

College Application Preparation for Juniors



California State University, University of California, Private, and Out of State Colleges

RESEARCH SCHOOLS & MAJORS OF INTEREST

- Schools vary by size, selectivity, location, majors offered, cost, and entrance criteria
- Research majors, admit rates and compare campuses at:
 - www2.calstate.edu/apply
 - Admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/
 - www.californiacolleges.edu
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
 - www.wiche.edu



SAT, ACT, AP TESTING CHANGES / UPDATES

- **CSU & UC Campuses** are not requiring or using the SAT or ACT scores for admission or scholarship purposes. Scores may only be used for placement purposes after a student has been admitted.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) scores** should still be reported on the CSU & UC applications.
- Other institutions may still require SAT or ACT tests; others may be “test optional”
- In January of 2021, the College Board announced the elimination of the SAT Essay and SAT Subject Tests
- The ACT still offers an optional essay test that a student can take immediately after the other sections of the ACT for an extra fee.
- For more info on SAT & AP: www.collegeboard.org
- For more info on ACT: www.act.org



OTHER FACTORS COLLEGES CONSIDER

- Academic GPA
 - UC & CSU include course work that is A-G approved
- Number of courses and content of coursework beyond minimum requirements
- Honors & AP Courses (including AP exams taken)
- Quality and rigor of a student's senior-year program
- Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field of interest
- Leadership, community service or completion of special projects
- Pursuit of an academic interest related to a potential major of interest
 - **Use your Senior Project PACE Hours to your advantage!**
- Accomplishments in light of a student's life experiences and special circumstances



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES (CSU)

- Nation's largest university system with 23 great options
- More affordable university education for California residents
- See “**CSU Undergraduate Impacted Programs Matrix**” [handout](#) for selectivity of campuses and majors.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

- System of public research universities highly ranked worldwide
- 9 undergraduate campuses
- See “**UC Application Helpful Hints**” [handout](#) for help on completing Activities & Awards section of application.
- See “**Personal Insight Questions Guide**” [handout](#) to assist students in starting the writing process for the 4 out of 8 questions they choose to answer on the application.



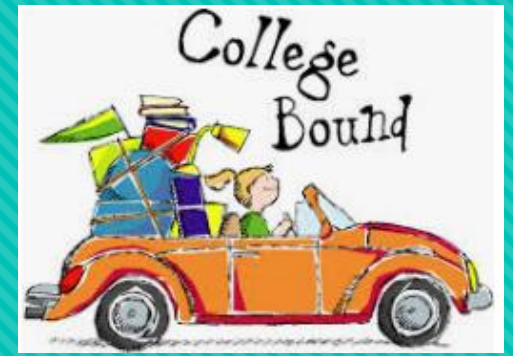
The Common Application & Coalition

- Two application portals that students may use to apply to many private, Ivy League, and out-of-state colleges. Some campuses may use one or the other.
- The Common App (www.commonapp.org) is the most commonly used with almost 800 institutions that house their applications there.
 - See [Common Application Handout](#) for 2022-23 Essay Prompt and List of California Schools that use it.
- The Coalition App (www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org) is not as widely used as it is relatively new with about 150 institutions.



Early Action versus Early Decision

(See Handout)



EARLY ACTION

- Students apply early to receive a decision in advance of the regular decision date.
- Commitment is Non-Binding
- Not restricted from applying to other institutions
- Have until May 1st to consider all options.
- **Sometimes there is more scholarship money available for Early Action Applicants.**
- Students may apply to multiple EA schools.

EARLY DECISION or RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION

- Students apply ED or REA showing the school that this is a **first choice**.
- If admitted, you will generally withdraw all of your other applications.
- You may be restricted to applying to other schools using EA, REA or ED.
- ED is BINDING (pending adequate financial aid).
- REA is Non-Binding.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Which schools require LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?
 - Most private schools including **Common App and Coalition Schools** require letters.
 - 1-2 teacher rec's are generally needed; sometimes a counselor rec is also required
 - Some Out-of-State schools may also require them
- SCHOLARSHIP applications may require one or more letters of rec
- CSU & UC campuses do not generally require letters of rec
 - Exceptions include: some honors programs, a few selective majors, and sometimes UC Berkeley will ask for one after the student submits an application.



TIPS FOR COMPLETING A BRAG SHEET

- Complete a **Brag Sheet** if applying to any schools or scholarships requiring a letter of rec.
- See **Brag Sheet Worksheet** to complete; answer questions thoughtfully.
- After you have asked a teacher or counselor if they will write a letter, then give them the completed Brag Sheet with your due date.
- If you put more time into the Brag Sheet, you will probably get a better letter!
- Give your recommenders a minimum of 2 weeks notice.
- Ask early; some teachers have a limit of how many letters they will write.



USE YOUR SUMMER TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

- Make time to plan and prepare for your college applications this summer!
- If you work on some of these items early, you will have less work to do once school starts.
- SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!! ☺

