

PREUSS COLLEGE PLANNING HANDBOOK

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PERSONAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING WHERE TO APPLY FOR COLLEGE

There are over 2,600 four-year colleges in the United States – 90 in California alone! How do you decide where to apply, and, once you're admitted, where to attend?

The decision begins and ends with *you*. While you definitely seek advice and ideas from your family, teachers, advisors, and other who know you well, ultimately, the decision of where to apply and attend college will be yours to make. Therefore, the place to start your college search isn't a guidebook or a website, but with *self-evaluation*.

Who are you? It's important to find a school where you can feel comfortable, or at least be able to adapt fairly well. Are you shy or outgoing? Someone who isn't afraid to take calculated risks, or someone who tends to play things safe? Are you comfortable being around people who are very different than you or more at ease with people who are similar to you? How would you describe yourself to someone who didn't know you? How would your best friend describe you?

What do you need to succeed in college? Consider your educational experiences so far. What have you enjoyed most about high school? The least? How strong are you when it comes to the skills necessary to succeed academically – reading, researching, note-taking, organization and time management? Do you need extra support or help such as tutoring in some subjects? Are you the type of student who can work independently or do you need more individual attention and help from your teachers? Are you a self-starter or someone who needs a push every now and then?

What's your admissions profile? What will an admissions officer note when he looks at your high school grades and test scores? How closely do they match the typical admitted student at the colleges and universities you're considering? What do you have to add to a college community? What are your teachers and advisor likely to say about you in their recommendations? What are your strengths and weaknesses as a college applicant?

A word about choosing colleges based on where your friends are applying...As a general rule, always select a college because *it is right for you personally*, not because a friend is also applying or will be attending. If your friend ends up at the same school, great – but don't base your entire college decision (and potentially the rest of your life) solely on where your friends are going.

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING WHERE TO APPLY

Here are some other important factors to consider while researching and comparing colleges:

Admissions selectivity. How many applicants typically apply? What percentage are admitted? What are the Grade Point Averages (GPA) and test scores of those admitted? How do yours compare? Be honest and realistic. While it is fine to aim at a few dream colleges that may be out of reach, a college list that is made up *only* of dream colleges is not a wise plan.

Cost. Every college publishes an estimate of the cost of attendance, including tuition/fees room and board, books, and personal expenses. You can find this information on each college's website. However, keep in mind that the *published* cost of attendance can vary widely from what you may actually *pay* after financial aid and scholarships. So, don't immediately rule out colleges or universities based on their published cost. If a school truly interests you, send in your application, apply for financial aid and merit scholarships, and then make a fully informed decision about what *your* cost will be.

Location. Urban? Suburban? Rural? Cold winters or sunshine year-round? Do you want a school like New York University or San Francisco State where the campus blends right into the urban setting, or a more bucolic setting, such as UC Santa Cruz or Kenyon College, which each have hundreds of acres of trees? Don't forget you are not only selecting a school but also a place to live, so as you investigate colleges, also research what the area surrounding each campus is like. Each school and its location is different, with pluses and minuses.

Distance from home. Do you want to be close to home or in another part of the state or country? How often do you want or expect to visit home? However, before you rule out any geographic area as "too far," do your homework. Colleges that seem far away may offer programs and features that you can't find closer to home. Additionally, distances can be deceiving. Do you know that Arizona State University is closer to Preuss than UC Berkeley, or that you can fly to Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Dallas, and Denver in less than four hours?

Size. The smallest college in the United States has just 24 students; the largest well over 50,000. In between are thousands of different choices. Think carefully about which size might be best for you both academically and socially. There are advantages and disadvantages to all sizes of colleges.

Programs of study. If you already have a specific major or career in mind, make sure that the schools to which you apply have that program. Look at the course catalog and department website to see how many faculty the department has, what courses are offered, how many students major in the program, and any special facilities or resources

the program may offer. This type of information will let you compare programs at various schools. However, keep in mind that a large percentage of students change their major at least once, so don't let the availability or strength of a particular program be your *only* reason for choosing a college. If you're undecided about a major, look for colleges that offer a variety of programs in subjects that interest you, and compare those departments in the same way. You should also investigate the advising services offered so that if you need help picking a major, you will be able to receive it.

Student diversity. How comfortable are you around people who may be very different from you? Diversity doesn't just mean ethnic or racial diversity, but also economic diversity, and even geographic diversity. Some students find being surrounded by many different types of people exciting, while others prefer to be surrounded by more familiar types. College guidebooks can give you some idea of how diverse a particular campus is, both racially and geographically.

The prestige factor. Be careful about adding colleges to your list just because they are "prestigious." If a college or university isn't a fit for you in other ways, prestige in and of itself will not make up for what's lacking. Consider prestige a bonus, not the entire reason for choosing a college.

Campus housing. It's a good idea to consider the percentage of students who live on-campus if you plan to live on-campus yourself. The more students who live in campus housing, the more varied weekend activities are likely to be, and, in some cases, the more cohesive the campus community will feel. If on-campus housing options are limited, you may have to find off-campus housing after your freshman year, so do check about the cost and availability of such accommodations as well.

Academic atmosphere and "campus culture." Just as Preuss has a very different feel than many other high schools, each college and university has its own unique campus culture and academic atmosphere. Some institutions are high-stress pressure-cookers in terms of academic intensity and competitiveness, while others take a more laidback approach. The same is true with the social atmosphere, with some feeling more friendly and social than others. On some campuses, weekends are filled with partying, while on others, there's a quieter and more subdued atmosphere. As you consider your college options, think about these differences and which type of atmosphere is right for you.

TYPES OF COLLEGES

There are various types of colleges and universities to choose from – some students may find one type fits their needs, interests and goals better than another, but all can offer an excellent undergraduate education.

Liberal arts colleges are four-year colleges that focus solely on undergraduate education. Don't let the "arts" in liberal arts fool you into thinking liberal arts colleges are only for arts majors, however. Liberal arts colleges offer majors in a variety of subjects, and many are very strong in the sciences. Examples of liberal arts colleges include Occidental College and Pomona College, both located in California.

Master's universities are universities offering degrees through the Master's level. These schools usually offer some specialized career-focused majors, such as business or engineering, but they do not offer doctoral degrees. Most of the California State University schools are Master's level universities.

Research universities are universities which have a focus on research and education through the doctoral level. They typically offer a large number of majors at the undergraduate level, including some in very specialized academic areas. The University of California schools are classified as research universities.

Specialized colleges and universities are schools that specialize in a particular subject or field. For example, Harvey Mudd College (California), MIT, CalTech, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (NY) specialize in science and engineering education. Babson College and Bentley College in Massachusetts specialize in business education. In California, the California Institute of the Arts offers specialized programs in art, music, dance, and film.

Religiously-affiliated colleges and universities are schools that have a tie to a particular religion. You do not have to be a member of the religion to attend. Some religiously-affiliated schools heavily integrate religious principles and beliefs into the classroom; others do not. In San Diego, Point Loma Nazarene University and the University of San Diego are both religiously-affiliated.

Single sex colleges are all-female or all-male colleges. They can offer leadership and academic opportunities that may not be available in a co-ed environment. Although there are close to 100 all female schools, there are currently only two four year all-male colleges. In California, Mills College and Scripps College are all-female. Deep Springs College, a unique two-year college, is all-male.

Military Academies include West Point (Army), the U.S. Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, as well as other military focused colleges. They offer both career training in preparation for a career in the military and excellent education in more traditional academic areas, especially engineering. Some colleges with a military focus do not require you to pursue a military career after graduation. One example is the California

Maritime Academy, a California State University school focused on engineering and science.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) are schools which have traditionally focused on serving African American and other minority students. They can be excellent choices offering unique leadership and scholarship opportunities. Examples of HBCU's include Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Howard University. For information about HBCU's, go to <http://www.hbcuconnect.com/>

Hispanic-serving Colleges and Universities are colleges and universities where Hispanic students make up 25% or more of the student body. These institutions also make a special commitment to serving Hispanic students, and may offer scholarships, internships, advising and support, and other services specifically for Hispanic students. To find a complete list of Hispanic-serving colleges and universities, go to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) website, and look under the "members" section: www.hacu.net.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGES

1. College websites. The best and most reliable source of information about colleges and universities is often the college's website. In addition to descriptions of individual programs and courses, the college website can give you information about admissions procedures and requirements, student life on campus, and financial aid. Most college websites even have links to the student newspaper, so you can read about campus life from a student's perspective. Don't apply to any college without carefully looking through the school's website!

2. College representatives. Preuss receives many visits from college admissions officers who can answer your questions and give you important insights about the admissions process. These visits will occur mainly in the fall, and will be announced in the student bulletin. Sign up for these presentations in the Advising office. If a representative from a college you're interested in won't be visiting Preuss, keep your eyes open for local college fairs and presentations they may be attending. And, don't be shy – most college representatives welcome email questions from prospective students! You can find the name and email address of the representative for our area on the website of each college.

3. College marketing materials. College catalogs and viewbooks can be great ways to become acquainted with a variety of colleges. We have many catalogs and viewbooks from colleges across the country in the College Corner section of the library. Stop by and see what is available. If you don't see something from a college that interests you, email or write to the school and request a catalog or viewbook. (You can do this through the admissions section of the college website as well).

4. Campus visits. Visiting colleges can help you get a feel for what it will be like to attend college. A number of colleges offer "fly-in" programs for low income and minority students. These are programs where the college will pay your travel expenses. You can also visit schools that are closer on your own. Look on the admissions website of the college for information on how to schedule a campus tour. Even if you can't visit schools that are at a distance, you can learn a lot about what it might be like to attend different types of colleges by taking the campus tour at local colleges here in San Diego. And, if you're applying to a college but can't visit, look on their website for "virtual tours" that can help you get a sense of what the campus looks like.

5. Your teachers and the Advising office. The teachers and advisors at Preuss can be excellent sources of information and advice about which colleges may be right for your needs and interests. Don't be shy about asking for suggestions from your teachers or Mr. Ensberg in Advising! We're here to help you!

6. College guidebooks. College guidebooks can be an excellent way to get a feel for the academic and social atmosphere at individual colleges and universities. Always check the publication date when using guidebooks for admissions statistics and try to use the most recent statistics available. You can find many excellent guidebooks on the shelves of the College Corner in the Preuss Library, in the regular holdings of the Preuss Library, and in

the Advising office. A complete list of the books available here at Preuss is given in the resource section.

7. The Internet. Today, there are literally hundreds of Internet websites where you can find information about individual colleges and the college admissions website. However, keep in mind that not every site on the Internet provides reliable information, and some can be downright misleading. You'll find a list of the most reliable Internet sources in the resource section of this Handbook.

What Colleges Look For In Applicants

Colleges and universities use a number of criteria to decide which applicants to admit to the incoming freshman class. Although the weight placed on these criteria may differ from school to school, most schools will consider the following factors, in order of importance:

Grades: Grades are the single most important factor in the admissions decision.

Colleges believe that a sustained academic effort over a long period of time is the best indicator of perseverance and academic potential, both of which are necessary qualities for success in higher education. As a general rule, your grades in junior year and the first semester of senior year will be the most important ones an admissions committee will consider. The admissions committee will also look at your overall grade trends over your entire high school career. If your grades show consistently good performance over the years, that will be viewed most positively. If your grades have steadily improved from 9th grade, that too will be a plus in your favor. However, if your grades have fluctuated wildly, shown poor performance in one or more academic areas, or shown a steady drop over the years, your admissions chances will be lessened.

Quality of Courses: Along with looking at your grades, admissions will look closely at the quality and rigor of the courses you've taken since 9th grade. Colleges and universities want students who have challenged themselves in high school by taking AP and Honors level classes. They also look favorably on students who take four years of math, science and a foreign language. However, this doesn't mean that earning poor grades in the toughest courses is OK. While you should take the most challenging courses possible, your grades are important as well.

Standardized Test Scores: Your performance on college entrance exams, such as the ACT or SAT, is very important at most colleges and universities. Colleges consider these exams to be *objective* and *standardized* measures of aptitude and achievement. They are a tool colleges will use to compare you to other applicants from high schools all across the country. As a general rule, very large universities rely more heavily on test scores than do smaller schools. About 700 colleges and universities, however, are *test-optional*, meaning they do not require applicants to submit standardized test scores in order to be admitted. For more information on standardized testing, see the testing section of this Handbook.

Extracurricular Activities: Colleges and universities want students who will contribute to the campus community both inside and outside of the classroom. In looking at applications from prospective students, many schools will therefore pay particular attention to how you've contributed in the past. Have you been involved with clubs and organizations at Preuss? Have you played a sport? Have you contributed to your local community in some way? However, keep in mind that *quality* involvement is more important than *quantity*. Genuine involvement over several years including leadership positions (team captain, club president, etc.) is much more impressive to colleges than belonging to many organizations but doing nothing in any of them. Don't forget to spend

your summers wisely as well! Internships, summer programs, even work experience in a paying job are all viewed positively.

Recommendations: Many colleges ask applicants to send recommendation letters from teachers and their advisor describing the student's academic potential and personal characteristics. In some cases, teachers and your advisor may also use the recommendation to explain special circumstances that the admissions committee might need to know about in order to put your application in proper context. For more information about recommendations, see the recommendation section in the Handbook.

Personal Characteristics: Colleges look for people who will bring a spark to their campus, so many will try to get a sense of the personal characteristics applicants might bring. They'll look for evidence that a candidate has overcome adversity, been a good citizen, is self-motivated, and has real intellectual curiosity. Special talents in music, art, or sports may also be considered. Many colleges will ask applicants to interview or write essays as part of the application process for just this reason: They want to know more about you than just your test scores and grades.

Diversity: Many schools want their student bodies to represent a mix of races, ethnic groups and cultures, economic backgrounds and geographic regions. All other factors being equal, you may be a more competitive candidate at a college in Michigan or New York than a similar school in California.

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Once you've decided which colleges and universities interest you, the next step is to apply! In general, most colleges and universities require applicants to complete their applications for admission in the fall of senior year. However, you'll need to plan ahead to make sure you complete all of the components of a successful application.

First, get organized! As you identify colleges where you plan to apply, it's a good idea to keep a list of each school's requirements for standardized tests, application forms and materials, and deadlines – both for applications *and* financial aid. At the back of this Handbook, you'll find a handy College Application Organizer to help you keep track of these details. The Junior/Senior Planning Calendar at the front of this Handbook can also help you stay on top of things. Many students find that it's also a smart idea to start a folder for each college or university they plan to apply to in order to keep all application materials and information for each college organized. The time you spend now getting organized will reduce your stress as you move through the application process!

Deadlines are particularly important when you're applying to college. Colleges and universities are very strict about their application deadlines, and failing to meet them usually means you will not be admitted. Don't assume you can wait until the last minute to send in your application! Rushing to beat the deadline usually means a second-rate effort, and if any last minute problems with your application crop up, you won't have time to fix them. Plan ahead and try to avoid procrastination!

Applications and Admissions Plans: All four-year colleges and universities require students to submit an application for admission. The University of California system and the California State University, use only their own institution-specific application. Many private colleges, as well as public universities in other states, also have their own application.

However, over 300 private colleges also accept what is *the Common Application*, a standard application form that students can use to apply to multiple colleges. Approximately 38 private colleges now also accept the *Universal College Application*. If you decide to apply to colleges that use the Common Application or the Universal College Application, you should know that using it will not affect your admissions chances, and doing so can help minimize your application paperwork.

Increasingly, colleges prefer to receive applications *electronically*, via the Internet. Filing your college applications electronically is a smart idea because it avoids mail delays and also makes it easier to verify that your application has been received. Keep in mind that you can still send supplemental materials – such as a more detailed activity sheet or teacher recommendations – through the mail if you file your application electronically. However, any supplemental materials should be clearly marked with your name and address so the college or university can put it into your application file.

APPLICATION TIMELINES AND TERMS

Colleges use various admissions timelines to review applications and admit students. Generally, admissions plans fall into one of four categories:

Regular admission. You apply by a certain deadline, receive your decision by early April, and make your decision about where to attend by May 1. The University of California system schools all exclusively use regular admissions.

Rolling admission. Under rolling admissions, colleges make and announce admissions decisions as applications come in. You apply and usually receive an admissions decision within two to six weeks from the time you submit your application. Many – but not all – of the California State University system schools are rolling admissions, as are many other institutions. If you are applying to a rolling admissions school, it is usually best to get your application in as soon as the school begins accepting applications (for the Cal States, this is October 1), because there are usually fewer admissions spots still open later in the admissions cycle. If you are admitted at a rolling admission school, you do not have to decide whether to attend until May 1.

Early Action. Under this plan, you apply early in the fall (usually by November 1 or 15). The college will tell you its decision early as well, usually by early to mid-January, but you don't have to decide whether to attend until May 1. This gives you time to compare other admissions and financial aid offers. Most colleges that offer early action plans do not have any restrictions on whether you can apply to other schools under other plans. However, a handful of colleges and universities use what is called *Single Choice Early Action*. Under Single Choice Early Action, you can only apply early to one school. You can, however, still apply under rolling admissions or regular decision plans.

Early Decision. Early decision is a “binding” admissions program, so it is particularly important to understand how it works and to be absolutely sure that you want to enroll at that college. As with Early Action plans, you submit your application early in the fall, and receive an admissions decision in either December or early January. However, if you apply under Early Decision, you promise that you will attend if admitted, and that you will also withdraw all applications from other colleges. Additionally, you can only apply to one school using Early Decision. A handful of colleges also restrict Early Decision applicants from applying Early Action anywhere. If you are accepted through Early Decision, you must submit your enrollment deposit within a few weeks of acceptance. You can only be released from an Early Decision admission if the college is unable to meet your demonstrated financial need. An important disadvantage of Early Decision is that you can not compare financial aid packages from other colleges – if the college meets your family's demonstrated need, you must attend, even if you might have received more money or less loans elsewhere.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ADMISSIONS

Campuses: There are eight campuses in the University of California System: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz. A description of each campus, plus details about admissions, can be found at www.ucop.edu/pathways

Application deadlines: The University of California accepts freshman applications between November 1 and November 30. Notification is typically by late March.

How to apply to the University of California:

1. Prepare and proofread your UC Personal Statement (see below)
2. Have either your SAT or your ACT scores sent to all UC campuses where you plan to apply. To send SAT scores, go to www.collegeboard.org. To order ACT scores, go to www.actstudent.org. **The last date that you can take and submit test scores to the UC's is December, 2007.** Wise students will order them sent as soon as they complete testing.
3. **Between November 1 and November 30**, complete and submit the UC application online at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu>. Tip: Review the tutorial before working on your “real” application – it will make applying easier! As you complete the application, also apply for all UC scholarships you want to be considered for.
4. **Application fees.** There is a \$60 application fee for every UC where you apply. However, when you do the online application, the system will determine automatically if you are eligible for a fee waiver based on your family income. If you are eligible, you will receive fee waivers for **up to four** UC campuses.
5. **Check your email regularly after you apply!** Each UC campus will send you important information and updates about the status of your application.
6. **Apply for Financial Aid. After January 1**, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have it sent to each UC campus where you applied. Although the deadline for applying for UC financial aid is March 2, **the earlier you send in your FAFSA, the better your chances of a good financial aid package.** Don't wait for the last minute!

University of California Admissions requirements: There are three paths to admission to the University of California. Further details can be found at www.ucop.edu/pathways.

1. Eligibility in the statewide context. Students must complete specific course work (known as A-G requirements), the SAT or ACT and two SAT Subject exams, and meet GPA and test score minimums. The minimum GPA is a 3.0 based on the completion of UC-approved courses in 10th and 11th grades. You can check to see if you have met the **minimum** GPA and test score requirements for UC admissions at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu>
2. Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)). Fully eligible ELC students are guaranteed a spot at one of UC's undergraduate campuses, though not necessarily at their first-choice campus. Students must rank in the top 4 percent of their graduating class based on grades in UC-approved coursework completed in 10th and 11th grades, and complete specific yearlong courses by the end of junior year. If you are ELC, you will be notified by the University at the start of senior year.
3. Eligibility by examination alone. You may also qualify for admission to the University by earning high scores on the ACT plus writing exam or SAT exam, and two SAT Subject Tests. To qualify this way, you must have a minimum UC Score Total of 410, and a UC Score of 63 on each component of the ACT, SAT and Subject Tests.

In addition to these pathways to admissions, the University of California uses what is called comprehensive review to decide which eligible students will be admitted to the University, and to which campus. Comprehensive Review takes a variety of factors into account, and each individual campuses uses a slightly different weighting for the factors. Your extracurriculars and essays will be examined closely as part of the Comprehensive Review process.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PERSONAL STATEMENT

All freshman applicants to the University of California system must write two essays answering the following prompts:

Prompt #1

Describe the world you come from – for example, your family, community or school – and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

Prompt #2

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

-- You have a maximum of 1,000 words to answer **both** prompts, but you may allocate the word count as you wish. However, if you decide to use more words for one prompt, your shorter answer should be no less than 250 words.

-- There is also an optional “Additional Information” section where you can add important information about yourself or your background not covered elsewhere in your application. **However, this space is NOT meant to be an additional essay!** Some examples of information you might include here: special challenges you have faced that were not mentioned in your main Personal Statement, a brief summary of a special talent or activity that you could not include on your application, administrative details, such as course scheduling choices that were beyond your control. Maximum 500 words.

Tips and Techniques On The Personal Statement from the University of California:

Start early.

Allow time for reflection, thoughtful preparation, and revision.

Choose a topic for each essay.

Look critically at the information in your application: your grades, awards, activities and work experience, family and income. Anticipate questions an admissions evaluator will have after reading your application. The personal statement is your opportunity to answer those questions.

Compose your personal statement in a word-processing program.

Don't type it directly into the application. This way, you will have the opportunity to print copies for review.

Write in a natural style.

Present your information and ideas in a focused, thoughtful and meaningful manner. Support your ideas with specific examples. A personal statement that is simply a list of qualities or accomplishments is usually not persuasive.

Proofread.

In addition to checking your spelling, be sure your grammar is correct and your essays read smoothly.

Solicit feedback.

Your personal statement should reflect your own ideas and be written by you alone, but others--family and teachers--can offer valuable suggestions.

Copy and paste.

Once you are satisfied with your essays, save them in plain text (ASCII) and paste them into the space provided in the application. Proofread once more to make sure no odd characters or line breaks have appeared. (If you submit a paper application, attach a copy of your personal statements. In the upper right corner of each page, write your name and date of birth, and the words "Personal Statement.")

Ask advice of whomever you like, but do not plagiarize from sources in print or online, and do not use anyone's published words but your own.

Required "A - G" Courses

a | History/Social Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED

Two years of history/social science, including one year of world 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.

b | English – 4 YEARS REQUIRED

Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement.

c | Mathematics – 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades that your high school accepts as equivalent to its own math courses.

d | Laboratory Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics. Advanced laboratory science classes that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to fulfill this requirement. The final two years of an approved three-year integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement.

e | Language Other than English – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. Courses in languages other than English taken in the seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if your high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.

f | Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 YEAR REQUIRED

A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art.

g | College Preparatory Electives – 1 YEAR REQUIRED

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in "a-f" above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the "e" requirement or two years of another language).

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

Campuses: There are twenty-three campuses in the California State University system, ranging in size from 828 students at the California Maritime Academy to over 32,000 students at San Diego State University. Descriptions of each campus, plus details about admissions, can be found at www.CSUmentor.edu

Application deadlines: The California State University begins accepting freshman applicants on October 1. Many CSU's will continue to take applicants until the spring, but several CSU campuses, including San Diego State University and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo have a November 30 application deadline. At other campuses, certain majors and programs may have early deadlines as well. Be sure to check the deadlines of each campus AND major you are applying to at CSUmentor.com. The majority of CSUs make admissions decisions on a rolling basis, so the sooner you apply after October 1, the better your chances.

How to apply to the California State University:

1. Check the application deadlines for all campuses where you plan to apply. Try to apply as soon as possible after October 1. Some
2. If you have a 3.0 GPA in 10th and 11th A-G courses (named the "UC GPA" on your Preuss Transcript), you do not need to submit standardized test scores to the Cal State schools. If your GPA is below 3.0, you need to have your test scores sent before an admissions decision will be made.
3. Apply online at CSUmentor.edu. There are no essays required for the California State University. It will be helpful to have a copy of your Preuss transcript on hand when completing the CSU application.
4. There is a \$55 application fee for each CSU campus. However, if you apply online, the CSU system will automatically determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver based on family income.

CAL STATE ELIBILITY INDEX

Eligibility Index Table for Residents of California or Graduates of California High Schools								
GPA	ACT Score	SAT Score	GPA	ACT Score	SAT Score	GPA	ACT Score	SAT Score
<i>3.0 and above qualifies for any score</i>								
2.99	10	510	2.66	17	780	2.33	23	1040
2.98	10	520	2.65	17	780	2.32	23	1050
2.97	10	530	2.64	17	790	2.31	24	1060
2.96	11	540	2.63	17	800	2.30	24	1060

2.95	11	540	2.62	17	810	2.29	24	1070
2.94	11	550	2.61	18	820	2.28	24	1080
2.93	11	560	2.60	18	820	2.27	24	1090
2.92	11	570	2.59	18	830	2.26	25	1100
2.91	12	580	2.58	18	840	2.25	25	1100
2.90	12	580	2.57	18	850	2.24	25	1110
2.89	12	590	2.56	18	860	2.23	25	1120
2.88	12	600	2.55	19	860	2.22	25	1130
2.87	12	610	2.54	19	870	2.21	26	1140
2.86	13	620	2.53	19	880	2.20	26	1140
2.85	13	620	2.52	19	890	2.19	26	1150
2.84	13	630	2.51	20	900	2.18	26	1160
2.83	13	640	2.50	20	900	2.17	26	1170
2.82	13	650	2.49	20	910	2.16	27	1180
2.81	14	660	2.48	20	920	2.15	27	1180
2.80	14	660	2.47	20	930	2.14	27	1190
2.79	14	670	2.46	21	940	2.13	27	1200
2.78	14	680	2.45	21	940	2.12	27	1210
2.77	14	690	2.44	21	950	2.11	28	1220
2.76	15	700	2.43	21	960	2.10	28	1220
2.75	15	700	2.42	21	970	2.09	28	1230
2.74	15	710	2.41	22	980	2.08	28	1240
2.73	15	720	2.40	22	980	2.07	28	1250
2.72	15	730	2.39	22	990	2.06	29	1260
2.71	16	740	2.38	22	1000	2.05	29	1260
2.70	16	740	2.37	22	1010	2.04	29	1270
2.69	16	750	2.36	23	1020	2.03	29	1280
2.68	16	760	2.35	23	1020	2.02	29	1290
2.67	16	770	2.34	23	1030	2.01	30	1300
						2.00	30	1300

*Below 2.0 does not qualify for regular admission
For admissions purposes, the CSU uses only the SAT scores for mathematics and critical reading.*

FINANCIAL AID BASICS

College is possible for all students, regardless of family income or assets, thanks to financial support programs available from the Federal and State Governments, colleges and universities themselves, and a variety of other sources.

There are four basic types of need-based financial assistance:

1. Grants – Federal, state or institutional assistance with no obligation for work or repayment
2. Loans – Student loans allow students to meet the cost of attending college now and repay those costs once they are in the workforce
3. Work Study – Work study is a part-time work program to help students meet college costs.
4. Achievement based scholarships – Unlike the first three sources of financial assistance, achievement based scholarships are not awarded based on a family's financial need, but rather on the special accomplishments and talents of the student. These scholarships can come from many sources, but the largest source of achievement-based scholarships are colleges and universities themselves.

A word about student loans: Many students and families hesitate to take student loans to attend college. While it is true that taking on too much debt is not a good idea, borrowing a *reasonable* amount to finance your education is a solid investment in your future. In the resource section of the Handbook, you'll find helpful sources of information to help you decide what amount of student loans are right for you and your family.

In order to receive financial assistance for college, families must apply for financial aid. There are several steps to this process. The first is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All colleges require the FAFSA if you are applying for financial aid. For the UC and Cal State system, the FAFSA is the only application for financial aid required. It is completed after January 1 of the year you apply for admission, as well as every year you plan to attend. To learn more about the FAFSA and financial assistance sources, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov

Families can get an idea of how much your family will be expected to pay, and what your financial aid package may be, by using the U.S. Department of Education's Financial Aid Forecaster at <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/fafsa4caster.html>

Some private colleges request additional applications for financial aid, including the CSS Profile and, in some cases, institution specific applications as well.

Aid form process takes teamwork

The Republican (Springfield, MA) Tuesday, September 12, 2006

By EDWARD CIOSEK
Springfield College

Those of us who work in the field of college financial aid often wonder why so many families struggle with what seems to us to be a straightforward process. You fill out the forms, send your most recent federal tax return to the college, and wait for the award letter to arrive.

What could be simpler? It was not until the first of my two children applied to college that I gained a deeper appreciation for the frustrations of applying for financial aid.

With this experience still fresh, here are my tips for smoothing out the aid application process and, hopefully, reducing the stress that inevitably occurs when the topics of money and forms are combined. First, make this a family project. After all, financial aid benefits both the parent(s) and the student, even though aid is awarded to the student.

Students can help by obtaining financial aid information from the colleges to which they are applying. All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the student's gateway to all federal grants and loans.

Most states use the FAFSA to award their money, and some colleges and universities also use this as their only aid application.

Today, most families complete the FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> The online version has the advantages of getting the information to the colleges quicker, and reducing the number of potential errors because there is a built in check for common mistakes.

Remember, there is no charge to file the FAFSA. What do you need to have on hand before wading into the FAFSA? Your most recent federal tax return and W-2s, and figures for the value of your savings and investments (not including the value of retirement accounts), and the net value of real estate you own.

Do not include the value of your primary residence. You also should know the amounts of any child support you receive, as well as any child support you pay. If you receive Social Security benefits, aid from the state for dependent children, or any other untaxed income, you will need to include this.

The FAFSA cannot be completed before January 1st and some deadlines for aid may arrive before you have your federal tax return completed, but do not despair. If your financial situation is basically the same as the previous year, it is perfectly acceptable to estimate based upon last year's tax return. Later, you may correct any glaring errors.

If yours is a "blended" family, the FAFSA questions on family size may pose a challenge. The student's custodial parent should complete the FAFSA. If that parent has remarried, the stepparent's financial information is also required.

In these situations, the federal government defines the family as the custodial parent, that parent's spouse, and any dependents for whom they provide more than 50 percent of support.

It does not matter what a divorce decree may say about paying for college, the federal definition of who completes the FAFSA rules.

Once the FAFSA has been safely sent through cyberspace, are you done? As with most questions about financial aid, the answer is, it depends. Some states and many colleges require that you complete their own applications for financial aid.

Check with them or your child's high school guidance office. Some colleges require the College Board's PROFILE application, which delves a little deeper into the family's financial strength. It is available at <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>.

The College Board charges a fee for processing this application. If, after you have completed your aid applications, you have a major change in your financial situation because of unemployment, health issues, unexpected medical bills, or other unforeseen financial hardships, you should immediately inform the college's financial aid office.

They may be able to adjust your student's financial aid. They will ask for documentation, so be prepared with copies of your last pay stub, unemployment benefits, or medical bills.

The application process I have described is for aid based on a student's financial need. Many colleges also offer scholarships based on academics, athletic ability, or other qualities that the institution desires in a prospective student.

Check with individual colleges for any of these "non-need based" scholarships. Aid is also available from sources in your community. Your high school guidance office will have applications for local scholarships.

In western Massachusetts, applying to the Community Foundation of WMASS is a good start. Look them up at <http://www.communityfoundation.org/scholarships/>. Other good resources online are <http://www.finaid.org> and <http://www.collegeboard.com/>. Remember, if you pay the financial aid process the proper attention, you will have given yourself every opportunity for obtaining the assistance to finance your child's college education.

In four years when your son/daughter walks across that stage to receive their diploma, it will all be worth it.

Ed Ciosek is director of financial aid at Springfield College.

CAL GRANTS

These are FREE grants from the state for all eligible students. There is *no cost* to apply, and *you do not have to pay the money back*. For more details, visit the California Student Aid Commission website at <http://www.csac.ca.gov> OR call toll free: 888-CA GRANT. By mail: California Student Aid Commission, Student Support Services, P.O. Box 419077, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9077

Cal Grant A Entitlement Award

Eligibility: Have a 3.0 GPA or higher and meet the basic Cal Grant eligibility and financial requirements (see below)

Type of school where it can be used: Any four-year college in California

Amount: Covers up to the full fees of \$2,334 at California State University schools and \$5,684 at University of California schools. At private colleges, Cal Grant A pays up to \$8,322 towards tuition and fees.

How to apply: Submit your Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) and your Cal Grant GPA verification form by March 2.

Additional information: If you receive a Cal Grant A but attend a California Community College first, you can hold your Cal Grant A award to use when you transfer to a four-year college, so if you meet the requirements, apply now even if you plan to attend community college first. Non-traditional students who do not qualify for the Cal Grant A Entitlement but who had at least a 3.0 GPA in high school may apply for a Cal Grant A Competitive Award, which is awarded based on additional considerations.

Cal Grant B Entitlement Award

Eligibility: Have a minimum 2.0 GPA and meet the basic Cal Grant eligibility and financial requirements (see below)

Type of school where it can be used: Any four-year college in California

Amount: Provides an allowance of up to \$1,551 for books and living expenses in your freshman year. After freshman year, also pays tuition and fees in the same amount as a Cal Grant A.

How to apply: Submit your Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) and your Cal Grant GPA verification form by March 2.

Additional information: If you receive a Cal Grant B but decide to attend a California Community College first, you can hold your Cal Grant B award to use when you transfer to a four-year college so if you meet the requirements, apply now even if you plan to attend community college first. Non-traditional students who do not qualify for the Cal Grant B Entitlement but who had at least a 3.0 GPA in high school may apply for a Cal Grant B Competitive Award, which is awarded based on additional considerations.

Cal Grant C

Eligibility: Meet the basic Cal Grant eligibility and financial requirements (see below)

Type of school where it can be used: Any approved occupational or vocational program, see details at <http://www.csa.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=924>

Amount: Up to \$576 for books, tools and equipment needed for training at occupational or career colleges. You may also receive up to an additional \$2,592 for tuition for vocational training at a school other than a California Community College.

How to apply: Submit your Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) and your Cal Grant GPA verification form by March 2.

CAL GRANT BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIRMENTS:

Check that you meet these basic eligibility requirements:

- You will graduate from high school or receive your GED in 2006 or 2007
- You're a California resident AND U.S. citizen or eligible non-resident
- Plan to attend a qualifying California college, community college or vocational school at least half-time
- You do not owe any federal or state grant refund and you are not in default on any student loan

CAL GRANT FAMILY AND ASSET CEILINGS:

2006-2007 Cal Grant Family Income Ceilings for dependent students and independent students with dependents other than a spouse:

	Cal Grant A and C	Cal Grant B
Family size:		
Six or more	\$83,600	\$45,900
Five	\$77,500	\$42,500
Four	\$72,300	\$34,200
Three	\$66,500	\$34,200
Two	\$65,000	\$26,500

Independent students, no dependents and married students: see www.csa.ca.gov for details

2006-2007 Cal Grant Family Asset Ceilings

	Cal Grant A and B	Cal Grant B
Dependent Students	\$55,900	\$55,900
Independent Students*	\$26,600	\$26,000

***including those with a dependent other than a spouse**

PRIORITY FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES

Some universities and colleges have Priority Financial Aid Deadlines. At these colleges, if you file your financial aid paperwork with the college on or before the deadline, you will maximize your chances of getting the best financial aid package. Some Priority Deadlines are as early as January 15! Therefore, it's important to double check the financial aid deadlines of every college you apply to! Even if a college does not specify a Priority Deadline, it is always best to get your financial aid applications completed as soon as possible after January 1. **Do not** wait to be admitted!

Many private colleges, including several in California, also require students applying for financial aid to complete **both** the FAFSA and the CSS Profile. Some scholarship programs also require the CSS Profile. You can find a complete list of colleges that require the CSS Profile at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>

Here's a **partial** list of Priority Deadlines for selected universities. Remember: Check with all colleges you have applied to!

COLLEGE	CSS PROFILE?	PRIORITY DEADLINE
Boston College	Yes	Feb. 1
Boston University	Yes	Feb. 15
Calif. State University	No	As soon as possible after
		Jan. 1, no later than March 2
Carnegie Mellon	requires own app.	--
Columbia University	Yes	March 1
Cornell	Yes	March 15
Duke University	Yes	March 1
Harvard University	Yes	Feb. 1
Loyola Marymount	Yes	March 2
Oberlin College	Yes	Feb. 15
Pomona College	Yes	Feb. 1
Princeton	Yes	March 1
Santa Clara University	Yes	Feb. 1
Stanford University	Yes	Feb. 1
Syracuse University	Yes	Feb. 1
University of Calif.	No	As soon as possible after
		Jan. 1, no later than March 2
University of Southern California	Yes	Jan. 19
Yale University	Yes	March 1

Ten tips to scholarships

Anne Ryman

Dec. 17, 2006 Arizona Republic

Applying for college scholarships can be overwhelming.

The sheer number of scholarships out there makes the process even more confusing. Be prepared to invest time researching or you may waste time applying for awards that your teen has little chance of getting.

"Scholarships are like a part-time job. It takes a lot of work," said Saroj Jagernauth, counseling department chair at Deer Valley Unified's Sandra Day O'Connor High School.

Here are 10 tips to help navigate the scholarship field:

1. Where to start. Begin at the colleges or universities where your teen plans to apply. Find out what they offer. Many list scholarships on their Web sites, but don't be afraid to call the admissions office and ask, Jagernauth said. Admissions officers often will have suggestions. "A lot of families are scared to exercise their options, but the best thing they can do is (call) the university," she said.

2. Read the fine print. Find out what the scholarship's qualifications are. If the minimum grade point average is 3.0 and your teen falls below, you likely will waste your time. If the scholarship requires a track record of volunteering, and your teen is only just starting to ladle soup in the soup kitchen, it's unlikely he will get the award, said Richard Montauk, a Boston-based college consultant and author of *How to Get Into the Top Colleges*.

3. More is better. Don't pin hopes on one or two applications or you may be disappointed, Montauk said. It's sometimes difficult to tell what your chances are when applying for a scholarship. Some groups will publish the number of applicants, and the number of scholarships awarded the previous year, but not all do.

Montauk said it's OK to call the scholarship organization and ask how many people applied last year and how many scholarships were given.

4. Local vs. national. If you're pressed for time, it may be best to concentrate on local scholarships and those offered by colleges. Any groups you are affiliated with such as Rotary, Lions Club, religious, union or professional organizations may offer college scholarships. Check with your employer's human resources department to see if your company offers scholarships.

5. Remember your teen's strengths. If your teen is an ace student, focus on merit scholarships. If your daughter is an outstanding volleyball player, think athletic scholarships. If your son works at a fast-food restaurant, check to see if the company gives scholarships. If you served in the military, check into military scholarships.

6. Be careful of paid scholarship services. If a Web site wants money to search for scholarships, think twice, Montauk said. There are plenty of free Web sites such as www.fastweb.com that will search for free.

7. Don't forget federal aid. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, even if you think you make too much money to qualify. You have nothing to lose by filling out the form.

8. Consider the time involved vs. the possible payoff. Some scholarship applications are simple and require only a few minutes. Others require essays and recommendation letters and interviews. If it's a big-money scholarship, it may be worth your time. If not, you may want to reconsider.

9. Don't forget deadlines. Scholarship deadlines vary, so put the individual deadlines on your calendar so you won't miss out. Some scholarships require recommendation letters from teachers or counselors, and it's best to give these people two weeks' notice, Jagernauth said. When you ask for a recommendation, give the teacher a short written biography of the teen so the teacher can personalize the letter.

10. Ready to fill out forms. You will save time and frustration if you gather tax forms, your teen's resume, any recommendation letters and essays ahead of time.

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1217edscholarship1217.html>

COLLEGE INFORMATION RESOURCES

Research Resources

Guidebooks and publications

On the College Shelf in the Preuss Library:

Catalogs and viewbooks for many colleges. California colleges are located on the top shelf.

The College Finder, Steven Antonoff – Excellent book of college hunting lists
Colleges That Change Lives, Loren Pope – In-depth reviews of smaller colleges that are particularly supportive of students
College Prowler Guide California Colleges (College Prowler) (2006) – Detailed information and student reviews of many California Colleges
College Prowler Guide to New England Colleges – Detailed information and student reviews of many New England colleges.
College Prowler Guides for: Duke, Carnegie Mellon, University of North Carolina, Emory, and the University of Virginia
The Fiske Guide (2005 & 2003) – The “College Bible.” Excellent non-biased reviews of hundreds of colleges
Harvard Schmarvard – Book with a list of “hidden gem” colleges at the back
The Insider’s Guide to The Colleges (2007 and 2004 editions) – Reviews of college life on many campuses
The Princeton Review Guide to the Best Colleges – Similar to the *Fiske Guide*
The Students’ Guide to Colleges (2006) – Student written reviews of many colleges
SparkCollege 57 Great Colleges in California – Guidebook with brief reviews of 57 California Colleges

Other Guidebooks in the Preuss Library:

General circulation (call: 378.1)

America’s Best Colleges for B Students (2005) – Terrific options for B/C students
America’s Best Value Colleges (2007) – Colleges that offer good financial aid, or are low cost
Finding the College that’s Right For You, (2005) – Reviews of “hidden gem” colleges

Reference Shelf (call 378.1)

Choosing the Right College (ISI Guide), (2003)
Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities (2000)
Fiske Guide to Colleges (2003)
Kaplan’s Guide to The Best Colleges, (2003)
Peterson’s Four Year Colleges, (2003)
Peterson’s Colleges in the West (2003)

Internet Resources

General Information on Colleges and Universities

- University of California System: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions
- California State University System: www.CSUmentor.edu
- California independent (private) colleges and universities: <http://www.aiccentor.org>
- California colleges and universities: <http://www.californiacolleges.edu>
- California Community Colleges: <http://www.cccco.edu>

- College Opportunities Online: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/>
- College Board (testing PLUS admissions and financial aid info) www.collegeboard.org
- Princeton Review (reviews of colleges) www.princetonreview.com
- Colleges that Change Lives (reviews of small independent colleges known for providing quality education): www.ctcl.com
- Online campus tours of various colleges and universities: <http://www.campustours.com>

- Programs and scholarships for students who will be the first in their family to attend college: <http://www.firstinthefamily.org/resources/>

Applying to College – Help and Advice

- Advice on applying to college for students who will be the first in their family to attend college: <http://www.firstinthefamily.org/>
- Advice on finding the right college and applying to college: www.AdmissionsAdvice.com
- Colleges that waive application fees if you apply online or under other special circumstances (no extra forms necessary): <http://www.porcelina.net/freeapps/about.html>
- List of schools that will grant fee waivers for applications if you have a fee waiver for the SAT: <http://click.collegeboard.com/3881564.53521.0.14190>

Online Applications (private colleges)

- Common Application: www.commonapp.org
- Universal College Application: www.universalcollegeapp.org

Financial Aid

- U.S. Department of Education Financial Aid Portal for Students.. <http://studentaid.ed.gov/>
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- FAFSA online calculator – see how much federal financial aid your family is eligible to receive: <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/>
- The CSS Profile (private colleges) <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>
- *Cash For College* – Excellent summary of financial aid topics and questions from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) <http://www.nasfaa.org/subhomes/cash4college/index2.html>
- *Making College Affordable* – guidebook to financial aid and scholarships <http://www.tericollegeaccess.org/misc/afford.html>

Scholarships

- US Federal Government Career Net Scholarship Search Engine
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/scholarshipsearch/ScholarshipCategory.asp?searchtype=category&nodeid=22>
- College Board's Scholarship search engine
http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp
- Black Excel's List of 200 Scholarships for Minorities: <http://www.blackexcel.org/200-Scholarships.html>
- FastWeb <http://www.fastweb.com/>
Extensive database of scholarship opportunities, must register to access.
- Free Scholarship Search Information Website <http://freschinfo.com/>
- Broke Scholar <http://scholarships.brokescholar.com/>
- Go College <http://www.gocollege.com/>
- ScienceNet Minority Scholarship list:
<http://www.cse.emory.edu/sciencenet/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- Scholarships for college bound high school seniors
<http://scholarships.fatomei.com/college.html>
- Scholarship Resource Network – Searchable database of private merit scholarships. Registration required. <http://www.srnexpress.com>

Special Interests/Needs

- The top 100 colleges and universities for Hispanic students (from Hispanic Education Outlook): http://www.hispanicoutlook.com/top100_focus.htm?section=b
- Hispanic Magazine's Ranking of the top 25 colleges for Latino Students:
<http://www.hispaniconline.com/magazine/2006/march/features/colleges.html>
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute college planning resources for Latino students:
<http://www.chci.org/chciyouth/>
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) <http://www.hacu.net/>
- Black Excel is a website offering information on colleges, scholarships, and the admissions process for African American students: www.blackexcell.org
- HBCU-Central is offers a searchable database of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU): <http://www.hbcu-central>
- The HBCU Network: <http://www.hbcunetwork.com>

Religiously-Affiliated Colleges & Universities:

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (evangelical Christian colleges):

<http://www.cconsortium.org>

The National Catholic College Admissions Association:

<http://www.catholiccollegesonline.org/>

Lutheran Colleges: <http://www.collegevalue.org>

Methodist: <http://gbem.org/gbhem/colleges.html>

Baptist: <http://www.baptistschools.org>

Muslim Student National Association: <http://www.msa-national.org>

Specific Majors:

Engineering (searchable database of engineering programs: www.tryengineering.com)

Science and engineering majors: www.careercornerstone.org

Computer science: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

<http://www.acm.org/education/curricula.html>

The American Chemical Association's Committee on Professional Training:

<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=education\cpt\programs.html>

Physics: The American Institute of Physics:

<http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/undergradtrends.html>

The American Association of Physics Teachers' National Task Force on Undergraduate

Physics <http://www.aapt.org/projects/ntfup.cfm>

The Environmental Science Education Directory: <http://www.enviroeducation.com>

Nursing: Peterson's Undergraduate Nursing Search engine:

http://www.petersons.com/nursing/ug_code/ug-search.asp?sponsor=1

Pharmacy: American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (main accrediting agency),

<http://www.aacp.org/>

Creative Writing majors:

<http://www.awpwriter.org/bookshelf/guide.htm>

Journalism and communications: The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

<http://www.ku.edu/~acejmc/STUDENT/PROGLIST.SHTML>

Advertising: <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/%7Ew481504/wsig/stateindex.html>

Business: Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

<http://www.aacsb.edu/accreditation/accreditedmembers.asp>

Architecture: National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)

http://www.naab.org/cal_cat1724/cal_cat.htm

Psychology Department websites: <http://psych.hanover.edu/Krantz/other.html>

Political Science:

http://www.top20directory.com/Top/Science/Social_Sciences/Political_Science/Academic_Departments/North_America/United_States

Film & Cinema: reviews of film school programs from actual students.

<http://filmmaker.com/reviews.html>

Art & Performing arts (including film): Peterson's visual/performing arts search engine:

<http://www.petersons.com/vpa/vpsector.asp?path=ug.fas.visual>

Computer Game Design: www.igda.org

PREUSS JUNIOR-SENIOR COLLEGE PLANNING & ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

January of Junior Year

- ✓ Review your PSAT results and study the materials that come with them. Sign on to <http://www.collegeboard.com/PSATextra> for additional information about your results.
- ✓ If you plan to take the ACT exam in February, register at www.actstudent.org
- ✓ Begin thinking about your college preferences. Do you want a large, small or medium sized college? Do you want to stay in California or explore options in other parts of the country? What are you interested in studying in college?
- ✓ Work hard in all of your classes – Junior year grades are the most important ones for college! If you need extra help, seek it out.

February

- ✓ Register for the March SAT online at www.collegeboard.com. See Mr. Ensberg about a fee waiver if necessary.
- ✓ Continue to think about your college preferences, and begin to use various resources such as the Internet, the library, and the college advising office to find information on colleges that interest you.
- ✓ Get organized! Sign on to the College Path website (<https://uccp.collegepath.org/>) and explore the resources it offers, such as a UC course folder, a place to record your activities and accomplishments, and even free online test prep resources.
- ✓ Complete the “College Preferences” questionnaire and return it to Mr. Ensberg.
- ✓ Research interesting and challenging summer courses, internships, jobs or activities. They demonstrate your maturity and seriousness in pursuing your interests. See the college advising office for suggestions.
- ✓ Work hard in all of your classes – Junior year grades are the most important ones for college! If you need extra help, seek it out.

March

- ✓ Take the March SAT. Register for the April ACT.
- ✓ Meet with your advisor to begin preparing a list of 10-20 colleges to explore further. Contact colleges that interest you and ask for a copy of their guidebook.
- ✓ Research interesting and challenging summer courses, internships, jobs or activities. See the college advising office for suggestions.
- ✓ Make plans to attend the San Diego NACAC College Fair in April.
- ✓ Work hard in all of your classes – Junior year grades are the most important ones for college! If you need extra help, seek it out.

April- Junior year

- ✓ Take the ACT. Register for the May SAT or SAT Subject tests. Begin studying for AP exams.
- ✓ Attend the San Diego NACAC College Fair.
- ✓ Get organized! Sign on to the College Path website (<https://uccp.collegepath.org/>) and explore the resources it offers, such as a UC course folder, a place to record your activities and accomplishments, and even free online test prep resources.
- ✓ Continue to research colleges that interest you. Remember, a good college list includes foundation schools (those likely to admit you), structure schools (those where you have a good shot at admissions) and ceiling schools (those that may be more difficult to be admitted to). Talk with your college advisor about where the colleges that interest you may fall.
- ✓ Apply for summer internships and programs.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in all of your classes – Junior year grades are the most important ones for college! If you need extra help, seek it out.

May

- ✓ Take the SAT or SAT Subject exams, as well as AP exams as appropriate.
- ✓ Register to take the SAT or SAT Subject exams in June as appropriate.
- ✓ Narrow your college list. Try to visit some local colleges such as San Diego State, the University of San Diego, and UCSD. Call admissions and ask about taking a formal tour of campus.
- ✓ Get organized! Now is the perfect time to set up an organization system for your college applications. Sign on to www.collegeboard.com.
- ✓ Register at the Common Application website, www.commonapp.org, and look at the types of questions colleges ask on applications and recommendation forms.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in all of your classes – Junior year grades are the most important ones for college! If you need extra help, seek it out.

June

- ✓ Take the SAT or SAT Subject exams.
- ✓ Continue to narrow and research your college list.
- ✓ End the year with flying colors by studying hard for finals!

Summer

- ✓ Contact all colleges that interest you and find out their application requirements.
- ✓ Visit colleges if possible. If not, use online resources to gather information.
- ✓ Work on rough drafts of college essays and your activity resume.
- ✓ If you haven't done so already, get organized! Sign on to the College Path website (<https://uccp.collegepath.org/>) and explore the resources it offers, such as a UC course folder, a place to record your activities and accomplishments, and even free online test prep resources.
- ✓ Register to take the September ACT.

SENIOR YEAR CALENDAR

September

- ✓ Begin to finalize your college list. Remember that a good college list should include 2-3 colleges you are highly likely to be admitted to, 3-4 colleges you have a good chance of being admitted to, and 2-3 colleges that are stretches in terms of your admissions chances. If you need help determining where the colleges you're interested in fall, talk with Mr. Ensberg.
- ✓ Ask the office for a copy of your transcript. It will be useful in completing applications.
- ✓ College representatives will visit Preuss. Attend any presentations that interest you.
- ✓ Ask teachers if they will be willing to write recommendations for you for the colleges that require them (The University of California and California State Schools do not). Download the necessary forms and get them to your teacher and Mr. Ensberg as soon as possible.
- ✓ Register to take the SAT or SAT Subject exams in October (last test date for the University of California and California State Schools, or if you will be applying early action or early decision).
- ✓ Confirm application requirements and application and financial aid deadlines for every college on your list. Make a calendar showing all of them.
- ✓ Work on your college essays and your activity resume.
- ✓ Sign on to the Common Application website (www.commonapp.org) and look at the types of questions college applications will ask.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – your grades this semester will be very important!

October

- ✓ California State University schools begin accepting applications October 1. The sooner you apply after October 1, the better your chances. Some Cal States will only accept applications until November 30. Check the CSU Mentor website, www.csumentor.org, to check the deadlines for the schools you plan to apply to.
- ✓ University of California schools will accept applications between November 1 and November 30. Finish your UC essays this month, and ask a teacher to proofread them.
- ✓ If you will be applying early action or early decision, many schools will have deadlines in early November. Finish your essays and applications for early admissions schools this month.
- ✓ Take the October SAT or SAT Subject exams. This is your last test date for the University of California and California State schools. Remember to have the College Board send your test scores to every school where you will be applying.
- ✓ If you haven't already done so, ask teachers if they will be willing to write recommendations and give them the necessary forms.
- ✓ Schedule local interviews with colleges that offer them.

- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – your grades this semester will be very important!

November – senior year

- ✓ University of California schools begin accepting applications November 1. Last day to apply to the University of California is November 30. Get your applications finished and sent as early as possible!
- ✓ Continue applying to California State University schools. Many have November 30 deadlines.
- ✓ If you are applying early action or early decision, make sure to meet all deadlines, including financial aid deadlines. Also be sure to continue working on other applications.
- ✓ Get any recommendation forms to your teachers and Mr. Ensberg by the end of this month!
- ✓ Schedule local interviews with colleges that offer them.
- ✓ Begin polishing your regular decision applications.
- ✓ Look for scholarship opportunities. There are books in the Preuss library or stop in the advising office for a list.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – your grades this year still matter!

December

- ✓ Many private colleges and universities have early January deadlines for regular decision. Finish your applications this month to meet those deadlines.
- ✓ If you applied Early Decision or Early Action and were deferred, ask Mr. Ensberg to call the school for additional information. Send a letter to the college expressing your continued interest, and keep them updated about your grades, awards, and accomplishments.
- ✓ Look for scholarship opportunities. There are books in the Preuss library, or stop by advising for a list.
- ✓ To apply for financial aid, you will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting in January. You and your parent(s) will both need a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Register for your PINs now at <http://pin.ed.gov>
- ✓ Double check the financial aid deadlines and application requirements for every college you are applying to – many have priority financial aid deadlines starting in January!
- ✓ Finish your applications this month!
- ✓ Look for scholarship opportunities. There are books in the Preuss library or stop in the advising office for a list.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – your grades this year still matter!

January

- ✓ Verify financial aid deadlines and application requirements for every college you've applied to early this month. Many have priority financial aid deadlines and meeting those deadlines can mean a better financial aid package!
- ✓ You and your parents can complete the FAFSA financial aid application beginning January 1. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply online. Some colleges may also require the CSS Profile which can be completed at www.collegeboard.com. Listen for details about the Preuss Financial Aid presentation, and make sure to attend with your parents.
- ✓ Apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Double check that all of the colleges you've sent applications to have received all of your application materials, including recommendations and test scores.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – your grades this year still matter!

February

- ✓ Continue applying for financial aid. Most financial aid deadlines will be by March 1st.
- ✓ Apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – your grades this year still matter!

March

- ✓ Complete the application for a Cal Grant by March 2.
- ✓ Continue to look for and apply for scholarship opportunities.
- ✓ Continue to work hard in school – don't give in to "Senioritis!"

April

- ✓ Colleges and universities will all send their decisions early this month. When you have all of your decisions, compare your options, including your financial aid.
- ✓ You will need to send a deposit to the college or university you choose by May 1. You can only send one deposit.
- ✓ Make sure to complete and return housing forms for your final choice. Some schools will ask for a housing deposit in addition to the enrollment deposit.
- ✓ If you are not happy with your college options, talk to Mr. Ensberg in Advising. Some colleges take late applications and may still have openings.
- ✓ If you are waitlisted, talk to Mr. Ensberg. If you want to stay on the waitlist, write a letter to the college to let them know they are your top choice.

May

- ✓ Make sure to send your enrollment deposit to your college by May 1.
- ✓ Send any required housing forms by the stated deadline.
- ✓ **Start getting ready for GRADUATION!**

HOW FAR IS IT TO....?

Four Year Colleges and Universities less than 50 miles from Preuss

Alliant International, San Diego www.alliant.edu
California State University-San Marcos www.csusm.edu
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego www.ptloma.edu
San Diego Christian College, El Cajon www.sdcc.edu
San Diego State University www.sdsu.edu
University of California-San Diego www.ucsd.edu
University of San Diego www.sandiego.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities between 50-100 miles from Preuss

Biola University, La Mirada www.biola.edu
California Baptist University, Riverside www.calbaptist.edu
California State University-Fullerton www.fullerton.edu
California State University-Long Beach www.csulb.edu
Chapman University, Orange www.chapman.edu
Concordia University, Irvine www.cui.edu
La Sierra University, Riverside www.lasierra.edu
University of California-Irvine www.uci.edu
University of California-Riverside www.ucr.edu
University of Redlands, Redlands www.redlands.edu
Vanguard University of Southern California www.vanguard.edu

Colleges and Universities between 100-150 miles of Preuss

Azuza Pacific University, Azuza www.apu.edu
California Institute of the Arts, Valencia www.calarts.edu
California Institute of Technology, www.caltech.edu
California State University-Dominguez Hills, Carson www.csudh.edu
California State University-Los Angeles www.csula.edu
California State University-Northridge www.csun.edu
California State University-San Bernardino www.csusb.edu
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona www.csupomona.edu
Claremont McKenna College, Claremont www.claremontmckenna.edu
Harvey Mudd College, Claremont www.hmc.edu
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles www.lmu.edu
Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles www.msmc.la.edu
Occidental College, Los Angeles www.oxy.edu
Pepperdine University, Malibu www.pepperdine.edu
Pitzer College, Claremont www.pitzer.edu
Pomona College, Claremont www.pomona.edu
Scripps College, Claremont www.scripps.edu
University of California-Los Angeles www.ucla.edu
University of Southern California, Los Angeles www.usc.edu
University of La Verne, La Verne www.ulv.edu
Whittier College, Whittier www.whittier.edu
Woodbury University, Burbank www.woodbury.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 150-200 miles from Preuss

California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks www.clunet.edu

Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula www.thomasacquinas.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 200-250 miles from Preuss

California State University-Bakersfield www.csub.edu

University of California-Santa Barbara www.ucsb.edu

Westmont College, Santa Barbara www.westmont.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 250-300 miles from Preuss

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo www.calpoly.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 300-350 miles from Preuss

Prescott College, Prescott Arizona www.prescott.edu

California State University-Fresno www.csufresno.edu

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Arizona <http://www.erau.edu>

Fresno Pacific University, Fresno www.fresno.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 350-400 miles from Preuss

Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona www.asu.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 400-450 miles from Preuss

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona www.nau.edu

California State University-Monterey Bay www.csumb.edu

California State University –Stansilaus www.csustan.edu

University of California-Santa Cruz www.ucsc.edu

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona www.arizona.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 450-500 miles from Preuss

California State University-Sacramento www.csus.edu

California State University East Bay, Hayward, www.csuhayward.edu

Dominican University of California, San Rafael www.dominican.edu

Menlo College, Atherton www.menlo.edu

Mills College, Oakland www.mills.edu

Holy Names University, Oakland www.hnu.edu

Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont www.ndnu.edu

St. Mary's College of California, Moraga www.stmarys-ca.edu

San Jose State University, www.sjsu.edu

Santa Clara University, Santa Clara www.scu.edu

Stanford University, Palo Alto www.stanford.edu

University of California-Berkeley www.ucb.edu

University of Nevada-Las Vegas www.unlv.edu

University of the Pacific, Stockton www.uop.edu

University of San Francisco, www.usfca.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 500-600 miles from Preuss

California State University-Chico www.csuchico.edu

California Maritime Academy, Vallejo www.csum.edu

Sonoma State University www.sonoma.edu

Southern Utah University, Cedar City

University of California-Davis www.ucdavis.edu

University of California-Merced www.ucm.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities 600-700 miles from Preuss

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah www.byu.edu

University of Nevada-Reno www.unvr.edu

University of Utah, Salt Lake City www.utah.edu

Weber State University, Ogden, Utah www.weber.edu

Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah www.westminstercollege.edu

Four Year Colleges and Universities within 700-1000 miles from Preuss

Albertson College, Caldwell, Idaho www.albertson.edu

Carroll College, Helena Montana www.carroll.edu

College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico www.csf.edu

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, www.coloradocollege.edu

Colorado School of the Mines, Golden, Colorado www.mines.edu

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado www.colostate.edu

Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande, Oregon www.eou.edu

Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, www.gonzaga.edu

Humboldt State University, Arcata, California www.humboldt.edu

Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho www.isu.edu

St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico www.stjohnscollege.edu

Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon www.lclark.edu

Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon ww.linfield.edu

Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana www.montana.edu

Montana Tech of the University of Montana, Butte, Montana www.mtech.edu

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, www.nmt.edu

Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon www.oit.edu

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon www.oregonstate.edu

Reed College, Portland, Oregon www.reed.edu

Regis University, Denver, Colorado www.regis.edu

Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon www.pacificu.edu

Portland State University, Portland, Oregon www.pdx.edu

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon www.sou.edu

University of Colorado-Boulder, www.colorado.edu

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs www.uccs.edu

University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, www.ud.edu

University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho www.its.uidaho.edu

University of Montana, Missoula, Montana www.umt.edu

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico www.unm.edu

University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon www.uoregon.edu

University of Portland, Portland, Oregon www.up.edu

United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

University of Wyoming, Laramie www.wyoming.edu

Washington State University, Pullman, Washington www.wsu.edu

Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon www.wou.edu

Western Washington University, Pullman, Washington

Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington www.whitman.edu

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO....

College destinations outside of San Diego County – travel time from Preuss campus

Colleges within 50-100 miles of Preuss: 1 to 2 hours driving time, depending on campus.

Colleges within 100-200 miles of Preuss: 2 to 4 hours driving time, depending on campus.

Colleges within 200-300 miles of Preuss: 4 to 6 hours driving time, depending on campus.

Colleges within 300 to 700 miles of Preuss: six to eight hours drive, depending on campus.

Phoenix 1 hour flight, about a six hour drive (Arizona State University)

San Francisco 1 hour, 35 minutes plane flight, about seven hours drive, depending on campus (UC Berkeley, Stanford, University of San Francisco, St. Mary's College of California, San Francisco State University, Dominican University, Cal State Sonoma*, Cal State East Bay)

Denver, Colorado 2 hours, 15 minutes flight (University of Denver, Regis University, University of Colorado-Boulder*, Colorado School of the Mines*, Colorado College*, Colorado State*, U.S. Air Force Academy*)

Portland Oregon 2 hours, 27 minute flight (Reed, Lewis & Clark College, University of Portland, Portland State University, Linfield College, Pacific University, Willamette, University of Oregon*)

Seattle, Washington 3 hour direct flight (University of Washington, Seattle University, University of Puget Sound, Evergreen State College, Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle Pacific University)

Dallas, Texas 3 hour direct flight (University of Dallas, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, Austin College)

St. Louis, Missouri 3 hours 30 minute flight (Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis University, University of Missouri-Columbia*)

Chicago, Illinois 3 hours 50 minute flight (DePaul University, Loyola University of Chicago, University of Chicago, Lake Forest College, Dominican College of Illinois, Beloit College*, University of Wisconsin-Madison*, Marquette University*, Northwestern University, Valparaiso University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Wheaton College, Columbia College Chicago)

Atlanta, Georgia 4 hours, 7 minute flight (Emory University, Oxford College of Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Oglethorpe University, Spellman College, Agnes Scott College)

Baltimore/Washington, D.C. 4 hours, 40 minute flight (Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, Goucher College, Loyola College of Maryland, Villa Julie College, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, St. Mary's College of Maryland*, Washington College*, American University, Trinity University, Howard University, Catholic University, Mary Washington University, George Mason University, George Washington University)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 4 hours, 40 minute flight (Villanova, St. Joseph's University, Temple University, Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Haverford College, Widener College, University of the Sciences, Philadelphia University of the Arts, La Salle University, Rutgers University*, Bryn Mawr College, Princeton University*, Ursinus College, York College*, Franklin & Marshall*, Gettysburg College*, Dickinson College*, Lafayette College*, Lehigh University*, Bucknell University*, University of Scranton*, Albright College, Muhlenberg College*, Moravian College, Cedar Crest College*)

New York, New York 5 hours, 5 minutes (New York University, Columbia University, Fordham University, St. John's University, Marymount Manhattan, Wagner College, Trinity College*, Wesleyan University*, Drew University, Pace University, Adelphi University, Hofstra University, Manhattan College, Manhattanville College, State University of New York –Stony Brook, State University of New York-Purchase, Marist College*, Vassar College*, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Fairfield University, Barnard College, Cooper Union, Eugene Lang College, School of Visual Arts, Fashion Institute of Technology, Rutgers, Stevens Institute of Technology, The College of New Jersey, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Webb Institute)

Boston, Massachusetts, 5 hours 20 minutes (Tufts University, Brandeis University, Northeastern University, Amherst College*, Smith College*, Harvard University, Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Hampshire College*, Mount Holyoke College*, Wellesley College, Simmons College, Emerson College, Emmanuel College, Assumption College, Gordon College*, Berkelee College of Music, Regis College, Bentley College, Lesley University, Babson College, Franklin Olin College of Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic, Clark University, Holy Cross University, Wheaton College*)

Note: An asterisk (*) means additional ground travel time required after air travel

Hint: Use www.travelocity.com to find out how long it takes to fly to other cities and parts of the country! Keep in mind that many colleges will take the cost of travel into account when offering financial aid.

Exploring Other Parts of The Country

For an introduction to “College Towns” across the country, check out Epodunk.com’s list of great college towns: <http://www.epodunk.com/top10/colleges/index.html>

Links where you can learn more about individual cities:

Baltimore: <http://www.baltimorecollegetown.org/asp/home.asp> Baltimore CollegeTown tells you everything you want to know about the 15 colleges in Baltimore

Boston: <http://www.bostonvisit.com/> Boston CollegeTown, a website for students considering attending college in the greater Boston area

Philadelphia: http://www.onebigcampus.com/college_profiles.htm, a website describing colleges and places in the greater Philadelphia area.

Washington D.C.: <http://www.washington.org> Washington D.C. visitor’s bureau site

And, if you want to learn more about the area around a specific school, look on the college’s admissions website under “campus visit.”