

College Application Terms

Early Action Students apply early and receive admission decision by mid-December. Acceptance not binding.

Early Decision Highly qualified students apply to first choice school in fall; if accepted, must withdraw all other applications. Acceptance is binding.

Rolling Admission Students are notified of decision within 4-6 weeks of application. It is wise to apply early - colleges continue to accept students until freshman class is full.

Eligibility Students must meet GPA, test score and course requirements to apply to certain colleges. (UC, CSU)

Need-Blind Admission Financial need not a factor in admission.

Waiting List Students placed on a waiting list are offered admission as accepted students opt to attend other colleges. Notify the college of your continued interest if waitlisted.

Deferred Admission Private colleges may allow accepted students to defer college for a year to work or travel. UC and CSU require re-application.

Qualified Acceptance Acceptance is conditional upon completing additional courses or summer school.

Candidate Reply Date Agreement among colleges requiring accepted students to notify colleges and send deposit by May 1.

Choosing a College

Each student who plans to attend college should choose a school that is a good match for her needs – “a good fit.” Visiting campuses gives you an opportunity to see how comfortable you are in a particular environment. You must know yourself before you make this important decision! Here are some factors to consider:

Academic

What are my gifts, talents, interests? What is the best learning environment for me? Do I want to know my professors or are large classes with Teaching Assistants OK? What are the best departments and majors? Is the student body competitive or cooperative? Are internships available? Is there a learning center? Semester or quarter system?

Personal

What are my values and beliefs? Do I want a politically active campus? A religious school? Diversity? Is social life important? Will I pledge a sorority? What is there to do on weekends? Do many students go home on weekends? What extra-curricular activities would I like?

Location, Campus and Size

Does location matter to me – urban, suburban, rural? What is the setting – in or near a town, transportation, stores? Are the dorms, and the campus in general, well maintained? Are there recreational facilities? Does the college guarantee housing? Are there special interest dorms? How is the dining hall food? Would I prefer a small, medium size or large school?

Types of Colleges

Community College Usually publicly supported, locally oriented college that offers General Ed programs for transfer to a 4-year college, or AA degrees in health, technology or other occupations. (CCSF, CSM, Marymount)

Liberal Arts College Classical, well-rounded undergraduate curriculum in the sciences and humanities. (Whitman, Mt. Holyoke, Swarthmore)

University Institution which has two or more schools or colleges within it, and offers post-graduate degrees. (U. of Southern California, Yale, USF, Boston University)

Consortium Association of colleges in which students take courses or share the facilities of all member colleges. (Claremont Colleges)

Ivy League Designation of 8 colleges (Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Columbia, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale) which formed a Division IV athletic conference in 1954.

Visual and Fine Arts Colleges/Music Conservatory Schools which offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts in the arts, music or performing arts, combining academic classes with studio classes. (California College of the Arts, Rhode Island School of Design, San Francisco Conservatory of Music)

Technical College Offers degrees or certificates in computer science, technology or media arts. (Expression College for Digital Arts, Illinois Institute of Technology)

Military Academy Competitive institution which requires graduates to serve as officers in the armed forces. (West Point, Annapolis, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Virginia Military Academy, The Citadel)

Cooperative Education Students may alternate full-time internships or employment with studies. BA/BS may take 5 years. (Northeastern)

College Reputation

What are the admission standards for incoming freshmen? Is the college known for its academics, varsity sports, social life? Is it known for a particular major or school, e.g., its School of Business, School of Journalism? Is it a university or a liberal arts college? Is your major impacted? Will you be able to graduate in 4 years? Who are the faculty in your major department? How many Core Curriculum courses does it require? Is there a required Culminating Senior Project? What percentage of students study abroad?

My Ideal College

What qualities would my ideal college possess – academically, socially, philosophically? How would I fit in? What would I contribute to this college community, and what would I take away from it when I graduate? Where would I be most happy?

How to Start my College Search

Now that you have given some serious thought to your ultimate college experience and your personal goals, you begin the research process. You will need to match your academic credentials, talents, awards and honors, extra-curricular activities, and community service with the requirements and admission standards of the college. Utilize Naviance and visit the College & Career Center with all its resources to get you started on researching and creating a list of potential schools.

Private Colleges

Private, independent colleges and universities are not supported by state funds, but by tuition, endowments and other private means. Many private colleges are run by religious orders or institutions, or may have been founded by a church but now have no religious affiliation. Like state schools, they may be highly selective or less competitive. Some examples: New York University, Yale, Bates, Occidental, Mt. Holyoke, St. Mary's, Boston College, Georgetown, De Paul, USC.

California State Colleges

www.csumentor.edu

CSU is the nation's largest university system, with 23 campuses, and is renowned for its diversity, the quality of the teaching, its pre-professional programs, such as teaching, nursing, broadcast journalism, and its affordability. CSU offers 1800 bachelor's and master's degrees in some 240 subject areas.

Students with a 3.0 GPA are automatically eligible, and below 2.0 are not eligible. You must have completed the “a-g” college prep courses with a C- or better, and have a qualifying eligibility index. Some majors and campuses are considered impacted and applicants must file during the October-November priority filing period. Online applications are preferred. The application fee is currently \$55 per campus. No essay is required. SAT and ACT scores should be sent to College Board code 3594 on CSU Mentor. SAT Subject Tests are not required.

University of California

www.ucop.edu

The nine UC campuses are known for their academic excellence, challenging programs, highly qualified faculty, and outstanding libraries and research facilities. UC San Diego and Santa Cruz are divided into undergraduate colleges with their own residential communities.

A 3.0 GPA + competitive test scores fulfill the minimum UC requirements, based on the UC Eligibility Index and “a-g” subject requirements for 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Students submit their application online during the month of November. The application fee is currently \$60 per campus. UC requires the SAT or ACT with Writing, and 2 SAT Subject Tests in different academic areas.

Tests taken later than December will not be accepted. Admission is based on challenging coursework, including senior year, number of Honors or AP courses, academic performance, extracurricular activities, special talents, leadership, achievements or awards. All applications receive a comprehensive review, and the Personal Statement is an extremely important component of your application.