselor for more information on specific exams, courses and costs, or visit [apstudents.collegeboard.org](http://apstudents.collegeboard.org).

### MY AP PREPARATION PLAN

CLASS NAME	EXAM DATE	EXAM SCORE

### WHAT ARE SOME STEPS YOU ARE TAKING TO PREPARE FOR THE AP EXAMS DURING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR?

---

---

### WHEN ARE YOU MEETING WITH YOUR TEACHER(S)?

---

---

#### CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CAREER PATHWAYS

You may enroll in community college classes while in high school with the approval of your counselor and parents. These courses can be taken for enrichment, to complete some of the college general education requirements, or to earn a certificate of completion in a career pathway that can lead to employment opportunities. Enrollment is subject to class availability and your high school grades. Contact your counselor regarding the course offerings at your high school as they may vary each semester.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR COURSE RECOVERY

Your school may provide you with a variety of ways to recover credits for courses you failed. You can also improve your a-g standing and overall GPA by improving your grade in courses in which you received a D. These opportunities include:

- summer school classes
- online credit recovery
- adult school courses

To learn more about the requirements for each of these programs visit the Counseling Office.

## EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (EAP)

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is taken by 11th graders as a part of the SBAC/CAASPP test administered in the Spring. It is designed to provide you with an early signal of your college academic preparation. The CSUs and community colleges use the CAASPP/EAP scores as ONE indicator to place you in the appropriate Freshman general education English and mathematics courses once enrolled.

Your school will provide you results that include your EAP status in mid to late August. Your English and math status is located on the right side of your CAASPP Student Report.



Check with your school about plans to administer the 2020-2021 Early Assessment in the spring if the challenges of COVID-19 and remote learning continue.

### DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR EAP STATUS SAYS?

Your CAASPP results will show one of these four areas as your EAP status.

What is your EAP Status?	ENGLISH	MATH

IF NOT READY, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO GET READY FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES DURING YOUR SENIOR YEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>“READY” (STANDARD EXCEEDED) LEVEL 4</b>	<b>“CONDITIONALLY READY” (STANDARD MET) LEVEL 3</b>	<b>“NOT YET READY” (STANDARD NEARLY MET) LEVEL 2</b>	<b>“NOT READY” (STANDARD NOT MET) LEVEL 1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You may enroll directly in CSU college-level GE English and math courses.</li><li>You are exempt from participation in the CSU Early Start Program.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You must take an approved senior year-long English and/or math course and pass it with a C or better in both semesters.</li><li>Passing the approved course with a C or better exempts you from participating in the CSU Early Start Program.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>May be required to participate in the CSU Early Start Program unless you meet the other CSU Early Start Program exemptions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>May be required to participate in the CSU Early Start Program unless you meet the other CSU Early Start Program exemptions.</li></ul>

To ensure colleges see your scores, you need to authorize the release of your Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results for both ELA and math to the CSU and/or CCC systems. You indicate your authorization to release scores on the CAASPP itself. If you release your scores during the testing period, you will be able to view your results online at <http://csustudentsuccess.org>.

You will need to release your results for both ELA and math separately.

# WHERE DO I FIT IN?

## FINDING YOUR COLLEGE

Building a college list can be an overwhelming prospect and can require hours of research. You are probably starting to use Naviance to learn more about your choices, talking to family and friends about options, and visiting campuses either in person or online.

We know you are spending time looking to see what colleges want from YOU, both academically and financially. But have you considered what YOU want from a college? You should spend time thinking about how a school “fits” you, because students are more likely to complete college if they attend a school that fits their social, academic and financial needs.

## YOUR BEST “FIT”

Let’s talk about finding your right “fit”, using a sweater as an example.



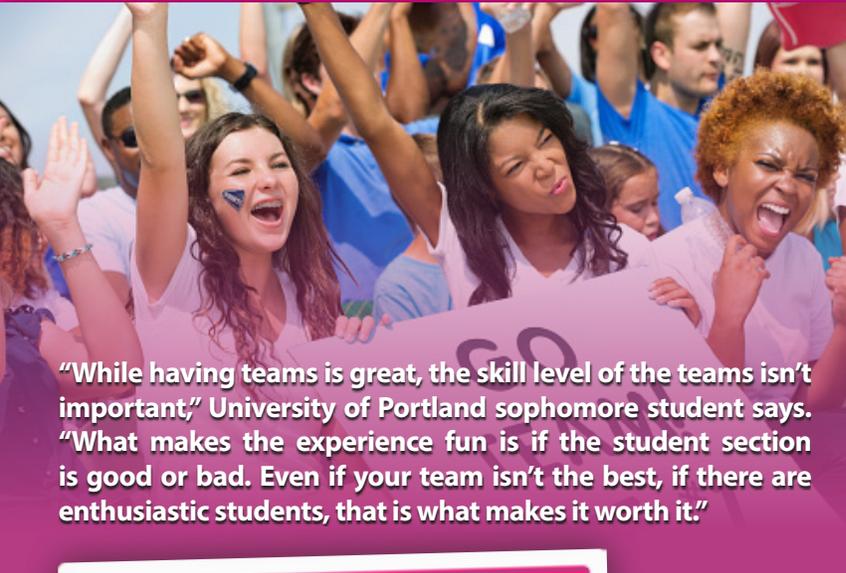
### You need a blue sweater.

At the mall, there are 30 stores selling blue sweaters. You need to figure out which stores are more likely to have the sweater that fits YOU best... based on design, shade, size, price, fabric, style and quality.



While choosing a college isn’t buying a sweater, you need to understand that you aren’t just looking for a college—there are over 3000 of those. You need to find the right college... spending time now exploring will help you narrow down your list. It is easier if you know what you really need. Finding a handful of schools that pass your “fit test” will give you a way to focus on what matters without forgetting the big picture. After all, college is a chance for you to grow your talents, connect with new people, and learn more about the world.

## THINKING ABOUT MY BEST "FIT"



"While having teams is great, the skill level of the teams isn't important," University of Portland sophomore student says. "What makes the experience fun is if the student section is good or bad. Even if your team isn't the best, if there are enthusiastic students, that is what makes it worth it."

### What sort of activities would you like to have?

- On campus sports like football, soccer, basketball, or other
- Fraternities and sororities
- Religious programs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### What sort of clubs would you like to join?

- Black Student Alliance
- Swing Dancing
- MEChA
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### How do you feel about taking on some debt, if needed, to meet the cost of the right school?

- I do not want to take on any debt
- I would take on some debt for the right school

### How would you cover the distance between home and school?

- Drive/public transportation
- Accessible by taking the train/bus
- I would not mind taking an airplane

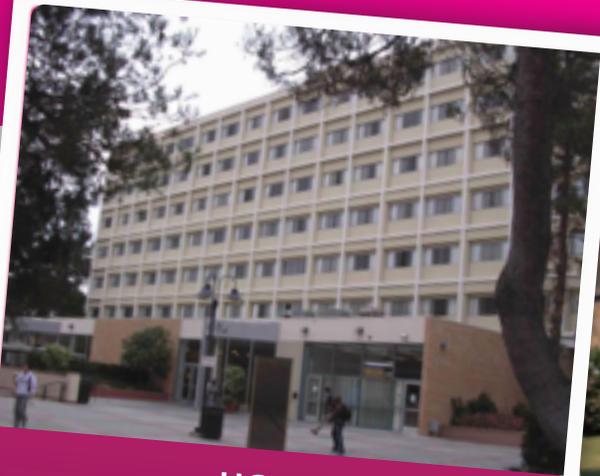
### What class ratio (students per professor) would you prefer?

- 20 to 1
- 200 to 1

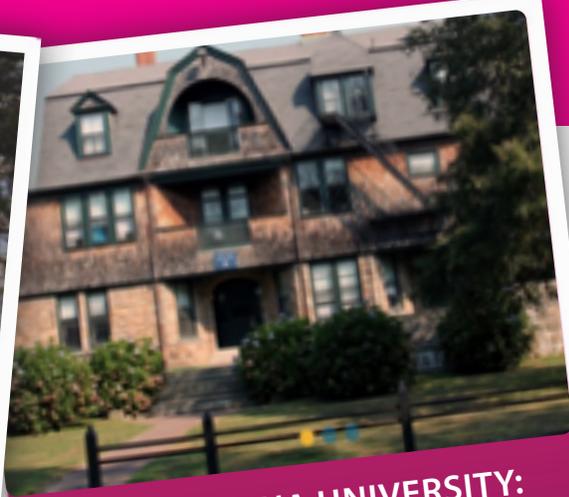


The tradition of Friday afternoon tea, where students mark the end of a busy week with snacks and tea, stretches back more than 100 years.

Smith College (Women only college)



**UCLA:  
SPOUL RESIDENCE HALL**



**SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY:  
OCHRE LODGE**

**In what sort of housing would you like to live?**

- I want to commute from my parents' home
- I want to live in a dorm
- I want to live in an apartment near campus
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**What settings do you think you would be more comfortable with?**

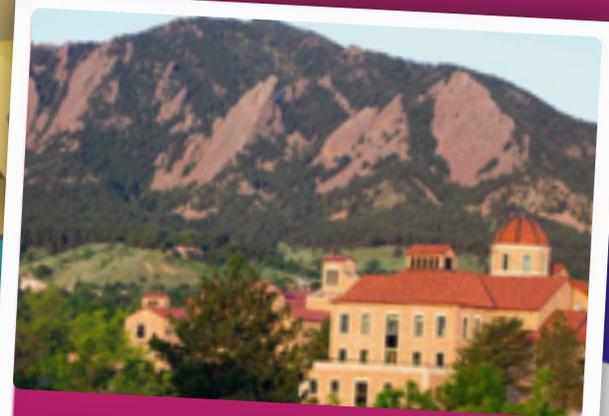
- Small town (rural, country)
- Midsize town
- Large city

**What sort of diversity would you like to experience at college?**

- I would like to attend school with students of various backgrounds
- I would like to attend school with other students of my background



**NEW YORK  
UNIVERSITY**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
COLORADO, BOULDER**

**"I wish that I would've focused on distance less and the town more. Honestly, there isn't much to do in the little town of Indiana, Pennsylvania."  
- a junior at Indiana University of PA.**

## OTHER "FITS" TO CONSIDER

### ACADEMIC "FIT"

The academic fit is really important because what you're shopping for, after all, is an academic experience that will get you where you want to go—in life, in a career, in the future. One good way to narrow your college search is to decide what you might want to major in. If you have a specific career interest, look at potential schools with that in mind. Not all colleges offer every major, and some might even require you to complete a few prerequisites before declaring a major. Another thing to keep in mind is that as you open yourself to new learning experiences, you might find new areas that you never knew existed. The US Department of Education estimates that over 30% of college students change their major, more than once!

### FINANCIAL "FIT"

This is one of the most difficult areas for students when developing a "Dream College List". The cost of college is high, but you have options with loans, scholarships, grants, and work-study. Before including or excluding a college, make sure you check out the Net Price Calculator—available on a college's or university's website. This allows you to enter information to find out what a student like you paid to attend the school in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account. Remember - there are great colleges out there that are affordable and offer educations that are just as good (and often better, depending on what you are studying!) than the pricier alternatives.



## WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC PROFILE?

To find out your best fit schools, those that admit a large percentage of students whose academic profiles are similar to yours, start with your own academic credentials.

1 **GPA**

2 **PSAT Scores**

3 **Major (If already known)**

My Cumulative GPA:

My PSAT Scores:

EBRW:

Mathematics:

Total Scores:

### NAVIANCE CONNECTION- *SuperMatch College Search*

What is important to me when searching for colleges?

To help you narrow down your list, complete a **SuperMatch College Search!**



1 **SuperMatch College Search** lets you search for schools using criteria to find out the best fit. You must enter criteria preferences, but know that not all fields are required.\*



2 Pin schools you want to compare and favorite those you want to add to your **Colleges That I'm Thinking About** list.

\* For a more accurate match, identify the selected criteria into Must Have or Nice to Have. Results update in real time as you select criteria, showing a Fit Score for each school. The more thorough you are, the more accurate your results will be. If your list is too small, go back and change the less important criteria first. You can choose what information to see in your results.

## COLLEGE PREFERENCES CHECKLIST

Must Have	College traits to consider	Nice to Have
	Distance from home	
	Campus size	
	Program of study	
	Urban or rural	
	Campus culture	
	Support programs	
	Extracurricular activities	
	Admission	
	Religious affiliation	
	Outside learning options	
	Housing options	
	Class size	
	Diversity	
	Financial aid options	

### How to complete a SuperMatch College Search:

1

After logging in to Naviance, go to **My Planner**

2

Click on **Tasks**

3

Click on Complete a **SuperMatch College Search**

## YOUR COLLEGE LIST

For each type of college below, list up to 3 schools from your **SuperMatch College Search**.

**"SAFETY/BACK-UP" COLLEGES** - schools in which your academic credentials are above average and admission is highly likely.

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

**"TARGET / GOOD MATCH" COLLEGES** - schools in which your academic credentials make you competitive for admission and fall within the average range. You have realistic chances of being admitted.

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

**"REACH" COLLEGES** - schools you have a chance of getting admitted, but your academic credentials are below the school's profile average range.

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---

College Name:

---

---

Notes:

---

---



## VISITING WITH COLLEGES

There is nothing like visiting a college campus to really get a sense of the place and how you fit in it. Check with your counselor or college center for upcoming field trips to local colleges and sign up to participate. Use this tool to jot down your experience and overall impression - your likes and dislikes – about each school you visit. Use your notes to help you narrow down your college choices.

### Copy before each college visit.

#### Campus Visit Notes and Score Card

COLLEGE	DATE																																																																																																																		
<b>Visit Checklist</b> Take it all in! Try to see as much as possible to get a sense of what it would be to attend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take a campus tour</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eat in the dining hall</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look at bulletin board for day-to-day life</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check out a dorm room</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read the student newspaper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sit in on a class</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check out the library</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Talk to a professor in a subject of interest</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Walk around</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Go to campus events – game, concert</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Talk to current students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Browse through the book store</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check out the Health/Career Center</li> </ul>	<b>Campus Ratings &amp; Note</b> Circle these areas from 1 to 5 – 5 being the highest. Jot down your impressions. <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Student Union</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Notes</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dorms/Residence Hall</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Notes</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Academics</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Notes</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Notes</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rec Center/Gym</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Notes</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Life</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Notes</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: #f8d7da;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall Feel</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </table>	Student Union	1	2	3	4	5	Notes												Dorms/Residence Hall	1	2	3	4	5	Notes												Academics	1	2	3	4	5	Notes												Food	1	2	3	4	5	Notes												Rec Center/Gym	1	2	3	4	5	Notes												Social Life	1	2	3	4	5	Notes												Overall Feel	1	2	3	4	5
Student Union	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
Notes																																																																																																																			
Dorms/Residence Hall	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
Notes																																																																																																																			
Academics	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
Notes																																																																																																																			
Food	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
Notes																																																																																																																			
Rec Center/Gym	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
Notes																																																																																																																			
Social Life	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
Notes																																																																																																																			
Overall Feel	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																														
<b>Naviance SuperMatch College Search</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Search based on your criteria</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> See if you're on track to get in</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create college lists</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compare colleges side by side</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect directly to college website</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Add colleges to consider</li> </ul>																																																																																																																			
Can you see yourself here? Why or Why not?																																																																																																																			

## BY CHOOSING ONE SECTION TO FOCUS ON FIRST USING. YOU BUILDING YOUR RESUME

Begin to create your resume by brainstorming here. Focus on one section at a time. You may want start by adding your education or extracurricular activities first.

Do not forget to update your resume in Naviance frequently so nothing important is omitted.

**Objective:** *A brief and clear statement about the purpose for writing the resume.*

**Examples:** To attend a 4-year college to earn a degree  
To obtain a part-time job at the local market

My Objective: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education:** *List of programs, workshops or courses relevent to objective*

**For example:** Community College Courses Workshops  
IC3 Certification

School	Course	Grade	Dates
<i>Los Angeles Harbor College</i>	<i>Speach 101</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9/18-12/19</i>

**Work Experience:** *List jobs with useful experiences and practical skills*

**Examples:** Tutored students in math in after school program  
Answered phone calls regarding services

Job Titles	Location	Dates	Duties
<i>Tutored 3 students in math</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>10/18-Present</i>	<i>Help with homework</i>

## BUILDING YOUR RESUME

**Extracurricular Activities:** *List of activities/positions you engage in beyond the classroom*

**Examples:** Secretary of the Spanish Club  
Friends of the Library volunteer

Activity	Grade	Dates	Description
<i>Spanish Club Secretary</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2019 - Present</i>	<i>Kept meeting notes</i>

**Award/Certificates:** *List recognitions you have earned*

**Examples:** Certificate of Completions Participation  
Community Service Awards

Activity	Grade	Dates	Description
<i>Community Service Award</i>	<i>9 and 10</i>	<i>6/18, 6/19</i>	<i>Volunteered with the city</i>

Use this as guide to create your resume using the **Resume Builder** tool in Naviance

## BUILDING YOUR RESUME

Complete your **Resume** in Naviance to assist counselor and teachers write the best possible letter of recommendation for colleges and scholarships.

1 Log in

2 Go to **My Planner**

3 Click on **Tasks Assigned to Me**

4 Click on **Build Your Resume**

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with "Naviance | Student" and links for Home, Colleges, Careers, About Me, and My Planner. Below this, the "Resume" section is active, with options for "Add/Update Sections" and "Print/Export Resume". A large red plus sign button is visible on the right. A message states: "We noticed you haven't created a resume yet. To get started, select the Plus button." The footer contains contact information for Carson Senior High, the Los Angeles Unified Schools District logo, and copyright information for 2020.

**NOTES:**



## HIGHLIGHTING YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grades and test scores don't tell the whole story about you - so you should plan on creating a resume in Naviance, or asking your counselor or teacher for a brag sheet. It is a great way to organize your accomplishments for writing college essays, scholarship applications, and describing your extracurricular activities and it is also a very helpful tool for anyone you ask to write you a letter of recommendation.

First of all - think about all you have done while in high school - both in and out of school.

Going beyond the academic basics is important to share. Think about the electives and college courses you took, especially those classes that resulted in certificates (Adobe/Microsoft, First-aid, CPR, etc.). If you took a peer counseling class or a leadership class, you could list that too.

Course Name	Description of class	When did you take the class?	Year-long or semester?

**Extracurricular activities can include sports, clubs, and band.**

**Did you join ROTC, Aca Deca, or a band/acting group?**

Name of group	Description of what you did and any leadership positions	Year(s) of Involvement	Hours per week

**Volunteer and community service activities** can include food drives, fundraisers, and services to others. Do you help out at your local recreational center, library, hospital, or even tutor after school? Are you in Girl/Boy Scouts, a running club, martial arts, or did you join a church group?

Name of group	Description of what you did	Year(s) of Involvement	Hours per week

## HIGHLIGHTING YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Work experience is usually paid. Summer jobs or interning, weekend work, or even helping at home or with family can count too - for example, babysitting younger siblings is a big responsibility.

Organization	Description of your responsibilities	Year(s) of Involvement	Hours per week

Educational preparation programs count too. It is important to share if you are a part of GEAR UP, College Match, Questbridge, SAT Prep, AP Readiness, MESA, AVID, Upward Bound, etc.

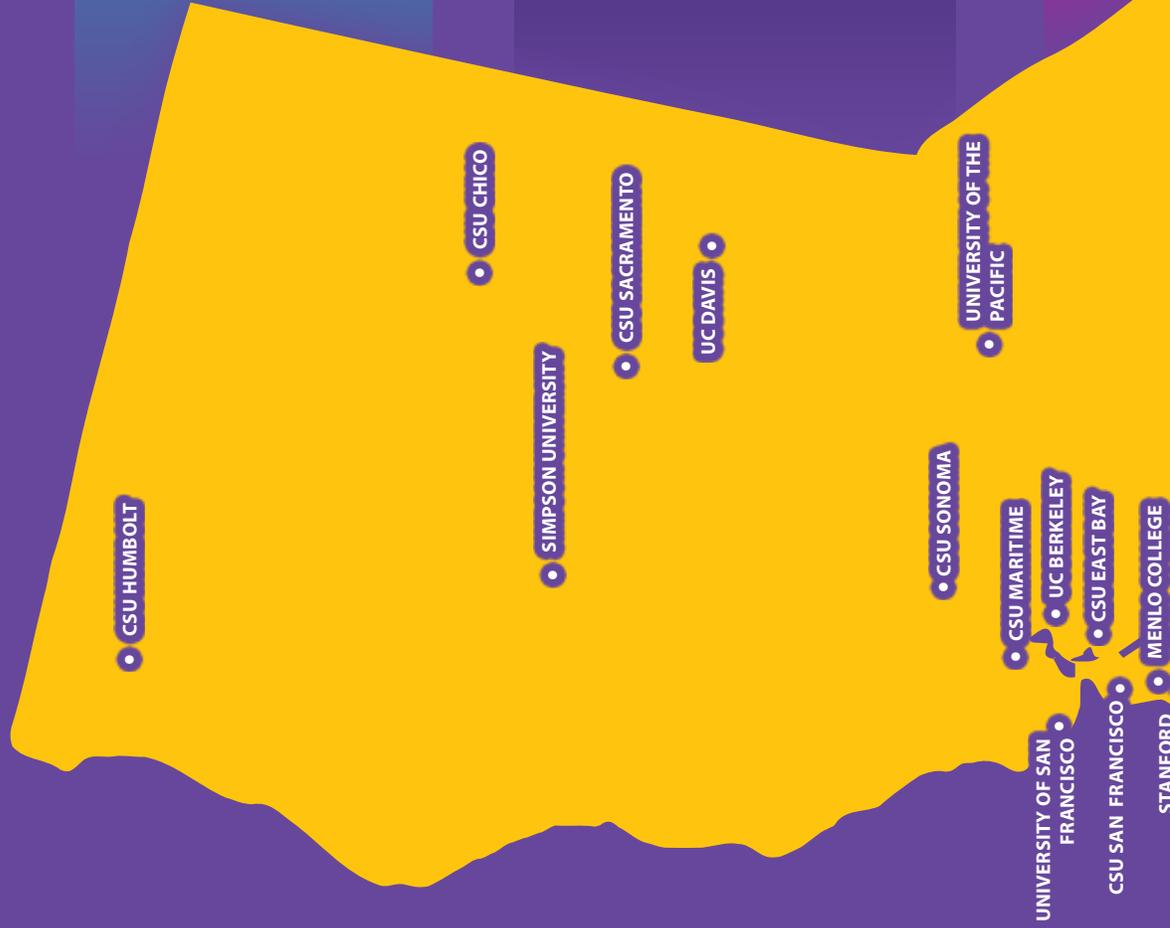
Name of group	Description of what you did	Year(s) of Involvement	Hours per week

Awards /Honors can be for athletics, academics, contests, scholarships, community service certificates, and those received for being in leadership positions. Generally, you want to use your most impressive awards - think big to small. The bigger the competition for the award, the more impressive your resume will be.

Award or honor	Description	Date received	Was it a local, state, national or international award/honor?

# UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS

## CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



### California State University (CSU)

#### APPLY- Senior year between Oct 1 to Dec 4

- 23 campuses
- ACT or SAT not decided
- Minimum 2.50 in "a-g" courses (2.00-2.49 GPA local campus decision)
- 4-year Bachelor's, Master's & Joint Doctoral (PhD) degrees

### University of California (UC)

#### APPLY- Senior year between Nov 1 to Nov 30

- 9 campuses
- ACT or SAT not required, (please see page 1 for updates)
- Minimum 3.0 in "a-g" courses
- 4-year Bachelor's, Master's & Professional degrees (MD, JD, & DVM)

California Independent Colleges and Universities  
APPLY- Senior year; every school is different



## CSU, UC, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES SYSTEMS

We strongly suggest you spend time exploring the websites for all the different colleges. Not only will you learn information about application requirements, but you will have a chance to explore majors offered, see the admission acceptance rates and check out all the different services offered - clubs, activities, and academic supports too!

### CSU MUST "KNOWS"

As you get ready to apply to the CSU, you will come across some new terms that explain important factors you need to know before applying:



**Local Admissions Area** - Every CSU campus gives priority to applicants that attend high school in the University "Local Admissions Area." That means that if you are applying to a CSU in northern California, you will NOT receive priority since you are not attending a high school in northern CA.



**Impacted** - when a CSU receives more applications from qualified applicants than there are available spaces, the school is declared "impacted." Impaction can affect the entire campus, or a program or level. When a campus is impacted, students who apply from "Local Admission Areas" are given priority admission. Before you apply to a campus, be sure to check the CSU website for changes in campus/program impaction. It changes every year.



**Redirection** - If you are rejected from every campus to which you applied, you can select "redirection." This allows you to select a non-impacted, first- and second-choice campus without having to reapply.

### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY [www2.calstate.edu/apply](http://www2.calstate.edu/apply)

Meeting the minimum scores for competitive/impacted campuses does not guarantee admission. Admission is offered to those with the highest overall scores and is affected by choice of major.

#### Most Competitive/Impacted

CSU Long Beach  
CSU Fullerton  
CSU San Diego  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
CSU Fresno  
CSU San Jose  
CSU Los Angeles

#### LA Local Area Service

CSU Channel Island  
CSU Dominguez Hills  
CSU Northridge  
CSU Los Angeles

#### Not Impacted

CSU Bakersfield  
CSU Maritime Academy  
CSU Stanislaus  
CSU San Francisco

### UC MUST "KNOWS"

All UC campuses have the same minimum requirements for freshmen, but each UC campus has a unique application review process. This means that each campus may have a different emphasis on the pieces of your application. You should spend time visiting each campus website to find out more.

### ALL CAMPUSES CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW. IN GENERAL, CAMPUSES LOOK FOR:



**Strong grades & test scores** - including going beyond the minimum requirements. Keep in mind that some UCs or programs may have specific course requirements like advanced math and additional science



**Involvement & leadership** - While you don't have to have done everything, UCs want to know about your passions and what activities you've been involved in beyond the classroom



Pay attention to all the parts of the application- not filling out the application thoroughly, accurately, and completely can hurt your chances of admissions.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RANKING** [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)

**Most Competitive**

UCLA  
UC Berkeley  
UC Irvine

**Highly Competitive**

UC Santa Barbara  
UC San Diego  
UC Davis

**Least Competitive**

UC Santa Cruz  
UC Riverside  
UC Merced

**WHERE SHOULD I APPLY?**  
Start by applying as broadly as possible. Have your dream schools that may be a reach for you, but also apply to other schools for which you are a highly competitive applicant. Being a qualified student does not guarantee acceptance... Make sure to have alternative options.



LA College Promise participants receive **priority in enrollment, registering for required math and English classes**, counseling and other benefits. To qualify, applicants must be **first-time college students** and **California Residents or qualify for AB540**.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE MUST "KNOWS"**

Students can attend a community college to build their career skills, earn a certificate, receive an Associates degree or prepare to transfer to four-year College or university.

The California College Promise Grant can waive enrollment fees for qualified students. You need to apply for the FAFSA or CA Dream Act to determine eligibility.

Each campus offers many student services to help you choose your path and stay on it, including academic counseling, financial aid, tutoring, and mentoring.

To apply to the Los Angeles College Promise, you need to complete the following steps:

- 1 Apply to your LACCD college of choice at <http://laccd.edu/apply>
- 2 Complete the LA College Promise Interest Form [lacollegepromise.org/apply.html](http://lacollegepromise.org/apply.html)
- 3 Complete FAFSA or CADAA <https://www.csac.ca.gov/how-apply>
- 4 Complete, Orientation, Counseling and summer bridge

Use the table below to identify community colleges you would like to consider after earning your high school diploma. One of the best ways to determine if a school meets your needs is to take or audit a class in your field before enrolling full time.

College Name	Success Rate (completion rates)	Specialized Technical Degree	Guaranteed Transfer Program	Honors Program	Kinds of Academic Support

## INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Independent (privately supported) institutions in the United States have a wide range of characteristics. A search in Naviance can help you find private schools that are the right fit for you. You will notice the cost to attend can be high, but many schools also provide generous need-based financial aid packages.

Admission to most independent colleges is very competitive. In addition to the typical admission requirements (subjects, grades, and test scores), independent colleges usually take a closer look at individual students by requiring letters of recommendation, application essays, and sometimes, personal interviews.

There are great differences in sizes, educational purposes and emphasis among these institutions. Some are large and offer both undergraduate and graduate programs; most are relatively small and offer students a personalized campus community life. Some campuses may emphasize a particular vocation or religious emphasis.

### LOCAL EXAMPLES OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS:

★ USC

★ Occidental College

★ Mount Saint Mary University

★ Pepperdine

★ Loyola Marymount University

★ Santa Clara University

There is no one place to find all private colleges, but you can use Naviance to explore. Check out the links below for some places to research.



### COMMON APPLICATION

The Common App is a tool that allows students to apply to nearly 900 colleges and universities across the U.S. and in 20 other countries. Students can access Common App through Naviance to research and build a list of colleges, and practice writing application statements using the Essay Prompts.

<https://www.commonapp.org>



### ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (AICCU)

Students can find information on over 80 unique colleges through the AICCU website, in addition to planning tips for independent college admissions for freshman or transfer students. <https://www.aiccu.edu>



### WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE)

This program has over 160 member colleges in 16 Western states. Their mission is to offer substantial discounts on tuition costs, enabling eligible students to experience attending an out-of-state college for an affordable price. Students who live in a WUE state can apply to any member college through the college's own application process.

<https://www.wiche.edu>



### COALITION FOR COLLEGE

It's a free, college-application tool to learn about, prepare for, and apply to college.

## NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA)

Student athletes who plan to participate in sports at Division I or Division II colleges should begin the NCAA certification process no later than the end of their junior year. For further information on NCAA Eligibility Center check the website at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).

To be certified you must:



Complete your NCAA National Collegiate Athletic Association registration form during your 11th grade year. It's your responsibility to ensure the Eligibility Center has the documents (Signed Student Release form, fee, official transcripts, and test scores) to certify you. See your Athletic Director or counselor for more details.



Graduate from high school. You should apply for certification before graduation. If you appear to meet NCAA requirements, NCAA will issue a preliminary certification report. After you graduate, the NCAA will review your final transcript to make a final certification decision.



Earn a GPA of at least 2.30 for Division I, or 2.20 for Division II schools in NCAA approved core courses completed successfully during grades 9 through 12.

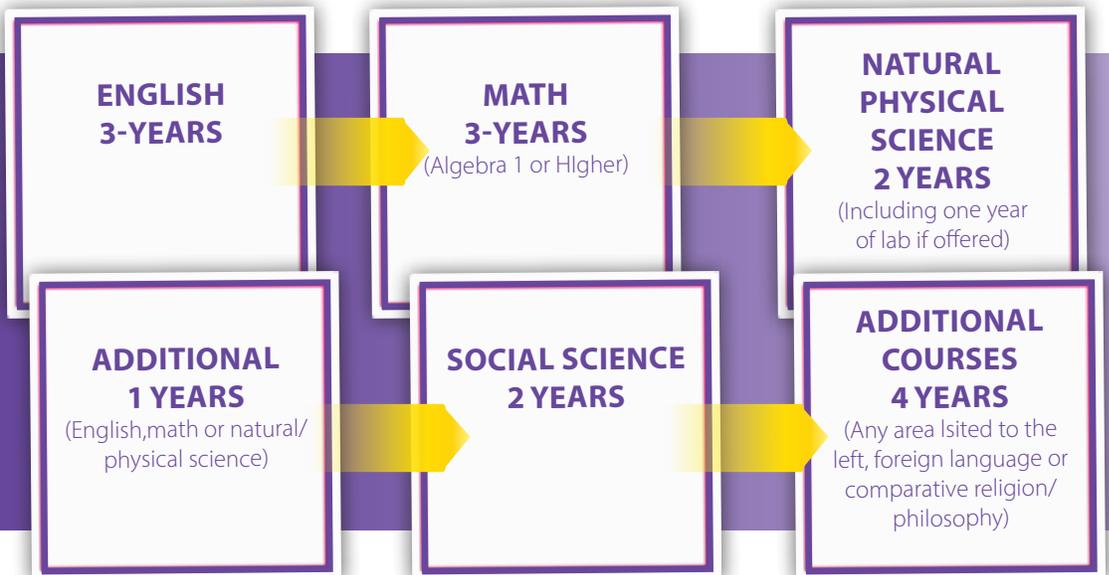


Take the ACT and/or SAT. List the NCAA Eligibility Center (Code 9999) as a score recipient. NCAA uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPA to determine eligibility

## CORE COURSES REQUIRED FOR NCAA CERTIFICATION

### CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENT

Complete 16 courses in the following areas:



## UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

There are five service academies. Entrance to these schools is highly competitive. Applicants for every academy but the Coast Guard's need a nomination from the vice president or a member of Congress.

Students attend the service academies for free. In return, they agree to spend the next several years as military officers.

Academies	Why to Attend	Website	Cost
<b>Air Force Academy</b> Colorado Springs, Colorado	Provides a world-class education that combines athletics, character and leadership development, and military officer training.	www.usafa.af.mil	<b>None. Full U.S. Government scholarship, including tuition, room and board; students also receive a stipend to meet cost of books, supplies, uniforms, and personal expenses.</b>
<b>Coast Guard Academy</b> New London, Connecticut	The U.S. Coast Guard is a life-saving organization. It is the only military branch entrusted with law enforcement and regulatory authority. As Guardians first, almost all Coast Guard men and women are stationed in the United States, its territories and possessions.	www.cga.edu	
<b>Merchant Marine Academy</b> Kings Point, New York	Trains students for military and civilian careers. New graduates have two choices. They can join the Navy or the Coast Guard as an officer. Or they can get a job in the civilian maritime industry at sea or ashore.	www.usmma.edu	
<b>Military Academy</b> West Point, New York	Trains future Army officers. It's also known as "West Point" for its location in West Point, NY.	www.usma.edu	
<b>Naval Academy</b> Annapolis, Maryland	Trains future Navy and Marine Corps officers. It's also known as "Annapolis" for its location in Annapolis, MD.	www.usna.edu	

## ACADEMY ADMISSION TIMELINES

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

<b>SOPHOMORE YEAR</b>	Contact an academy representative. An early contact with the academy representative may help in developing plans to meet all requirements.
<b>JUNIOR YEAR</b>	Take the PSAT and apply for ROTC scholarship early cycle competition. Apply for a nomination through your Congressman, Senator, Vice President or President. Check with the counselor for other avenues. Take the SAT and/or ACT exams.
<b>SUMMER AFTER JUNIOR YEAR</b>	Apply for the ROTC scholarship Take the SAT and/or the ACT exams. Take medical and physical aptitude tests as directed.
<b>SENIOR YEAR SPRING SEMESTER</b>	Graduate from high school and enter academy.

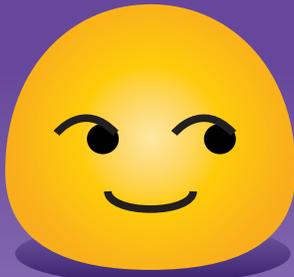


# TAKE A MOMENT

to reflect on what you've learned so far.  
Jot down some thoughts about your experiences.



Positives



Negatives

## Things to focus on

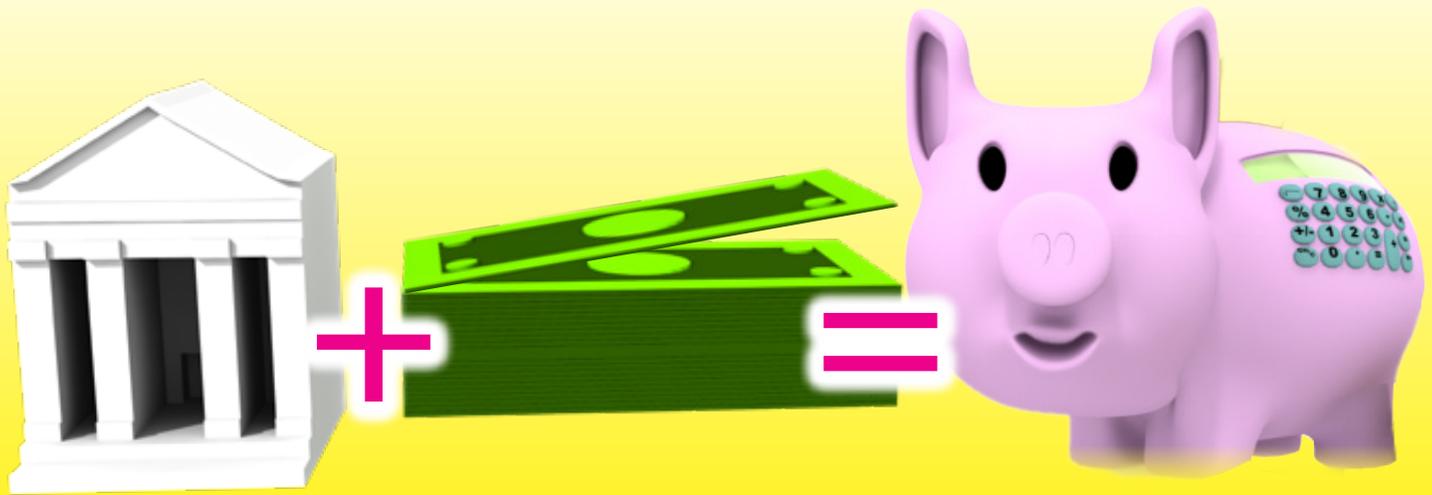


# HOW DO I AFFORD COLLEGE?

College can be expensive. Most students use multiple types of funds to afford college. To help you start thinking about paying for your college education, here is a brief intro to help you and your family. But remember you should always submit the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application first. Make sure to accept grants, scholarships and work-study before student loans.

## STICKER PRICE VS NET PRICE

There are two prices for every college degree: the sticker price and the net price. The sticker price is the what you see on the website. The net price is that very same number AFTER considering grants and scholarships. It is what you actually pay. Every college has a "Net Price Calculator" on their website that can help you figure out what you might pay. You enter some basic information about yourself to find out what students like you paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.



### STICKER PRICE

The college's published tuition and fees

### GIFT AID & TAX BENEFITS

(free money you don't have to work for or pay back) plus education tax benefits

### NET PRICE

The difference between the two—the real amount your family pays (typically with loans, saving and income)

## TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

<b>Grants</b>	Free money from the state, federal government, and/or the university, based on financial need. Grants do not have to be paid back.
<b>Scholarships</b>	Free money awarded to students for academic achievement, interests, special talents, financial need, or a combination of different factors.
<b>Work Study</b>	Federal program which funds part-time student employment to help pay for college. The amount awarded to each student is based on their individual need.
<b>Loans</b>	Money that is borrowed by the student or parent, which must be repaid with interest. Money can be borrowed from federal, state, or private loan agencies.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	California DREAM ACT Application (CADAA)
<p>Who should file a FAFSA? U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident with valid social security (not DACA). <i>For current and former foster youth who were dependent or ward of the court may qualify for the Chafee Grant.</i> Talk to your counselor for more details.</p>	<p>Who should file the CA Dream Act Application? Undocumented students with or without a DACA social security number or with Temporary Protection Status (TPS). Student must meet AB 540 criteria. <a href="https://dream.csac.ca.gov/application/NewUserAccess.aspx">https://dream.csac.ca.gov/application/NewUserAccess.aspx</a></p>
<p>Deadline: To apply for FAFSA or Dream Act you must submit an online application between October 1st and March 2nd of your senior year. This is the priority deadline for consideration for the Cal Grants.</p>	
 <p><a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a></p> <p><b>What will I need to apply?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. citizens - your Social Security Number (SSN)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Permanent resident - your SSN &amp; Green Card Number</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student Date of birth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parent 1- Date of birth and SSN</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parent 2 (if applicable) - Date of birth and SSN</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Date(s)- Parent married, remarried, divorced, or widowed (if applicable)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) total cash, savings, checking account value</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> State disability received (if applicable)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child support amount received/paid (if applicable)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Males between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for selective service.</li> </ul>	 <p><a href="https://dream.csac.ca.gov">https://dream.csac.ca.gov</a></p> <p><b>AB540 Eligibility Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend a California high school for 3 or more years</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Graduate with a High School Diploma or GED equivalent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enroll in an accredited higher education institution in California</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must file an affidavit stating that the filer will apply for legal residency as soon as possible</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "U" Visa holders may qualify</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Students are not eligible if they hold a non-immigrant visa (A, B, E, J, H, O, etc.)</li> </ul> <p>Males between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for selective service.</p> <p><b><u>AB68</u> extends AB540 status for more than 3 years</b></p>



## FINANCIAL AID FOR CALIFORNIA STUDENTS

Having an understanding of the in-state-funded grant and scholarship award process is key to getting money to pay for college and vocational training in California. The first part is completing the right application form (FAFSA or CADAA). The second part is your official financial aid GPA submitted by LA Unified for all seniors by October 1st of each year. Your GPA is a key factor in determining your eligibility.

California Dream Act **OR** FAFSA

Fill out by March 2nd + GPA | District submit by October 1st =

Cal Grant Consideration | CAL Grants Middle Class Scholarship Chafee Grant

Cal Grants are the largest source of aid for California students. They are divided into three different awards. To qualify, you must have financial need, be under the income and asset ceiling reported for this year on one of the forms, enrolled in specific program, and have a qualifying GPA. Each has different qualifying factors as shown below.

Grant	Cal Grant A	Cal Grant B	Cal Grant C
GPA Minimum	3.0	2.0	No GPA
Degree Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 year program</li> <li>• AA or Bachelor Degree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year program</li> <li>• Certificate, AA, or Bachelor Degree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 4 months in length</li> </ul>
Award Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years of tuition &amp; fees at eligible CA schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-4 years of tuition &amp; fees at eligible CA school</li> <li>• \$1,672 Access Award for 4 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupation / technical program</li> </ul>
Award payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UC - \$12,570</li> <li>• CSU - \$5,742</li> <li>• Private - \$9,084</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,672 + Tuition and fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC - \$1,094 B&amp;S</li> <li>• Voc. School - \$2,462 + \$547 B&amp;S</li> </ul>

Do you know your Financial Aid GPA?

Need to improve your GPA to qualify for in-state tuition assistance?

Talk to your counselor to come up with a plan to get there and jot down your steps here.

1	
2	
3	
4	

## FINANCIAL AID FOR CALIFORNIA STUDENTS

Your financial aid GPA is calculated on an unweighted 4.00 scale. It includes all of your academic course work from your sophomore year, the summer following the sophomore year, the junior year, and the summer following the junior year. It excludes PE, JROTC and remedial courses. Failing grades are included in the GPA calculation unless the course has been repeated.

Remember, that in order to qualify for Cal Grants (state money for college you don't have to pay back), you must have a minimum 3.00 financial GPA for Cal Grant A and a 2.00 GPA for Cal Grant B.

In order to qualify for any of the three Cal Grants, you must have financial need and be under the income ceiling for the current year.

### 2020-21 CAL GRANT PROGRAM INCOME CEILINGS

Dependent students and independent students (with dependents other than spouse)

Family size:	Cal Grant A and C	Cal Grant B
Six or more	\$123,100	\$67,600
Five	\$114,100	\$62,600
Four	\$106,500	\$56,000
Three	\$98,000	\$50,300
Two	\$95,700	\$44,700

### Independent students

Independent students	\$39,200
Dependent students *	\$82,400

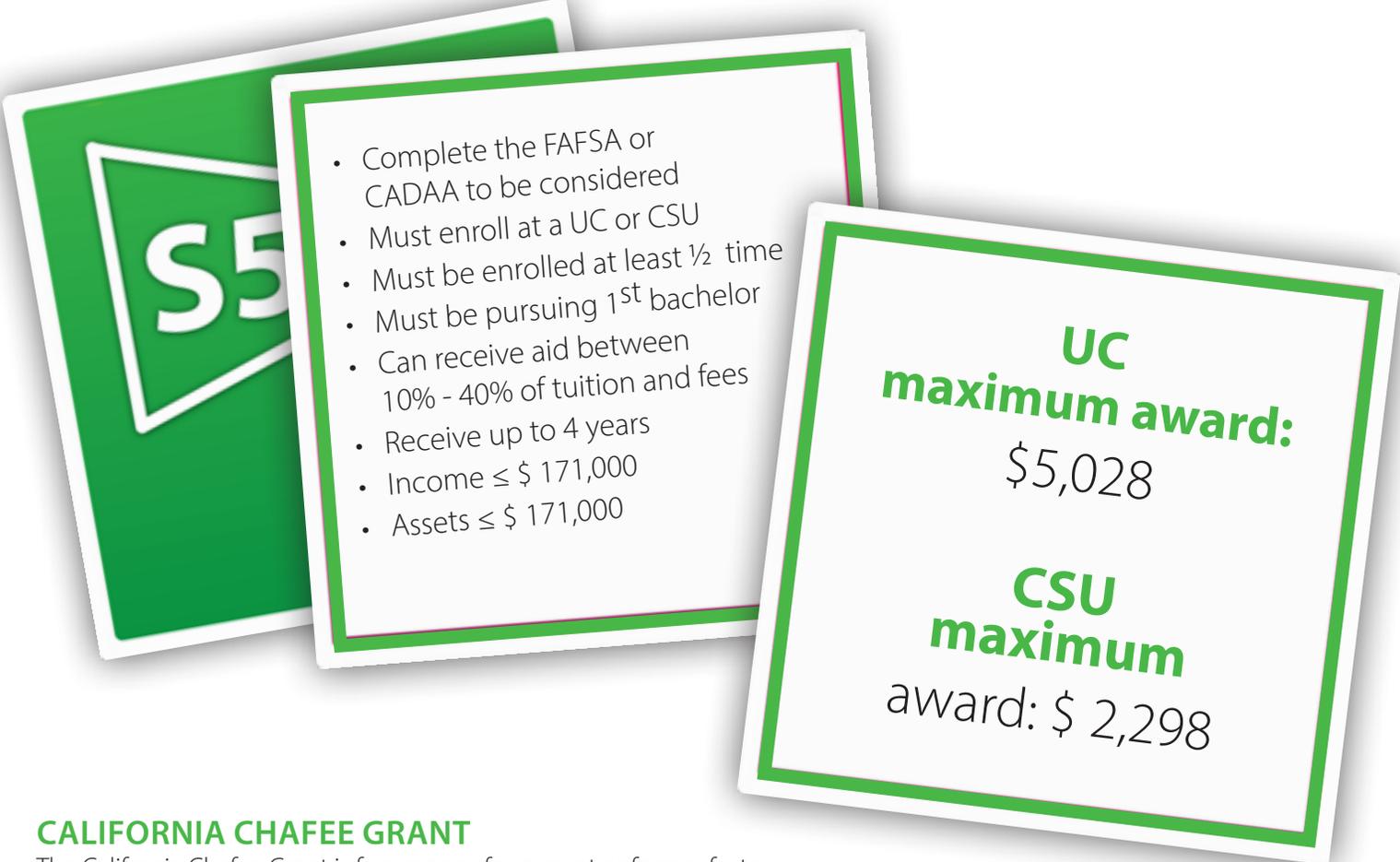
\* This ceiling also applies to independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

## OTHER TYPES OF STATE AID

### THE MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

(MCS) provides undergraduate students, including students pursuing a teaching credential, with family incomes and assets up to \$177,000 a scholarship to attend University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses.

Enrollment Requirement

- 
- Complete the FAFSA or CADAA to be considered
  - Must enroll at a UC or CSU
  - Must be enrolled at least ½ time
  - Must be pursuing 1<sup>st</sup> bachelor
  - Can receive aid between 10% - 40% of tuition and fees
  - Receive up to 4 years
  - Income ≤ \$ 171,000
  - Assets ≤ \$ 171,000

**UC**  
**maximum award:**  
\$5,028

**CSU**  
**maximum**  
award: \$ 2,298

### CALIFORNIA CHAFEE GRANT

The California Chafee Grant is free money for current or former foster youth to help pay for college, career or technical training that you don't have to pay back. You may also be able to use your grant to pay for child care, transportation and rent while you're in school.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Current or former foster youth who was a ward of the court or living in foster care for at least one day between the ages 16-18
- Submit the FAFSA or CADAA (every year)
- Submit the Chafee Application form (one-time)

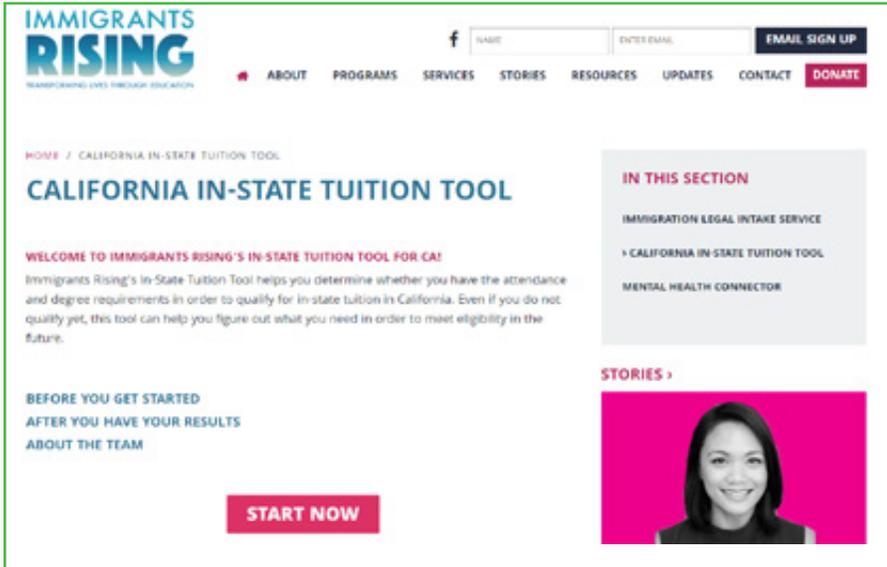
Award:

- Up to \$5,000 per year
- Renewable until the age of 26
- Can be used in eligible schools in or outside CA

## IN STATE TUITION EXEMPTIONS AND AB540

California has several options to help exempt certain students from paying non-resident tuition (higher than resident tuition) and allows them to apply for different types of California Dream Act financial aid. Students can find more information using the Immigrants Rising California in-state Tuition Tool. This tool will help you figure out if you have the requirements to qualify for in-state tuition in California, aka, AB540. Visit their website to determine your eligibility status.

<https://immigrantsrising.org/qualifier/>



Below are the types of financial aid AB540/SB 68 eligible students can apply for in California. You must complete the California Dream Act application and meet the GPA eligibility to qualify for these types of aid.

TYPES OF CA FINANCIAL AID FOR UNDERGRADS	AB 540/AB 68 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
In-State Tuition	YES
Federal Aid	NO
UC University Grant	YES
CSU State University Grant	YES
California College Promise Grant	YES
EOP Services	YES
EOP&S Services	YES
California State Aid; Cal Grants; Chaffee, Middle Class Scholarship	YES
State Loans CA Dream Loan	YES
Private Loans	NO
Federal Work Study	NO
Private Scholarships	YES
Institutional Aid Scholarships from private donors held at your college or university	YES

Source: Immigrants Rising

## JUNIOR FINANCIAL AID "TO DO'S"

- Explore ways to pay for college [www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov](http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov) and [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)
- Ask teachers, counselors and coaches for leads on private scholarships. Check out Naviance for additional leads on scholarship information.
- Check out the California Dream Act Application if you do not qualify for the FAFSA and are interested in applying for state financial aid to attend eligible California colleges and Career Education Programs at <http://dream.csac.ca.gov>
- Look into programs that let you earn money for college for volunteer service.
- Keep your grades up - junior year grades are important to qualify for financial aid.

**myStudentAid** is a mobile app to help you estimate the cost of attendance now to help you plan ahead when it comes to paying for college.

Check out the **myChecklist** - it is a financial planning tool that offers next step information for users at all stages of the federal student aid process

Visit the **myCollegeScorecard** to view and compare information about schools

Download the **myStudentAid** app in the Apple App Store (iOS) or the Google Play store (Android).



Junior  
Financial Aid  
To Dos



# SNEAK PEEK...SENIOR YEAR

## APPLYING TO COLLEGE IN SENIOR YEAR

One of the most commonly asked questions is, "How many colleges should I apply to?" There is no right or wrong answer to this question since each individual is different. After carefully investigating the requirements of a college, you should be able to narrow your choice to approximately 9 - 12 schools that provide the programs and services you desire. As you are narrowing your choices, you may want to consider placing schools into the following categories:

### Reach Schools

Schools to which you have a chance of getting admitted, but your academic credentials are below the school's profile average range.

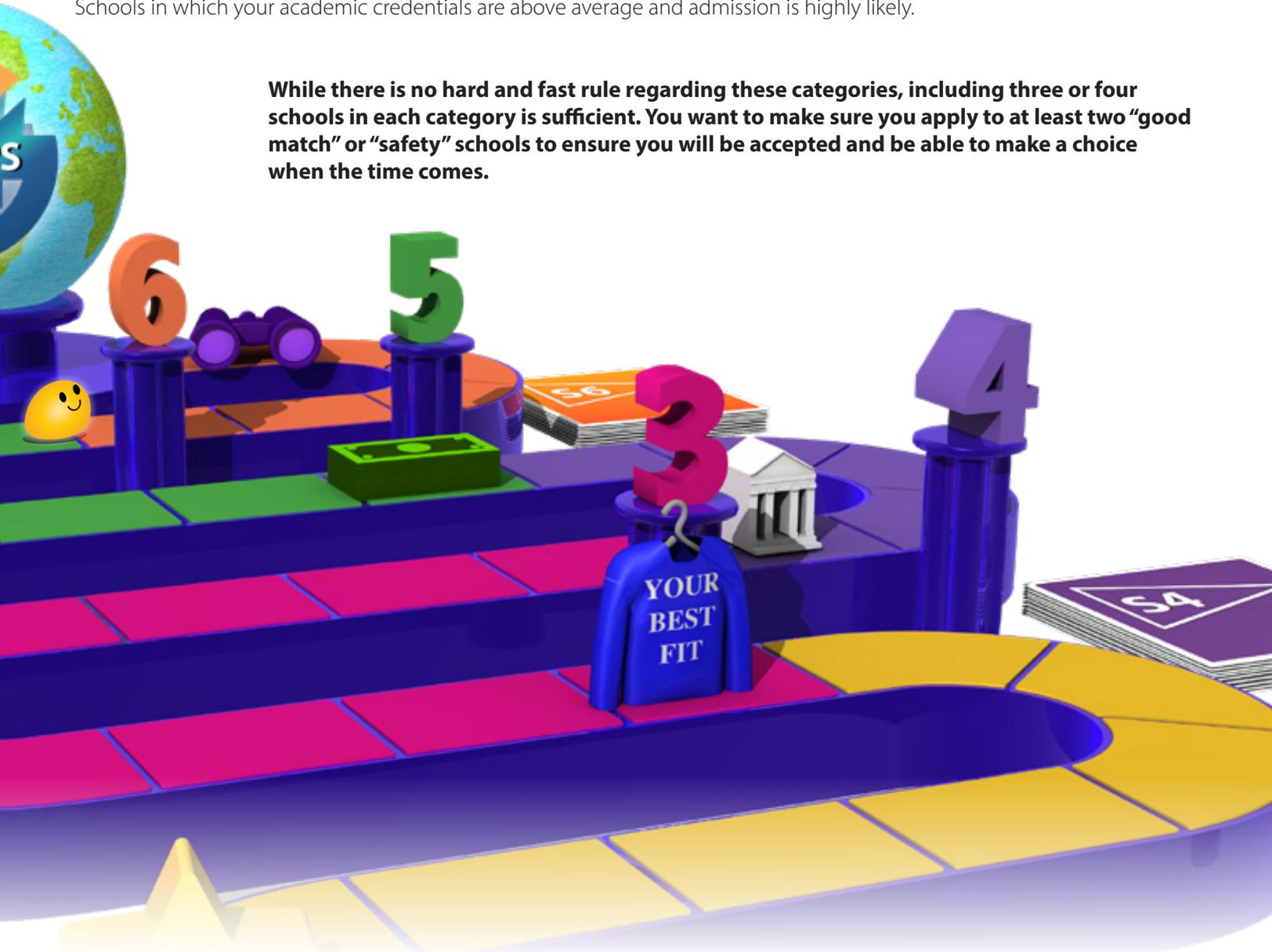
### Good Match/Target Schools

Schools in which your academic credentials make you competitive for admission and fall within the average range. You have realistic chances of being admitted.

### Safety Schools

Schools in which your academic credentials are above average and admission is highly likely.

**While there is no hard and fast rule regarding these categories, including three or four schools in each category is sufficient. You want to make sure you apply to at least two "good match" or "safety" schools to ensure you will be accepted and be able to make a choice when the time comes.**



## WHERE TO APPLY

College applications can be found online. CSU and UC schools have their own system-wide online application. Most California and out-of-state independent schools are part of the Common Application or the Coalition Application. Most HBCU use the Common Black Application. You can also use Naviance to help you streamline your application process.

Colleges or Universities	Application and Information Websites
University of California	<a href="https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login">https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login</a>
California State University	<a href="http://www.2.calstate.edu/apply">www.2.calstate.edu/apply</a>
Common Application	<a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a>
Coalition Application	<a href="http://applyweb.collegenet.com">applyweb.collegenet.com</a>
HBCU Common Black Colleges Application	<a href="http://commonblackcollegeapp.com">commonblackcollegeapp.com</a>
Los Angeles Community College District	<a href="http://www.laccd.edu/Students/openccapply/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.laccd.edu/Students/openccapply/Pages/default.aspx</a>

Type of College or University	Information
Arts colleges	Art colleges focus on the arts. These colleges provide training in areas such as photography, music, theater, or fashion design and can offer degrees in fine arts or specialty fields.
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) focus on educating African American students.
Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI)	Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are colleges where at least 25 percent of the full-time undergraduate students are Hispanic.
Single-sex colleges	Some private colleges are specifically for men or women.
Religiously affiliated colleges	Some private colleges are connected to religious faith. Visit their website to find out more about how this connection may affect campus life.

It's never too early to start thinking about the application questions you will have to answer. We have listed them on the next page for you to start brainstorming now!

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
 The UCs provide a great worksheet to help you get started. We have copied it here, and you can also find it online at <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/assets/files/how-to-apply/uc-personal-questions-guide-freshman.pdf>



## PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS: GUIDE FOR FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

### Getting started

This worksheet is designed to help freshman applicants start the writing process for the personal insight questions in the undergraduate admissions application. Additional hints and suggestions can be found on UC's admissions website at [ucal.us/personalquestions](https://ucal.us/personalquestions).

### What are the personal insight questions?

These questions are about getting to know you better — your life experience, interests, ambitions and inspirations. Think of it as your interview with the admissions office. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it.

While this section of the application is just one part we consider when making our admission decision, it helps provide context for the rest of your application.

### The basics

- You will have 8 questions to choose from. You must respond to any 4 of the 8 questions.
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- Which questions you choose to answer is entirely up to you: But you should select questions that are most relevant to your experience and that best reflect your individual circumstances.
- All questions are equal: All questions are given equal consideration in the application review process, which means there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.

### Freshman questions & brainstorm exercise

The following exercises are suggestions to help you get started. Remember, you don't have to answer all eight questions – you only need to answer four. So if some questions aren't the right fit for you, that's OK. The important thing is expressing who are you, what matters to you and what you want to share with UC.

### 1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

How do you define "leader"? List three words that you think describe what a leader is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Do any of these words apply to you? How? Is there a time in your life when you displayed any of these traits?

### 2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

Can you think of a time your viewpoint was unique compared to others? What was the issue or problem from your perspective? Now think of the same situation from the perspective of another person who was there with you. How was your approach different from that other person's?

Was there ever a problem where your imagination and intuition guided you to the solution?

Do you have a passion for music, theater, visual art, dance, etc.? What have you gained from it that has affected other parts of your life?

### 3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

List three of your talents or skills:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Were these talents or skills the same a few years ago? What changed? What improved?

Which one of the three talents or skills you listed is the most meaningful or important to you and why? Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent?

## PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS: GUIDE FOR FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

### 4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Feel free to speak about either an opportunity or a barrier. It's OK if you've experienced one and not the other.

#### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

List any programs or additional classes that have better prepared you for college:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did you find out about these programs or classes? How did you take what you learned and apply it to your schoolwork or other aspects of your life?

#### EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS:

Have you faced any barriers or challenges related to school and/or your schoolwork? How did you overcome or strive to overcome them? List three personal characteristics or skills you had to call on to overcome this challenge:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### 5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Have you had a difficult experience in your life? How did you get through it? What did you learn going through this experience? If you're currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now and does that affect different aspects of your life? For example, ask yourself, "How has my life changed at home, at my school, with my friends, or with my family?"

### 6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

Think about all of the classes you've taken at school. Now fill in the blank: I would go to [class name] even if I didn't have to.

It doesn't have to be a class in which you've earned good grades – the important thing is you enjoyed the subject and it impacted you in some way.

(#6 continued)

Maybe there's a course you *haven't* taken at school that you wish you did take or are looking forward to taking in college. How have you pursued your interest in that subject outside of school?

### 7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

Did you contribute to a positive change at your school or in your community? What steps have you taken to accomplish this? Remember, even small changes can have a big impact. Why were you inspired to act? What did you learn from your effort?

### 8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

From your point of view, what do you feel makes you an excellent choice for UC? Don't be afraid to brag a little. Here are a few lists to help you get started.

What do you value in your life? What's important to you? List three of them here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are you passionate about?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When you attend UC, what three things are you most looking forward to?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Does anything overlap? Is there anything from the lists that you want to expand on?

#### Next steps

As you filled out the worksheet, were there any topics that seemed particularly interesting? You might consider answering those questions as part of your application. But the choice is yours! Take your time in selecting which questions to answer and how to answer them. For more information, visit our website at [ucal.us/personalquestions](http://ucal.us/personalquestions).

## COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS

### THE COMMON APP

There are seven questions on the Common App – one is mandatory; however, some campuses may assign additional questions for you to answer. You can find any additional requirements by visiting the Common App Solutions Center at <https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/writing-requirements>. Also, depending on your answers to some questions, you may be required to complete additional writing questions. Be sure to read all the instructions within the application.

### 2019-2020 COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.





## MATCHING YOUR COMMON APP AND NAVIANCE ACCOUNTS

Applying to Common App schools? Don't forget to match your Common App account to your Naviance Student profile or account after the start of your senior year.

First, check with your counselor if your school has elected to integrate with the Common App. If this is the case, you will need to match your Common App account to your Naviance Student account to request application documents for these colleges.

To complete the matching process, you have to:

- Create a Common App account
- Use the same name first and last name as appears in your Naviance Student profile
- Use the same date of birth as your Naviance Student profile
- Use the same email address in Naviance that was used for logging into your Common App account
- Enter your current school by entering school name or using your school's CEEB Code
- Add at least one college on Common App
- Sign the Common App FERPA Release Authorization on Common App

1

Navigate to **College > Colleges I'm Applying to**

2

If accounts are not matched, a message will display at the top of the window, along with a **Match Account** button - see screenshot below

3

Click **Match Accounts**

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Colleges', 'Careers', 'About Me', and 'My Planner'. Below that, a search bar for colleges is visible. A prominent pink message box states: 'It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools. Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started.' A 'Match Accounts' button is located to the right of this message. Below the message, there are icons for 'Application Milestones', 'Compare Me', and a plus sign. A table lists colleges with columns for College, Type, Deadline, Transcripts, Office materials, Submission Type, and Application. The first row shows 'Montana State University' with a type of 'ROLL', no deadline, 'no request' for transcripts, 'Initial materials submitted' for office materials, and 'Unknown' for submission type.

College	Type	Deadline	Transcripts	Office materials	Submission Type	Application
<input type="checkbox"/> + Montana State University	ROLL	-	no request	Initial materials submitted		Unknown   EDIT  MORE

If you matched your accounts, remember to request all of your documents, including transcripts and letters of recommendation through Naviance only. Also, let your counselor know that you are applying to a Common App school and to be on the lookout for your request.

Getting matching error messages? Double-check that your information was entered correctly and that it matches the information in both accounts.

## SUMMER "TO-DO'S"

Spend time narrowing down your list of realistic colleges by using Naviance. When looking at college profiles, use the "Compare Me" feature to see how your GPA and standardized test scores stack up against the students admitted last year.

Prepare for a final ACT or SAT test during your senior year. You can take or retake the test during your first semester of Senior year. Be sure to get some practice in beforehand - try going to Khan Academy and the College Board website for help. The public library also offers free prep classes by The Princeton Review.

Do something with your summer – volunteer in your community, take a college class, or make up a class in which you earned a "D". Any class you take during the summer of 11th grade can count on your transcripts. You can also consider getting work experience by getting a job or interning. If you are sure of what career area you are interested in, look for extracurricular activities related to what you hope to major in would be ideal.

Start your college essays - Review the UC Personal Insight Questions (PIQs) and the Common App essay questions and brainstorm your ideas. You should have drafts ready to go when you return to school in August. Remember, the point of the essay is to help the reader understand who you are and fill in the blanks between your data: GPA, test scores, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendation.

## SENIOR PROGRAM

Summer Courses	12th Grade 1st Semester	12th Grade 2nd Semester

