

# ScholarMatch

Connecting Students with the Community to Make College Possible



## College Coach Training

### Table of Contents

---

“The Myth” Activity	
Page 2	
California State College’s Admission Requirements	Page 3
University of California (UC) Application	Page 4
California State University (CSU) Application	Page 5
Private Colleges Application	Pages 6-7
General College Information	Pages 8-10
Unique Opportunities (*i.e. EOP Application)	Page 10
High School College Admission Timeline	Page 11
College and Career Useful Websites	Page 12

## The Myth of “The Best College”

---

### Some insights by Malcolm Gladwell:

Some years ago...a former chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Thomas Brennan, sent a questionnaire to a hundred or so of his fellow-lawyers, asking them to rank a list of ten law schools in order of quality. “They included a good sample of the big names. Harvard. Yale. University of Michigan. And some lesser-known schools. John Marshall. Thomas Cooley...” Brennan wrote. “As I recall, they ranked Penn State’s law school right about in the middle of the pack. Maybe fifth among the ten schools listed. Of course, Penn State doesn’t have a law school.” Those lawyers put Penn State in the middle of the pack, even though every fact they thought they knew about Penn State’s law school was an illusion, because in their minds Penn State is a middle-of-the-pack brand. (Penn State *does* have a law school today, by the way.)

Sound judgments of educational quality have to be based on specific, hard-to-observe features. But reputational ratings are simply inferences from broad, readily observable features of an institution’s identity, such as its history, its prominence in the media, or the elegance of its architecture. They are prejudices.

And where do these kinds of reputational prejudices come from? According to Michael Bastedo, an educational sociologist at the University of Michigan who has published widely on the *U.S. News* methodology, *rankings drive reputation*.

In other words, when *U.S. News* asks a university president to perform the impossible task of assessing the relative merits of dozens of institutions he knows nothing about, he relies on the only source of detailed information at his disposal that assesses the relative merits of dozens of institutions he knows nothing about: *U.S. News*.

Thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_

## California State Colleges (UC's and CSU) Admission Requirements

### A-G Courses

- A-G is the course pattern students must follow in order to be UC & CSU admission eligible. Each letter represents 1 of the 7 subject areas.
- Many private schools also accept this course pattern.
- Students must take a minimum of 15 A-G courses to apply to a UC/CSU.
- Students should exceed these if they want to be admitted to selective colleges.

<b>A. History</b> One year of world or European history, cultures and geography, and one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government	2 years are required
<b>B. English</b>	4 years are required
<b>C. Mathematics</b> Must complete Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry or Algebra II, and Geometry	3 years required; 4 years recommended
<b>D. Laboratory Science</b> Must take 1 life science and 1 physical science Physical Science includes Chemistry & Physics	2 years required; 3 years recommended
<b>E. Language other than English</b>	2 years required; 3 years recommended
<b>F. Visual and Performing Arts</b>	1 year required
<b>G. College Preparatory Electives</b>	1 year required

**\*Students must get a C or better in all of their A-G classes!!!!!!!!!!**

**If a student has a D+ or below in any of the A-G classes and is not in the process of making the grade up, THE STUDENT CAN NOT APPLY TO ANY UC/CSU!!!**

### SAT/ACT TESTS

	SAT	ACT
<b>What does it test?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Reasoning</li> <li>*Stronger emphasis on vocabulary</li> <li>*Critical Reading, Math</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Knowledge</li> <li>*Questions tend to be more straightforward</li> <li>*English, Math</li> </ul>

	and Writing	(advanced), Reading and <u>Science</u> , Writing optional
<b>Important Dates</b>	August 26, 2017 October 07, 2017 November 04, 2017 December 02, 2017	September 9, 2017 October 28, 2017 December 9, 2017
<b>Suggestions</b>	*SAT Subject Tests (formally SAT 2's) are RECOMMENDED for certain majors and some colleges.  *Take Written portion of the test	*Take Written portion of the test

## University of California Application

---

### ADMISSION APPLICATION

- **One** application to all 9 campuses.
- **Application Fees**
  - o \$70 to apply to each campus.
  - o Fee waivers up to 4 colleges, if student qualifies (find out once apply).
- Additional Info Checklist
  - o Each university will ask student to check-off whether they belong to a certain category in the box. Make sure they read line carefully.

### 9 UNDERGRADUATE CAMPUSES

- Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

### IMPORTANT DATES

- August 1: Online application opens.
- November 1: First day to submit the application.
- **November 30: The deadline to submit.**
- March 1-March 30: Admission notification.

### HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

- **NO NEED TO SUBMIT THEM!** Classes and grades are self-reported.

### SAT/ACT TESTS

- *Students can take the December SAT/ACT and have it count for the UC applications.*
- *Admissions will accept either, and look at each section for SAT and the composite score for ACT*

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

- Responses to **four (4)** of eight prompts.
- Each prompt must be no more than 350 words and be no less than 250 words.

### **Freshman Applicant Prompts**

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.
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.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
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?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
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?

## **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

- Not required UNLESS asked by University in early spring.
- 2 will be needed if student is applying for EOP (see page 10).

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- Describe in detail involvement.
- Think of it this way: What has the student been involved in during high school when not studying?
- Yes, list jobs. Yes, list community service.

# **California State University Application**

---

## **ADMISSION APPLICATION**

- **One** application to all 23 campuses.
- **Application Fees**
  - o \$55 per campus.
  - o Fee waivers available (find out if they qualify when apply).

## **23 CAMPUSES:**

Bakersfield; Channel Islands; Chico; Dominguez Hills; East Bay; Fresno; Fullerton; Humboldt; Long Beach; Los

Angeles; California Maritime Academy; Monterey Bay; Northridge; Pomona; Sacramento; San Bernardino; San Diego; San Francisco; San José State; San Luis Obispo; San Marcos; Sonoma and Stanislaus

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Now: They can fill out intro part of application.
- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Online application opens.
- November 1<sup>st</sup>: First day to submit the application.
- **November 30<sup>th</sup>: The deadline to submit.**
- March 1<sup>st</sup>-March 30<sup>th</sup>: Admission notification.

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

- **NO NEED TO SUBMIT THEM!** Classes and grades are self-reported.

### **SAT/ACT TESTS**

- If student has above a 3.0 GPA, **does not** need to submit scores until enroll.
- If student has below a 3.0 GPA, will **need** to submit official test scores.

### **PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

- NOT NEEDED (Unless asked by individual university).
- Will be needed if student is applying for EOP (see page 10).

### **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

- NOT NEEDED (Unless asked by individual university).
- 2 will be needed if student is applying for EOP (see page 10).

---

## **Private Colleges- the “Common Application”**

---

### **ADMISSION APPLICATION**

- **One** application for 500 colleges.
- Each College has its own application fee
- Fee waivers awarded by each college; contact them to find out how to get one.

### **FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION for SOME PRIVATE COLLEGES**

- Some selective private colleges REQUIRE the submission of an additional need based financial aid form, called the **CSS PROFILE**, sponsored by the College Board.
- **Application Fees** \$25 for first college, \$16 for additional colleges; Fee waivers for up to 8 colleges
- (Colleges will offer fee waivers to low-income students)
- **Every college will have a different deadline.**

### **THE DIFFERENT APPLICATION DEADLINES**

#### **Regular Decision**

1. Set deadline ranging from November 1 to April 1.
2. Admission notification before April 15.
3. Have until May 1 to make final decision.

## Rolling Admission

1. Admission reviewed in the order in which they are submitted.
2. Candidates are notified of decisions in **4-6 weeks after application** is received.
3. Colleges with rolling admissions start sending their acceptances early in the academic year.
4. Have until May 1 to make final decision.

## Early Action

1. No contract.
2. Student finds out early.
3. Can apply to as many as student wants.
4. May be deferred (meaning student won't be denied, but college will ask for 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades and make a final decision in spring).
5. Have until May 1 to make final decision.

## Early Decision

1. **Student can only apply to one Early Decision college because student must agree to attend that college if admitted.**
2. **Suggestion: Apply Early Decision ONLY if it is their favorite college!**
3. If admitted, student **MUST** attend that college (IT'S A CONTRACT!!!).
4. Application deadline is usually in November; admission notification by end of December.

## Early Action, Single Choice

1. Like Early Decision, you must agree to apply to only one Early Action school, but it is also like Early Action in that student may apply to other colleges and make final enrollment decision by the May 1.
2. In other words, no contract.

## APPLICATION COMPONENTS

### High School Transcripts

- Official transcripts must be mailed by high school.

### SAT/ACT TESTS

- Usually, either test is acceptable.
- Some colleges accept "**super score**" where they crisscross between all tests student has taken to give student the best composite score.
- Some colleges are test submission optional, including:
  - o Pitzer College, Lewis and Clark College, Clark University, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Bates College, Gettysburg College, Bennington College
- But if student has a low GPA, student should still submit test scores.
- ***Usually, December/January test is the last a student can take to count for admission***
- Usually, highly selective colleges require SAT Subject Tests. Ask!

### PERSONAL STATEMENTS and SHORT ANSWER ESSAYS

- The essay is an important part of the application for many colleges. It is critical that the student uses this opportunity to express their own voice. Although a fine essay would never override a weak academic profile, ***it can be a tipping point for a student on the cusp of admission.***
- Personal Statement response must be a maximum of 650 words total.
- **Note: Some colleges have supplemental personal statement requirements.**

## OPTIONAL RESPONSES

1. Student will have the opportunity to explain relevant circumstances not reflected elsewhere in the application. For example: dip in grades, health/family issues, learning disability, etc...

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Rank activities by importance beginning with activities student has spent the most time and effort. Be careful to accurately estimate hours of involvement.
2. Student can only list up to 10 extracurricular activities on the Common App.
3. The app asks: Years of participation, hours per week, weeks per year, position/leadership held (**50 characters**), brief description (**150 characters**).

## SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORTS

1. Some colleges (but NOT the UCs and the CSU's) require info from the high school in order to complete the college applications. Forms for these are called the **Secondary School Reports** and the **Mid-Year School Reports**.
2. Student can enter the email of school counselor in the Common Application for forms completion.

## TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Each private college is different, but the rule is usually:
  - **A minimum of 1 letter, 3 max.**
  - Letters should be written by someone who can speak about intellectual growth and vigor, so usually at least one letter from a teacher is required.
  - A third letter can be written to provide character and personal information (e.g. ScholarMatch) to speak about personal/financial hardships.

## PRIVATE COLLEGES IN CALIFORNIA SCHOLARMATCH HAS GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH

California College of the Arts	Pitzer College
California Institute of Technology (CalTech)	Saint Mary's College of California
Claremont McKenna College	Santa Clara University
Dominican University of California	Scripps College
Harvey Mudd College	Soka University of America
Holy Names University	Stanford University
Loyola Marymount University	University of San Diego
Mills College	University of San Francisco
Occidental College	University of Southern California

## **General College Information**

---

## ADMISSION APPLICATION TERMINOLOGY

Reach

Target

Likely

<b>What?</b>	A <b>REACH</b> college is a difficult college to gain admission to. Even if student has a 4.0 cumulative GPA and solid test scores, colleges like Stanford, Harvard, and Yale are REACH colleges because they admit less than 20% of their applicants	A <b>TARGET</b> college is one where student will <i>most likely</i> gain admission if student fits college's admission academic profile by falling within the middle 50% of GPA & test scores.	A <b>LIKELY</b> college is one where student knows he or she will gain admission. The student falls above the college's middle 50% of GPA & test scores. The CSU colleges (San Francisco State; San Jose State; Cal State East Bay) are <i>typically Likely</i> colleges.
<b>How many to apply to?</b>	3	3-4	2-3

### **HIGHLY SELECTIVE COLLEGES**

These colleges are considered "REACH" because they admit less than 20% of their applicant pool.

On the West coast, these colleges include:

- University of Southern California (USC)
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of California, Berkeley (Cal)
- Stanford University
- Pomona College
- Pitzer College
- Claremont McKenna College
- Harvey Mudd College
- California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
- Colorado College

Non "Ivy" Colleges:

- Amherst College
- Barnard College
- Bowdoin College
- Carleton College
- Georgetown University
- Haverford College
- Middlebury College
- Rice University
- Tufts University
- Swarthmore College
- Washington University in Saint Louis
- Williams College

### **AB540 APPLICANTS (UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS)**

- Yes, AB540 students can apply to UC/CSU and private colleges and receive financial assistance.
- In October of senior year, the **California Dream Act**, a financial aid application, must be filled out.
- Yes, there are private scholarships for these populations of students.

### **LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES**

- A liberal arts and science college offers a unique curriculum.
- There is a stronger emphasis on the interaction between professors and students and receiving more

individualized attention.

Unique Curriculum	What is it?	Colleges
One Class at a Time	Student completes one course per quarter or semester.	Colorado College, Cornell College (Iowa), Quest University (Vancouver, BC)
“Great Books” Program	Students are required to read books considered to be essential foundation to Western Culture Literature; open discussion	Saint Mary’s College of CA; St. John’s College (Santa Fe, NM and Annapolis, MD)
“Jan- Term” or “J-Term”	Students can study abroad or take a fun academic class during the month of January	Saint Mary’s College of CA; Middlebury College (Vermont); Eckerd College (Florida)
Social Justice focus	Students learn about social diversity and social inequities	University of San Francisco; Seattle University
Music Conservatory	Music hall	Oberlin College (Ohio); Lawrence University (Wisconsin)
Only offer one major	BA in Liberal Arts	Soka University of America (CA)

### **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES**

- These colleges were founded before the Civil Rights Act was signed to law.
- A student does not have to be Black/African American to attend these colleges.
- The colleges offer curriculum and programs geared towards the Black/African American experience and culture.
  - o Colleges such as:
    - Howard University (Washington, DC)
    - Morehouse College (Atlanta)
    - Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta)

### **SINGLE SEX COLLEGES**

1. Yes, all men’s and all women’s colleges exist.
  - o Colleges such as:
    - Wabash College (one of three all men’s college; located in Indiana)
    - Agnes Scott University (all women’s college; located in Atlanta)
    - Mills College (all women’s college; located in Oakland, CA)
    - Scripps College (all women’s college; located in Southern California)

### **RELIGIOUS COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES**

Different strains of religious colleges exist.

1. Some are extremely strict, mandating students attend church, take a Christian theology class, etc.  
Colleges such as:

- Azusa Pacific University (in Southern California)
  - Biola University (in Southern California)
2. Some are right in the middle, where a majority of the students are of that faith and will practice, but it's not forced. Colleges such as:
    - Hope College (Michigan)
    - Pacific Lutheran University (Washington)
    - University of Notre Dame (Indiana)
  3. Some are liberal and are religious in the global sense, asking students to take religious classes to examine how religion and history/politics/economics/ are intertwined. Colleges such as:
    - Santa Clara University
    - University of Portland

---

## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

### **EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS (EOP)**

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is a federally funded program at certain colleges designed to improve access and retention of historically low-income and educationally disadvantaged students.

1. 22/23 CSU's offer the EOP program.
2. UC's: Berkeley; Davis; Santa Barbara; Santa Cruz
3. Comparable Programs: Irvine (Student Support Services); Merced (Fiat Lux); Riverside (Academic Resource Center); San Diego (Office of Academic Support and Instruction Support – OASIS); UCLA (Academic Advancement Program)

\*Some colleges offer their own version of an EOP program, so be sure to help students learn about it and encourage them to apply.

To qualify, students must:

- Be low-income.
- Be first-generation college bound.
- Students must fill out a separate application to be an EOP student.

### **COLLEGE FLY-IN PROGRAMS**

Some colleges offer pre-admission and/or post admission fly-in programs for low-income, First Generation College bound, and historically underrepresented students. The school will pay for travel and accommodation expenses for the student to visit the campus.

- o Colleges such as: Whitman College (Washington State); Middlebury College (Vermont); Kalamazoo College (Michigan); Gettysburg College (Pennsylvania); Tufts University (Boston)

### **WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE)**

As part of the WUE program, students in California can be awarded scholarships/grants at certain out-of-state public universities. They also don't pay out of state fees. These colleges could be a solid option, like the University of Nevada, Reno.

### **College Admissions Mailing List**

If a student likes a college, makes sure they sign up on the admissions website to get more information. This is

very important to colleges can “flag” a student before they apply to the university. Make sure they spell everything out correctly.

### **Listing ScholarMatch In Their Application**

Make sure students write in that they’re a part of ScholarMatch in the section that asks: ***Please list any community program/organization that has provided free assistance with your application process.***

## **High School College Admission Timeline**

This chart provides a glance at important dates and gives you an idea of what topics you can expect to focus on with your students in relation to their grade. This is a good guideline of what the student should follow, broken down by semester.

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> grade freshman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Think about school schedule (<b>A-G</b> requirements) and pick right classes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reach out to high school counselor</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Get involved- extracurricular activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Maintain solid grades (GPA)</li> <li>❖ Start shopping for colleges</li> <li>❖ Make summer count (summer enrichment program, volunteer, job, summer school if needed)</li> </ul>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> grade sophomore</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Take PSAT (help prepare for real test next year)</li> <li>❖ Stay on track with classes</li> <li>❖ Begin learning about college admissions process and specific requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Keep grades up</li> <li>❖ Continue college search (request information from colleges)</li> <li>❖ Take SAT Subject Tests (fresh in mind if took class this year)</li> </ul>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> grade junior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Stay on track with grades</li> <li>❖ Take PSAT</li> <li>❖ Create a college list</li> <li>❖ Organize testing plan (important dates for SAT/ACT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Prepare for challenging senior classes</li> <li>❖ Visit various colleges to compare</li> <li>❖ Increase scholarship applications</li> <li>❖ Begin personal essay statement</li> <li>❖ Take standardized test</li> </ul>

12 <sup>th</sup> grade senior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Visit all potential schools (speak with students and professors)</li> <li>❖ Register and take standardized tests</li> <li>❖ Finalize College list</li> <li>❖ APPLY to colleges! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Online application opens</li> <li>- November 1<sup>st</sup>: Submit applications</li> <li>- November 30<sup>th</sup>: Deadlines</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Start FAFSA/CA Dream Act (Opens Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>)</li> <li>❖ Take standardized test again</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Finish academic year strong</li> <li>❖ Check mail for college letters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 30<sup>th</sup> admission notifications ☺</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Compare Financial Aid packets</li> <li>❖ Notify schools of intent by May 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>❖ Complete enrollment documents</li> </ul>
throughout high school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ College shopping (online and books)</li> <li>❖ Visit college campuses</li> <li>❖ Scholarship applications</li> <li>❖ Get a part time job</li> <li>❖ Practice writing skills</li> <li>❖ Explore career interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Join extracurricular activities</li> <li>❖ Get advice from current college students about experience</li> <li>❖ Organize financial information</li> <li>❖ Visit ScholarMatch and partner with volunteers to make informed decisions</li> </ul>

## COLLEGE AND CAREER RESOURCES

---

### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

1. **The ScholarMatcher:** <https://scholarmatcher.scholarmatch.org>
2. **Big Future by The College Board:** <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
3. **The Common Application:** <https://www.commonapp.org/how-apply>
4. **UC Website:** <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/apply-online/index.html>
5. **CSU Website:** <https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/admissions/Pages/apply-to-the-csu.aspx>
6. **CSU Application Cheat Sheet:**  
<http://www.calstate.edu/sas/publications/documents/applicationbooklet-undergrad.pdf>
7. **Test Optional Schools:** <http://fairtest.org/university/optional/state>

### CAREER

1. **United States Bureau of Labor Statistics:** <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
  - o Great resource for exploring careers, learning about salary, education needed for careers.

### FINANCIAL AID

1. **CSS Profile** (Pg. 6): See which colleges require it here:  
<https://profileonline.collegeboard.org/prf/PXRemotePartInstitutionServlet/PXRemotePartInstitutionServlet.srv>
2. **Federal Student Aid, an Office of the U.S. Department of Education:** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/>
  - o Any Financial Aid questions

**3. AB540 Applicants- Undocumented Students (Pg. 9): <http://e4fc.org/>**

- o Resources for AB540 students

**PROGRAMS**

1. **Equal Opportunity Programs (Pg. 11): <http://www.calstate.edu/sas/eop/>**
2. **Western Undergraduate Exchange: [http://wue.wiche.edu/search\\_results.jsp?searchType=all](http://wue.wiche.edu/search_results.jsp?searchType=all)**

**HELPFUL ARTICLES**

1. **Malcolm Gladwell: [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/02/14/110214fa\\_fact\\_gladwell](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/02/14/110214fa_fact_gladwell)**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. **BigFuture College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-scholarships>**
2. **Fastweb: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)**
3. **Scholarships: [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)**
4. **FinAid: <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>**
5. **Scholarships for AB450/Undocumented Students: <http://e4fc.org/undergraduateresources.html>**