

College Search Websites

Big Futures- College Board – *robust comprehensive search tool*

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

College Score Card – *US Department of Education college search/data site*

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

Christian College Search – *faith-based college search tool*

<https://www.findyourchristiancollege.com>



Application Information

Common Application opens in August

Used by private and out-of-state public universities (500+)

Early Action Deadlines are usually in October and early November

Regular Decision Deadlines tend to be from November – January

Link: <https://www.commonapp.org/>

The University of California Application opens in September

UC Application window: November 1 – 30

Admission Link: <https://admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu>

UC Doorways (a-g list): <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/>

California State University Application opens on October 1

CSU Application window: October 1 – November 30

Link: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

California Community Colleges

Apply at winter/early spring

Pay attention to deadlines to get priority registration

<http://www.cccco.edu/>

Career Exploration

California Career Zone – *a resource for assessing and exploring possible career interests*

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

ONET – *government-sponsored comprehensive information about professions*

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

Financial Information

FAFSA – *Free Application for Student Aid*

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Cal Grant – *California-based financial aid*

<http://www.csac.ca.gov>

Western Undergraduate Tuitions Exchange - WUE

<http://www.wiche.edu/wue>

Net Price Calculators – *all colleges are required to have this tool so families can estimate the cost of attendance based on their student's profile. To find them, google the name of the school + Net Price Calculators*

Freshman Year

- o Focus on your academics – every year matters to colleges
- o Work on developing strong time management and study skills
- o Build a “Four-Year Plan” based on graduation/college requirements and your interests
- o Get involved with activities and causes that matter to you
- o Attend college fairs/ Visit local colleges’ open houses
- o Look at admission statistics for colleges that interest you and set goals

Sophomore Year

- o Continue to be diligent with your coursework
- o Explore your interests through clubs, sports, and community organizations
- o Build strong positive relationships with your teachers
- o Take the PSAT in the fall and the ACT Aspire test (Practice ACT exam) in the spring
- o Attend college fairs/ visit local college open houses
- o Look for summer opportunities to explore interests, and career possibilities, or gain a skill
- o Complete the personality and career assessments in Naviance.
- o Create a resume of your activities and community involvement in Naviance
- o Update your “Four Year Plan” and meet with your advisor to choose classes for your junior year and discuss your college goals.

Junior Year

- o Focus on academics and consider challenging yourself with advanced coursework
- o Think about which teachers you would like to ask to write letters of recommendation for you.
- o Look for leadership opportunities
- o Research potential majors
- o Research potential colleges based on interests, GPA, and PSAT/ACT Aspire
- o Build a potential college list.
- o Assess your strengths, transcripts, and areas for improvement
- o Look for summer opportunities to explore interests, and career possibilities, or gain a skill
- o Meet with your academic and college counselors to plan for college and set goals

Summer before Senior Year

- o Learn the application procedure for the schools where you are applying
- o Organize your resume – activities, community service, leadership
- o Draft your application essays
- o Intern/work/volunteer/ take a class

Senior Year

- o Focus on academics – Make sure you are keeping a healthy balance
- o Apply to college
- o Consider taking the SAT or ACT in the fall of senior year
- o Fall/winter FAFSA Application opens
- o Keep track of usernames and passwords for college portals
- o February: Cal Grant Forms are due
- o Visit colleges you are considering attending
- o Compare financial aid award letters
- o Apply for housing
- o May 1: Deadline to decide which college to attend