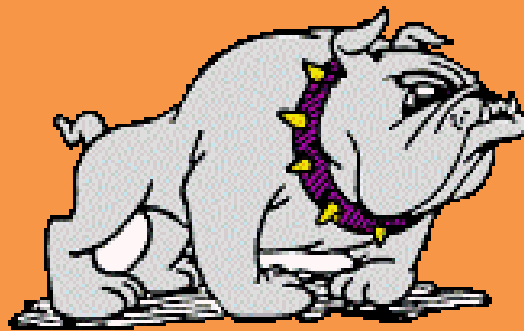


**6th Annual College Information
Night for Juniors**
Tuesday, March 10, 2015



Sponsored by the Oakland Technical High School
Counseling Department, the College & Career Center,
and the PTSA College Mentoring Committee (CMC)

Oakland Technical High School Auditorium
4351 Broadway, Oakland CA 94611



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A special thank you to Jim Walker and the Gooden College Connection for creating and sharing this planning guide (modifications were made to the original documents). Thank you to the PTSA College Mentoring Committee for printing this booklet.

Junior Year GUIDELINES

2014-2015

Consult with your high school counselor or advisor to determine how you can best follow these guidelines.

GENERAL

- Do as well as possible in six challenging courses in the areas of social studies, English, math, laboratory science, world language, and visual-performing arts. If you earned any D's or F's in classes, sign up for summer school or talk to your counselor about ways to make up these grades. Colleges don't accept D's!
- _____ You can earn money for college by doing well in high school! Make sure you know your Cal Grant GPA (GPA for core, academic courses in grades 10-11). Your goal should be to get a minimum of 3.0 so that you can hopefully qualify for the Cal Grant A (depending on family income).
<http://www.csac.ca.gov/>
- Make sure your junior classes meet college entrance requirements. Check your high school's UC/CSU A-G list at <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/search/all> and talk with your counselor.
- If eligible, apply for a social security number.
 - Be sure you are using your legal name, and be consistent in its use with your social security number, school transcript, PSAT, SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, ACT Plus Writing, AP Tests, college applications and financial aid forms.
- If you are fluent in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean or Spanish, consider taking the November SAT Reading and Listening Language Subject Test in that language.
- Actively participate in several on or off-campus activities that are significant and meaningful to you. This may also help you to maintain a healthy and balanced life style.
 - Make copies of your personal, and if applicable, your athletic résumés. Sample outlines are available in college guides and in your high school counseling office and the College & Career Center. You can hand them out when you visit colleges, attend college presentations or college fairs, or interviews. You also can give them to the adults who will write your letters of recommendation.
- Save your best-graded papers and projects. Some private colleges may ask for a writing sample instead of, or in addition to, the application essay. Some test optional colleges may also request a graded paper, instead of your test scores.
- Create an appropriate dedicated email address for your college applications and financial aid forms. It should be simple, and include your name.
- Register for scholarships on fastweb.com.
- If you plan on participating in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org).

- If you don't know where the recorder is located, go by room 120 in the counseling office as the recorder is the person who will provide you with your official transcripts for colleges and other applications. Be sure to make transcript requests well in advance of when you need your transcripts.
- If you haven't been to the College & Career Center, go and meet the college advisors. Learn about the free resources available.

TESTING

- Complete a round of testing - PSAT, SAT Reasoning and ACT Plus Writing. *If appropriate*, include APs, and 2 or 3 SAT Subject Tests. Consult with your high school counselor for which tests to take and for your best testing schedule.
- If eligible, request fee waivers for the SAT and ACT from your school counselor. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, or meet other income guidelines are eligible. You can use up to two waivers for the SAT and up to two waivers for the SAT Subject Tests™. That's a total of four fee waivers (up to three subject tests per test date). Additionally, if you use a SAT fee waiver, you can be eligible for up to four fee waivers for college applications. Students can get up to two ACT fee waivers. Note, if you sign up with a fee waiver, but don't go to the test, that fee waiver is considered used and you will still only be eligible for two total per type of test.
- Students are now required to upload a photo when registering for the SAT and ACT. Students also must bring a photo ID to the test. The photo must be only of the student's face, with no other people in it.
- Some juniors take the SAT twice in their junior year. When deciding the date to take this test, you should consider the level of your grammar and writing skills, the demands of your course work and extracurricular activities, and your stress level. When you register, order a Question and Answer Service or a Student Answer Service so you receive a copy of your test questions and answers.
- Seriously consider taking the ACT Plus Writing Test. *The University of California will not accept the ACT without Writing.* When you register, order a Test Information Release so you receive a copy of your test questions and answers.
- AP Exams are given at your high school during the first two weeks in May.
- Most highly competitive colleges either require or recommend the SAT Subject Tests. The University of California no longer requires Subject Tests but they are highly recommended for certain majors at certain campuses.
- The best time to take a SAT Subject Test is *at the end of a course corresponding to a SAT Subject area*, which could be in May or June. Ask your teacher if the course you are in is preparing you to take the SAT subject test.
- Register early for the test site of your choice. To register online for the SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject Tests use the web site collegeboard.org, and for the ACT Plus Writing Test use the web site actstudent.org.
- In preparing for the SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject and ACT Plus Writing Tests, start with the test publisher materials available in your high school counseling office or College & Career Center. Utilize the commercially prepared paperback practice and study books available in local bookstores and libraries. You can also find free online test preparation services on the College Board (SAT) and ACT web sites listed above. For SAT Reasoning preparation, review your PSAT Analysis Report (available in December), and previous SAT Question-and-Answer Service, and/or Student Answer Service Reports. Check with your high school counselor for a list of test preparation courses and tutors.

- If you attended 1st through 10th grades in a foreign country where the instruction was in a language other than English, then you may need to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Check with individual colleges to see if they require the TOEFL or IELTS of ESL students.
- If you plan on participating in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you need to have official ACT/SAT scores sent directly to the Eligibility Center using code 9999.
- All CSU's use can access your SAT scores if you send them to the CSUMentor school code, which is 3594. For UC's, if you choose to send your SAT scores to one UC, any UC that you apply to will have access to your scores.
- Based on your A-G GPA and ACT or SAT scores, determine if you meet the CSU eligibility index. https://secure.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/eligibility_index.asp

COLLEGE SEARCH

- Read several college guides, factual and subjective, available in your high school counseling office, College & Career Center, public library, local bookstores and on the Internet. Here are some guide books to consider: The Fiske Guide to Colleges, The Princeton Review of the Best Colleges, The Insiders' Guide to Colleges, Colleges That Change Lives, and Cool Colleges. Study college web sites. These web sites are available in college guides and in your high school counseling office. The University of California web site is universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions, the Cal State University web site is calstate.edu and the web site for California private colleges is aiccu.edu.
- Talk to your teachers and other adults about where they went to college. Contact recent Tech graduates to learn more about their more recent experiences.
- You can do several college searches on the internet: act.org, aicad.org, bigfuture.org, blackcolleges.com, californiacolleges.edu, campustours.com, collegeboard.org, collegebound.net, collegeexpress.com, collegeproowler.com, collegeview.com, ctcl.com, goseecampus.com, petersons.com, review.com, unigo.com, wiche.edu, womenscolleges.org, and xap.com.

❖ Visit, Visit, Visit

- Visit colleges while in session, preferably overnight, and attend classes as well as school events. Meet with professors and talk to students. Use your high school holidays and vacations, starting with Veteran's Day in November. Spring vacation is an excellent time to visit campuses. If available (mostly private colleges), request interviews, or meet with admissions officers for informal interviews.
- Check with colleges that you are interested in attending to see if they offer "fly out" programs. These travel scholarships are often for first generation college students or other under-represented students.
- Whether you are considering attending a two-year or four-year school, you will learn a tremendous amount by visiting. If you are considering applying to schools outside the Bay Area but can't visit them, take student-led tours at Bay area schools – UC Berkeley, Santa Cruz and Davis; California Maritime, Cal State East Bay, San Francisco State, San Jose State, and Sonoma State; Mills College, St. Mary's College, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, University of San Francisco; Diablo Valley, Berkeley City and Contra Costa Community Colleges. With visits you can begin to appreciate the differences among

colleges. The more you visit colleges, the more you will learn about what is a good fit for you. When visiting colleges jot down your impressions and collect student newspapers.

- Attend college representative presentations at your high school (about 50 college representatives will visit Tech in the fall), college representative meetings at local hotels, and evening meetings at neighboring high schools. Check with your counseling office, College & Career Center, Tech's weekly e-newsletter, (the Bullhorn), and college web sites for announcements. If you don't receive the Bullhorn, sign up by emailing bullhorn@oaklandtech.com.
- Attend the many on-campus open house programs for high school students offered by colleges. Again, check with your counseling office, College & Career Center and college web sites for announcements.
 - Attend the **annual** college fairs, college admissions presentations and related events: (Confirm dates, times & places.)
 - National Portfolio Day, Saturday, January 17, 2015, California College of the Arts, San Francisco
 - College of Alameda CTE Fair, Tuesday March 17, 2015, 11:00-1:00 PM, College of Alameda
 - WACAC College Fair, Friday, March 19, 2015, 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM, Cal State Maritime, Vallejo
 - NACAC College Fair, Saturday, May 2, 2015, 1:30 – 4:30 PM, Cow Palace, Daly City
 - WACAC College Fair, Saturday, May 9, 2015, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, St. Mary's College, Moraga
 - Colleges That Change Lives, Monday, July 27, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara
 - Colleges That Change Lives, Tuesday, July 28, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Exhibit Hall, Marin Center, San Rafael
 - Black College Fair, typically held in September at Laney College
 - East Bay Consortium College Info Day, typically held on a Sat in October at UC Berkeley
 - OUSD College Fair, October 13, 2015, Time TBD, Oakland High School
 - NACAC Performing & Visual Arts College Fair, Sunday, October 25, 2015, 1 – 3:30 PM, South San Francisco Conference Center

➤ **SPRING**

- Initiate and maintain personal contact with area representatives for your identified private and some public colleges.
- Review the personal statements and essay questions for several colleges, including the University of California, the Common Application and supplemental college essays. Start thinking of possible responses. The Common Application prompts for 2015-16 are changing; the new prompts will be available in mid-March.
- When you sign up for your senior courses, seriously consider at least five or six of the following: social studies, English, math, laboratory science, world language and visual-performing arts. Include Honors and AP courses as appropriate. Balance challenging courses with the energy and time necessary for you to do well. Allow time for meaningful school and community activities, recreational and social time. When choosing your senior year courses, consider your physical and emotional health. Be realistic on what you can handle. Know your Cal Grant and A-G GPA. Work on bringing these up!
- If you think you might apply to private colleges, consult with and reserve two teachers to write your required letters of recommendation. Be prepared to give them your personal résumé near the beginning of your senior year. Make sure your counselor knows you so he/she can write a strong letter of recommendation in the fall. If you don't know your counselor, get to know her now!

➤ **SUMMER**

- Continue to participate in activities that are significant and meaningful to you. Take on a leadership role.
- Consider taking a summer course or two in areas of interest at the local community college. By taking a college-level course you can demonstrate a strong, sustained interest in academics, as well as possibly improving your high school GPA. If appropriate, talk to your high school counselor about applying to special academic summer programs, such as COSMOS, ATDP and others.
 - If you are not satisfied with your SAT Reasoning, ACT Plus Writing, or SAT Subject Test scores and plan to retake one or more of them in the fall of your senior year, consider a summer test preparation course or tutor. If you are going to take a lengthy test preparation course, the summer is a good time.
 - Look for the results of the “Early Assessment Program” test you took in April-May, in the mail. Review these results to see if they show whether or not you tested “college ready” for coursework at a CSU. If not, review the other ways you can demonstrate college readiness (test scores, grades in certain senior classes, taking the EPT or ELM – consult your school counselor for information).
- Continue your college search.
- Continue to visit college campuses. Again, at private colleges request interviews or at least meet with admissions officers for informal interviews.
- Continue your personal contact with area representatives at your identified private and some public colleges.
- Update your personal, and if appropriate, athletic résumés. Complete the questionnaire/activities sheet and related papers for your high school counselor’s/advisor’s School or Secondary School Report. Check with your school counselor to find out exactly what he/she needs in order to write a letter of recommendation for you.
- Start filling out your college applications as they become available.
- Continue to work on the drafts of your UC personal statement and college essays. Check the current year’s essay topic questions for any changes.
- Continue your scholarship search.
- Complete Free & Reduced Lunch form during back-to-school registration at Oakland Tech. If you qualify for free or reduced priced lunch, you will be eligible for fee waivers for certain tests and certain colleges. This is important information to know!

~ GOALS ~

By September 2015

- **DO AS WELL AS YOU CAN IN YOUR JUNIOR YEAR COURSE WORK**
- **COMPLETE A ROUND OF TESTING**
- **PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES MEANINGFUL TO YOU**

- **MAKE A PREMINARY LIST OF COLLEGES TO WHICH YOU WILL APPLY**
- **INITIATE & MAINTAIN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRIVATE COLLEGES**
- **COMPLETE YOUR PERSONAL RESUME & COUNSELOR'S PROFILE FORMS**
- **RESERVE TWO TEACHERS FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
- **SAVE IMPORTANT GRADED PAPERS AND PROJECTS**
- **OPEN AN APPROPRIATE DEDICATED E-MAIL ADDRESS**
- **WRITE DRAFTS OF ESSAYS & UC PERSONAL STATEMENTS**
- **REGISTER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ON fastweb.com**
- **MOST COLLEGE APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE –START DOING A DRAFT OF THE APP, BEFORE THE APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS**

Resume Template

NAME

(BOLD & CAPPED)

Class of _____

10 Digit Statewide Student Identifier (SSID - California ID Number)

Street Address

City, State 9 Digit Zip Code

Home Phone

Cell Phone

(Dedicated) E-Mail Address

PERSONAL

Born: (Birth Date & Birth Place)

Parent(s): (Names, & work telephone numbers)

(Addresses & telephone numbers, if different)

Siblings: (Ages and if applicable, names of colleges attending or attended)

EDUCATIONAL

Names of all High Schools, Addresses, Telephone Numbers

College Codes of all High Schools, Web Sites

Names of Principals, Names of School Counselors (College counselors or college advisors)

Direct Telephone Numbers and Fax Numbers

SCHOLASTIC

Grade Point Averages: Total Weighted 9-11, CSU/UC, Cal Grant

Rank in Class; CSU Index https://secure.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/eligibility_index.asp

Junior Year Courses (Fall & Spring) Completed & In Progress:

AP, Honors, IB & College Courses, (In that order) Completed, In Progress & Planned:

SAT Reasoning Scores and Dates Taken & Planned: Total, Reading, Math, Writing & Essay

SAT Subject Scores and Dates Taken & Planned:

ACT Plus Writing Scores and Dates Taken & Planned:

Composite, English, Math, Reading, Science & English/Writing

AP & IB Scores:

Honor Roll, CSF, and Other Scholastic Honors, Awards or Recognitions:

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Positions, Awards and Recognitions)

Clubs, Class, Student Government

Dance, Drama, Forensics, Music, Sports

School Service (Peer tutoring, etc.)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES and COMMUNITY SERVICE

Positions, Awards and Recognitions

WORK EXPERIENCE, INTERNSHIPS and EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (If applicable)

INTERESTS

EDUCATIONAL GOAL(S) (If determined), (Example: Bachelor of Science in Biology)

CAREER GOAL(S) (If determined)

Summer/Fall/Winter/Spring ____ (Year) ____ (Update every season!)

Popular College Admission & Financial Aid Websites

College Admissions Information & Applications

California Colleges & Universities

California Community College Articulation Agreements

California Community College Information

California Private/Independent Colleges

Common Application

CSU Admissions & Campus Information

UC Admissions & Campus Information

UC A-G Course Guide ucop.edu/doorways

UC Transfer Paths, TAG & Planning

College Admissions Information & Testing

American College Test (ACT & PLAN)

Art & Design Schools

Catholic Colleges and Universities

Christian Colleges and Universities, Christian College Fairs

College Board (PSAT, SAT, Subject, TOEFL, AP, IB & CSS Profile)

College Data, College Results Online, Campus Profiles/Tours

College Matchmakers: Cappex and Zinch

College Navigator, College Prowler

College Reviews by Students, College View Books

CollegeView, CollegeQuest (Peterson's)

Colleges That Change Lives

CSU Early Assessment Program, CSU Early Start Program

Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Begin Addresses with <http://www>.

californiacolleges.edu

assist.org

californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu

aiccu.edu

commonapp.org

csumentor.edu, calstate.edu, csusuccess.org

universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/transfer

act.org

aicad.org

catholiccollegesonline.org

cccu.org, naccap.org, nccf.us

collegeboard.org

collegedata.com, collegeresults.org

ecampustours.com

cappex.com, zinch.com

nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator, collegeprowler.com

unigo.com, campusview.com

collegeview.com, collegequest.com

ctel.com

csusuccess.org

hillel.org

Gap Year Fairs
 Guides: Fiske Guide to Colleges, Peterson's, Princeton Review
 Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBC&Us)
 National Association College Admission Counseling and Fairs
 Naviance
 Test Optional Schools, Free SAT and ACT Test Prep
 Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE Schools)
 Women's Colleges

usagapyearfairs.org
 fiskeguide.com, petersons.com, princetonreview.com
 hacu.net
 blackcolleges.com
 nacacnet.org
 naviance.com
 fairtest.org, number2.com
 wiche.edu
 womenscolleges.org

Financial Aid

Private/Commercial

Scholarship Search Engines: FastAid, FastWeb, FinAid
 American Indian Fund, Am Indian Higher Ed Consortium
 CollegeScholarships, Scholarships 101

fastaid.com, fastweb.com, finaid.org
 collegefund.org, aihec.org
 collegescholarships.com,

scholarships.com,

CSS Financial Aid Profile
 Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Latino College Dollars
 MeritAid
 Mexican Am Legal Defense & Ed Fund
 Nellie Mae, Sallie Mae
 United Negro College Fund, Black Excel

profileonline.collegeboard.com
 hsf.net, latinocollegedollars.org,
 meritaid.com
 maldef.org
 nelliemae.org, salliemae.com
 uncf.org, blackexcel.org

Government

California Student Aid Commission
 Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)
 Student Aid on the Web, Department of Education

csac.ca.gov
 fafsa.ed.gov
 studentaid.ed.gov

Athletics

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

naia.org, playnaia.org (eligibility)
 ncaa.org, eligibilitycenter.org

2015 AP Exam Schedule

The 2015 AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 4-8 and May 11-15. AP exams cost \$91 per exam. Fee reductions are available for those who qualify. Not all AP exams listed are offered at Tech.

| Week 1 | Morning 8 a.m. | Afternoon 12 noon |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday, May 4 | Chemistry Environmental Science | Psychology |
| Tuesday, May 5 | Calculus AB Calculus BC | Chinese Language and Culture |
| Wednesday, May 6 | English Literature and Composition | Japanese Language and Culture Physics 1: Algebra-Based |

| Week 1 | Morning 8 a.m. | Afternoon 12 noon |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Thursday, May 7 | Computer Science A Spanish Language and Culture | Art History Physics 2: Algebra- Based |
| Friday, May 8 | German Language and Culture United States History | European History |
| | Studio Art—last day for Coordinators to submit digital portfolios (by 8 p.m. EDT) and to gather 2-D Design and Drawing students for physical portfolio assembly Teachers should have forwarded students' completed digital portfolios to Coordinators before this date. | |

| Week 2 | Morning 8 a.m. | Afternoon 12 noon | Afternoon 2 p.m. |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Monday, May 11 | Biology Music Theory | Physics C: Mechanics | Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism |
| Tuesday, May 12 | United States Government and Politics | French Language and Culture Spanish Language and Culture | |
| Wednesday, May 13 | English Language and Composition | Statistics | |
| Thursday, May 14 | Comparative Government and Politics World History | Italian Language and Culture Macroeconomics | |
| Friday, May 15 | Human Geography Microeconomics | Latin | |

2015 ACT/SAT Test Dates, Deadlines, and Fees

Students must upload a photo of his/her face when registering for the SAT or ACT. If students are taking the ACT, the UC's require the writing portion of the test. Students who qualify for free or reduced priced lunch qualify for fee waivers. See your counselor to obtain a fee waiver.

SAT & Subject Tests www.collegeboard.org

Oakland Tech College Board Code 052240

Cost SAT - \$52.50
 SAT Subject tests - \$26 basic subject test registration fee
 +\$26 language & listening tests (per test)
 +\$16 all other subject tests (per test)

| Test Dates | Test | Registration Deadlines (Expire at 11:59 pm ET) | |
|---------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| | | Regular | Late Fee Required |
| Sat, March 14 | SAT only | February 13 | February 27 |
| Sat, May 2 | SAT & Subject Tests | April 6 | April 17 |
| Sat, June 6 | SAT & Subject Tests | May 8 | May 22 |

Anticipated test dates for fall 2015 (not yet confirmed by College Board):

Saturday, Oct 10

Saturday, Nov 7

Saturday, Dec 5

ACT www.actstudent.org

Cost ACT (no writing) - \$36.50
 ACT plus writing - \$52.50

| Test Date | Registration Deadline | (Late Fee Required) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sat, Apr 18, 2015 | Mar 13, 2015 | Mar 14-27, 2015 |
| Sat, June 13, 2015 | May 8, 2015 | May 9-22, 2015 |
| Sat, Sept 12, 2015 | August 7, 2015 | August 8-21, 2015 |
| Sat, Oct 24, 2015 | September 18, 2015 | Sept 19-Oct 2, 2015 |
| Sat, Dec 12, 2015 | November 6, 2015 | November 7-20, 2015 |

California State University (CSU) Admission Requirements

Admission offices at the 23 campuses use three factors to determine eligibility. Most Applicants who are admitted meet the standards in each of the following areas:

- Specific high school courses (referred to as the “a-g” courses)
- **Grades** in “a-g” courses taken in the 10th and 11th grade, **and test scores** (ACT or the SAT Reasoning)
- Graduation from high school

The CSU uses a calculation called an [eligibility index](https://secure.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/eligibility_index.asp) that combines your weighted high School GPA (10th & 11th grades) with the composite score you earn on the ACT, OR the Reading plus Math score on the SAT Reasoning test. See https://secure.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/eligibility_index.asp to determine your eligibility.

The CSU requires a minimum 15-unit pattern of courses for admission as a first-time freshman. Each unit is equal to a year of study in a subject area. A grade of **C** or better is required for each course you use to meet any subject requirement.

| Area Subject | | Years |
|------------------------|---|-------|
| a. | History and Social Science (including 1 year of U.S. history or 1 semester of U.S. history and 1 semester of civics or American government AND 1 year of social science) | 2 |
| b. | English (4 years of college preparatory English composition and literature) | 4 |
| c. | Math (4 years recommended) including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher mathematics (take one each year) | 3 |
| d. | Laboratory Science (including 1 biological science and 1 physical science) | 2 |
| e. | Language Other than English (2 years of the same language; American Sign Language is applicable.) | 2 |
| f. | Visual and Performing Arts (dance, drama or theater, music, or visual art) | 1 |
| g. | College Preparatory Elective (additional year chosen from the University of California "A-G" list) | 1 |
| Total Required Courses | | 15 |

- Many CSU campuses have higher standards for particular majors or for students who live outside the local admission area. Because of the number of students who apply, several campuses have higher standards (supplementary admission criteria) for all applicants.
- Many CSU campuses utilize local admission guarantee policies for students who graduate or transfer from high schools and community colleges that are historically served by a CSU campus in that region (for Tech, our schools are SF State and Cal State East Bay).

University of California Admission Requirements

If you're interested in entering the University of California (UC) as a freshman, you'll have to satisfy these requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses ([A-G courses](#)), with at least 11 finished prior to the beginning of your senior year.

The 15 A-G courses are:

| | |
|--|---------|
| a. History/social science | 2 years |
| b. English | 4 years |
| c. Mathematics | 3 years |
| d. Laboratory science | 2 years |
| e. Language other than English | 2 years |
| f. Visual and performing arts | 1 year |
| g. College-preparatory elective | 1 year |
| (chosen from the subjects listed above or another course approved by the university) | |

- Earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better (3.4 if you're a nonresident) in these courses with no grade lower than a C
- Meet the [examination requirement](#) by taking **the ACT Plus Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test** by December of your senior year. We don't require SAT Subject Tests, but certain programs on some campuses recommend them, and you can use subject tests to satisfy the a-g" requirements listed above.

If you're a state resident who has met the minimum requirements and aren't admitted to any UC campus to which you apply, you'll be offered a spot at another campus if space is available, provided:

- You rank in the top 9 percent of California high school students, according to our [admissions index](#) (grades & ACT Plus Writing or SAT Reasoning Test scores)

OR

- You rank in the top 9 percent of your graduating class at a participating high school. We refer to this as "Eligible in the Local Context" ([ELC](#)).

How UC Reviews Applications

Source: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/how-applications-reviewed/index.html>

As we consider each individual application - and rest assured, we do consider each one - we look beyond grades and test scores.

We spend time evaluating your academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to you and your demonstrated capacity to contribute to the intellectual life at UC. The 14 factors we weigh are:

1. Academic grade point average in all completed "a-g" courses, including additional points for completed UC-certified honors courses.
2. Scores on the following tests: ACT Plus Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test.
3. Number of, content of and performance in academic courses beyond the minimum "a-g" requirements.
4. Number of and performance in UC-approved honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Higher Level and transferable college courses.
5. Identification by UC as being ranked in the top 9 percent of your high school class at the end of your junior year ([Eligible in the Local Context](#), or ELC).
6. Quality of your senior-year program as measured by the type and number of academic courses in progress or planned.
7. Quality of your academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in your high school.
8. Outstanding performance in one or more specific subject areas.
9. Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field of study.
10. Recent, marked improvement in academic performance as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress.
11. Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus.
12. Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of your high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs.
13. Academic accomplishments in light of your life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status.
14. Location of your secondary school and residence.

An Introduction to College Financial Aid

As you and your parents/guardians embark on the process of college admissions, here are some tips to consider on paying for the cost of college attendance.

A common misconception is that financial aid means private scholarships. In reality, the majority (over 90%) of financial aid comes from the colleges themselves as well as from the federal and state governments. Financial aid is comprised of two major types: gift-aid and self-help aid. Gift-aid includes things like grants, tuition discounts and college scholarships. Self-help aid comes in two forms: subsidized (interest-free) student loans and college work-study. Both types of aid are designed to help students and their families offset the cost of paying higher education costs such as tuition, room & board, books, transportation and other related expenses. The annual cost of such items is defined by the colleges themselves and commonly referred to as the Cost of Attendance, or COA.

Determining a school's true cost of attendance used to be hard to find out. So, in response to consumer frustration, Congress included in the Higher Education and Opportunity Act of 2008 a mandate that every college and university must post a **Net Price Calculator** on its website by October 29, 2011. This function allows students and parents to more easily determine college costs, and to estimate the amount of financial aid a family might qualify for.

To receive financial aid, students and their parents (if the student is a dependent), must demonstrate to the colleges that they have a financial need. This is an arithmetic number which is determined by starting with the COA, described above, which is subtracted from another number referred to as the Expected Family Contribution, or EFC. The difference between the COA and EFC is determined to be a family's Financial Need.

How is the EFC determined? The answer is based on a set of complex formulae established by the federal government and the colleges. Beginning in January of their senior year, students and their parents must submit financial aid applications, such as the FAFSA/Dream Act (for undocumented students who qualify under AB 540) and CSS/Profile, to various processors, who in turn use the formulae to determine a student's EFC. The common variables that determine a student's EFC include, but are not limited to, financial figures such as student's income and assets and parents' income and assets, size of household and age of older parent.

Despite the apparent complexity of the financial aid process, all students are encouraged to apply for financial aid. By applying accurately and on-time, financial aid can significantly ease the burden of affording the high cost of education. In turn this allows students to realistically consider a variety of colleges, both public and private, when ultimately choosing the college that is the right fit.

Here are some additional things to consider:

If your EFC is low, don't be afraid of the sticker price: Families with a low EFC are smart to consider applying to the most expensive schools on the student's list. An expensively priced school often has a high endowment with which to meet the full financial need of students. That means, you will be eligible for more aid at these schools; in turn, your out-of-pocket cost may be the same or even LESS there than at a lower priced school with a smaller endowment base. Consider out-of-state private schools that may really want California students, and may have money to give.

If your EFC is high, consider the Big Fish in the Little Pond Scenario: If you have aspirations of attending only the big name schools like the Ivies, this strategy won't work. (No matter how brilliant the student, or how high the SAT scores, schools like these DO NOT provide merit-based aid!) If however,

through the course of investigating schools, some lesser known names catch your attention as good fit schools for you, consider applying to them. Often, these schools that are of the “up and coming” variety will provide very generous merit awards to create incentives for academically strong students to attend. The website: www.meritaid.com offers a comprehensive list of merit scholarships by colleges and minimum qualifications.

If you need a lot of financial help, avoid out-of-state public schools. Generally, these schools have limitations on how much they can “award” to out of state students. Also, you will have to pay an additional cost, called non-resident fees, which average \$10,000 per year, beyond what the in-state resident students pay. Be aware: establishing residency at a different state is not always straight-forward. If your child is interested in attending an out-of-state public university, consider researching the schools that participate in the Western University Exchange Program (WUE). Tuitions for students may be reduced to 150% of resident tuition. <http://www.wiche.edu/wue>

Always include a financial “safety” school on your list. Unless affordability is absolutely not a financial concern for you and your family, it is a good idea to include some in-state public schools. For example, at the California State Universities (CSU) the annual tuition fees for 2012-2013 range from approximately \$5,963 to \$8,507, still a “bargain” in most cases. Of course, you will need to budget for housing and food, and all the extra education costs, like books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses. Added up, the 2012-2013 CSU total annual budget (cost of attendance) for students living on campus range from approximately \$18,896 to \$25,380. The Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) is a new program beginning in the 2014-15 academic year that provides undergraduate students with family incomes up to \$150,000 a scholarship to attend University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses.

Find out what your EFC is. The Expected Family Contribution or EFC is the driving force behind how much financial aid you can expect to receive at colleges. The greater your EFC is, the more “wealthy” you appear to schools, hence the lower your eligibility for financial aid. Two good sources on the web that contain the calculation formulae to help you to determine your EFC are: www.collegeboard.com and www.finaid.com.

Consider starting at a community college, and then transferring. Tuition and fees for community colleges for 2012-13 average \$1,380, plus housing, books, and other expenses. Some community colleges even offer housing. <http://www.cccco.edu/CommunityColleges/CollegeHousing.aspx>

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