

**PUSD
COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS
HANDBOOK**

**Abraxas High School
Mt. Carmel High School
Poway High School
Rancho Bernardo High School
Westview High School**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

These web sites have college related information from each high school:

[Abraxas High School](#)

[Mt. Carmel High School](#)

[Poway High School](#)

[Rancho Bernardo High School](#)

[Westview High School](#)

1. Helpful Websites
2. Frequently Asked Questions About the Application Process
3. A-G College Requirements
4. Completing Applications
5. College Admission Tests
6. SAT I and ACT Compared
7. College Tours and Visits
8. Examples of Public and Private Colleges that Accept Students with Grade Point Averages of 2.0-2.99
9. CSU Transcript and Test Score Requirements
10. Nine California Campuses

Helpful Web sites

A table top library filled with resources can be at your beck and call. Here are several websites that can jump start your research into college planning.

1. The One-Stop Source for College Planning

This web page covers essential aspects of college: financial aid, finding the college that best meets your interests, and tips for gaining admission. While the site is about California colleges, information can be used when planning to go to college anywhere in the country

www.californiacolleges.edu

2. Pathways

This is the online admissions and application web page for the University of California. There is a link to every high school and a-g requirements.

www.ucop.edu/pathways

3. A Sample of Resources Available on the Internet

College/Career Search

www.californiacolleges.edu

www.collegeboard.com

www.collegeview.com

www.collegenet.com

www.review.com

www.collegexpress.com

www.aamc.org

www.mycollegeguide.org

College Application Sites

www.ucop.edu/pathways/

www.csumentor.com

www.commonapp.org

www.ncaa.org

www.NAIA.org

Financial Aid/Scholarship Sites

www.easi.ed.gov

www.finaid.org

www.ed.gov/funding.html

www.fastweb.com

www.scholarships101.com

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html

www.fdncenter.org

www.collegeboard.com

Testing Sites

www.act.org

www.collegeboard.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How Many Applications Are Enough?

As with many aspects of the admissions process, there isn't one single answer that satisfies everyone. Applications are costly in terms of both time and money; filing fees range from \$25 to \$60. It's important that students apply to colleges with varying degrees of selectivity: "reach," "probable," and safety."

- Reach colleges are the most selective among the choices and often represent a student's first choices.
- Probable colleges are those that usually accept students whose academic credentials tend to match those of the applicant.
- Safety colleges are those that will almost always admit applicants with profiles like the student's. They should embody all qualities that the student wants from college, even though the school is less selective.

--Modified from *A Parent's Guide to College Admissions*

Should I Apply Early Decision?

Early decision plans are designed for students who have evaluated their college choices at an early date, have determined which school is their first choice, and want to settle their college decision relatively early in their senior year of high school. The rule for early decision is simple: Use it only if you're certain of the college that you want to attend. If students decide to apply for early decision, they should understand that they are entering a binding agreement with the college. If they are admitted, they must attend and pay a non-refundable commitment deposit up front. Therefore, if students are not absolutely certain that they want to attend a particular college, they may be able to opt for early action (they will find out early, but it's non-binding) or regular decision.

Some colleges will say that students have a better chance of admission if they apply early using early decision, but it really depends upon the applicant pool and how selective the college is overall. If students are sure that this college is the one, it shouldn't hurt their chances if they let the college know that they care enough to make this early commitment.

A couple of caveats: If students' senior grades or SAT/ACT scores from the senior year will help their case, early decision or early action probably isn't for them. If financial aid is a major consideration, students will only be able to get an estimate of their financial aid package - rather than a firm offer - if they apply for early decision. Students should keep these factors in mind when making their decision.

Advantages of Early Decision:

- You don't have to wait around as long to find out if you're in.
- You don't have to spend time and money filling a lot of applications.
- You have more time to plan how to pay for college.

Disadvantages of Early Decision:

- If you're accepted, you're obligated to attend.
- You may discover a more suitable college later.
- The earlier deadline may force you to submit a less-polished application, unless you begin your application well ahead of time.

--Adapted from *Kaplan's Guide to College Selection*

"A-G" SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

"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. 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. Not more than two semesters of ninth-grade English 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 the 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 disciplines: biology, chemistry, and physics. The latter two years of an approved three-year integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement. Not more than one year of ninth-grade laboratory science can be used to meet 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 language other than English taken in the seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part of this requirement, if the high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.

"f" VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (VPA) - 1 year required.

One year of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: 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).

COMPLETING APPLICATIONS

Type or use a medium-point pen with black ink on the application form and the essay.

- a. Follow directions exactly. Complete the application accurately, completely, honestly, and neatly.
- b. Enter your courses and grades EXACTLY as they appear on your transcript on your applications, if colleges request a self-reported transcript.
- c. Don't forget to sign your name at the bottom of the page that requests your signature and make sure to consistently use your full legal name.
- d. Print your name, social security number, and the words "Personal Statement," on the top right corner of each page of the U.C. Personal Statement

Apply for financial aid and scholarships.

- a. Pick up the CSS Profile Information Brochure in the Guidance Office if you are applying to applicable private colleges or find online at www.collegeboard.com.
- b. Pick up the FAFSA (federal aid form) in the Guidance Office or complete online at www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- c. Mail the FAFSA and CSS Profile, if needed, as early as possible. The FAFSA's filing period begins January 1. The deadline is March 2. The CSS Profile can be filed immediately. Be sure to get a Certificate of Mailing at the post office.
- d. Complete the GPA Verification form if applying for a Cal Grant. The deadline is March 2. Be sure to get a Certificate of Mailing at the post office.
- e. Check "financial aid" and/or "scholarships" for a Cal Grant on your college application forms as well as completing the above financial aid forms.
- f. Have your parents attend the financial aid workshop in January 2005 at 7:00 in the SHS library.

Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to play Division I or II college athletics.

- a. Complete an eligibility form online. The address is www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common/index.html.
- b. Complete the form and send to the Clearinghouse with the application fee.
- c. Bring \$3 for a transcript that must be sent now and \$3 for a final transcript in June to the Guidance Office.
- d. Make sure to mark "9999" on the SAT I score report section for scores to be sent directly to the Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will not accept scores reported only on the high school transcript.

e. Learn about NCAA rules and requirements via "Making the Grade," an internet-based video broadcast for prospective student-athletes and parents available on www.ncaa.org/membership/membership_svcs/eligibility-recruiting/index.html

Meet all deadlines for college and scholarship applications. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!

- a. Make a copy of every completed application and all documents for your records.
- b. Get a Certificate of Mailing from the post office as proof of the date sent.
- c. Apply as early as possible and always before the deadline, especially to those colleges with rolling admissions.

COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS

Most four-year colleges (including UC and CSU campuses) require either SAT I or ACT scores as part of the application process. The SAT I is a three-hour test, primarily multiple choice, that gives a verbal and mathematical score, each recorded on a scale of 200 (low) to 800 (high). The ACT (American College Test) reports a composite score using a scale from 1 to 36 and tests in four areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. While some colleges prefer either the SAT I or the ACT for admission, most institutions accept either ACT or SAT I scores equally. The University of California requires, in addition to either the SAT I or ACT, three SAT II: SUBJECT TESTS which must include: (a) writing, (b) mathematics and (c) one test from English literature, a foreign language, science, or history and social science. Other very selective colleges may also require SAT II tests. The SAT II tests measure knowledge in particular subjects and ability to apply that knowledge. A single subject test is approximately one hour in length and multiple choice. The writing subject test includes a 20-minute essay. Up to three tests may be taken in one sitting.

In order to facilitate admissions procedures, housing priorities, and financial aid decisions, students who do not take the necessary entrance exams in May or June of their junior year **must** be sure to register in **early September** for the October SAT I/SAT II or ACT and/or the November SAT I or SAT II (SUBJECT TESTS) if needed.

Which College Admission Test Should I Take?

ACT or SAT I

Should I take one test or both? Because research indicates that many students perform quite differently on the ACT and SAT I, it may benefit you to take both tests. The option is yours. Take one or both, since colleges typically use the higher of the two scores for admission, scholarship, and athletic eligibility.

When should I test? It is recommended that students test in the spring of their junior year to ensure having a test score when they are ready to apply to college. There are other benefits to spring testing, as well. You'll have your scores and other information early enough to impact your senior year. It may help you decide if you should take an additional class in an area in which you scored low. You may also decide you want to retest. Another big advantage of spring testing is that many colleges will have an

early indication of your interest in attending college and will send you information about admission, advanced placement, scholarships, and special programs.

So . . . don't panic! It's important to remember that an admission test score is only one piece of information a college looks at when considering your application. Your grade point average, number and content of college preparatory courses completed, school and community activities, job (if applicable), and other factors may also be considered. There is never a penalty for taking a test early or taking one over.

SAT I and ACT Compared

	The ACT Assessment (ACT)	The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I)
Content Covered:	Grammar Reading Comprehension Math Science Reasoning	Vocabulary Reading Comprehension Math
Scoring Method:	Scores based upon the total number of correct answers. (No guessing penalty.) English, Math, Reading, and Science scores converted to scaled scores between 1-36.	Scores based upon the total number of correct answers minus a guessing penalty for incorrect answers. Math and Verbal raw scores converted to scaled scores between 200-800.
Other:	Four-function, scientific or graphing calculator allowed	Four-function, scientific or graphing calculator allowed

Concordance Between ACT Score and Total SAT I Score

Colleges and universities use this concordance table when an applicant has taken both the SAT I and the ACT to determine on which test the student scored higher. For example, suppose a student who takes both tests achieves an ACT Composite score of 28 and an SAT I total score of 1180. According to the table, an ACT score of 28 is equivalent to an SAT I score of 1260 (and conversely, an SAT I score of 1180 is equivalent to an ACT Composite score of 26). Therefore, it is the ACT score of 28 that is more impressive for this particular student. Typically, it is the higher of the two test scores that colleges use in the admission formula.

ACT Composite Score	Concordant SAT I V + M Score	ACT Composite Score	Concordant SAT I V + M Score
36	1600	23	1070
35	1580	22	1030
34	1520	21	990
33	1470	20	950

32	1420	19	910
31	1380	18	870
30	1340	17	830
29	1300	16	780
28	1260	15	740
27	1220	14	680
26	1180	13	620
25	1140	12	560
24	1110	11	500

Source: University of California Application, 2004-2005.

College Admission Requirements

Community College	California State University	University of California	Private (Independent)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Diploma • No GPA Minimum Requirement • No SAT or ACT Necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "a-g" Subject Requirements with no grade lower than a C • CSU GPA eligibility • SAT I only or ACT • Application due: Oct. 1 - Nov. 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A - G" Subject Requirements with no grade less than a C • UC GPA eligibility • SAT I or ACT • SAT II (writing, math and one other subject) • Application due: Nov. 1 - 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies: See school's College Catalog • See individual college due date

College Acceptance Criteria

Community College	California State University	University of California	Private (Independent)
<p>Accepts all applicants with a</p> <p>1) high school diploma, or</p> <p>2) a passing score on GED or CSHP</p> <p>and/or</p> <p>who are 18 years old</p>	<p>Academic Index</p> <p>Grade Point Average</p> <p>SAT I</p> <p>No essay required</p> <p>No teacher recommendations necessary</p>	<p>Academic Index</p> <p>Grade Point Average</p> <p>SAT I scores</p> <p>SAT II scores</p> <p>Rigor of high school class work</p> <p>Level of senior year classes</p> <p>Essay</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>Special circumstances</p> <p>Achievements</p> <p>Service</p> <p>No teacher recommendations necessary</p>	<p>See School Profile</p> <p>Grade Point Average</p> <p>Test Scores</p> <p>Level of class work</p> <p>Essay(s)</p> <p>Teacher recommendation(s)</p> <p>Secondary School Report from Administrator or Advisor</p> <p>Student Activities</p> <p>Service</p> <p>Achievement</p> <p>Other</p>

COLLEGE TOURS AND VISITS

Whenever returning graduates are asked, "What one thing MOST helped you in deciding WHERE to go to college?" they always give the same response: "Visiting the campuses." Graduates will tell you that the visits made to campuses were more important than reading the catalogs, talking with college representatives or attending the College Fair Program. They emphasize the importance of visiting the Admissions Office, taking a tour, and talking to both college officials and students in attendance. As one student said, "When I finished my third visit, I knew which college I wanted, but I still made two other visits. Those confirmed my decision about my first-choice campus." Why is visiting campuses so important? It is vital because no one should make a decision as important as where to attend college merely on the basis of pictures in a pretty booklet or on someone else's opinion.

It takes effort to determine how well a college fits you. Spending quality time on campus is the best way to measure fit. Quality time means more than taking the tour and attending a football game or campus event. You'll want to spend a night or two a residence hall, sit in on some classes, eat in the dining halls, and spend time talking to students and faculty. Sophomores and juniors considering a

particular college might choose to take part in a summer program for high school students offered at that university. These programs provide a preview of the life of a college student at that institution. While you might not be able to visit every campus you're considering, the ideas that follow may help you to get an inside scoop without making that initial visit.

Click on the university's website - this seems obvious, but you'll want to take the "virtual tour" and also fully explore the resources available at the college site. Some sites offer online chats so you can talk with current students and admission officers.

Really read the college's printed material - the course catalogue can be especially helpful. It outlines the college's philosophy and mission statement, as well as providing information about majors, course requirements, and offerings. When reading the glossy brochures, however, keep in mind that the university is seeking to portray their school in the best possible light.

Check out the student newspaper. You'll find links to the college newspaper either from the college's own website at www.referencedesk.org/collegepaper.html or www.greekspot.com/collegenews . Pay special attention to the issues that seem important to students on that campus - would these be important to you? You'll also learn about student peeves and about activities on campus.

Take the student-led campus tour via videotape. At www.collegiatechoice.com you can order a copy of the campus tour filmed by college counselors visiting each campus. While none of these will substitute for a campus visit, they will help you learn more about the colleges you're considering.

Source: The College Advisor Newsletter, January 2005

**EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES THAT ACCEPT STUDENTS WITH GRADE
POINT AVERAGES OF 2.0-2.99**

(*A PARTIAL LISTING FROM THE COLLEGE HANDBOOK 2005)

ARIZONA

Arizona State University
21% 2.0-2.99
Northern Arizona University
24% 2.0-2.99
University of Arizona
18% 2.0-2.99

CALIFORNIA

Academy of Art College
95% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
California Maritime Academy
38% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
CSU Chico
20% 2.0-2.99
CSU Fullerton
31% 2.0-2.99
CSU Hayward
30% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
CSU Long Beach
11% 2.0-2.99
Chapman University
8% 2.0-2.99
Concordia University
13% 2.0-2.99
Dominican University of
California
26% 2.0-2.99
Fresno State University
25% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
Holy Names College
30% 2.0-2.99
Humboldt State University
36% 2.0-2.99
Loyola Marymount
10% 2.0-2.99
Menlo College
51% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
Mills College
10% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
Pitzer College
14% 2.0-2.99
St. Mary's College
26% 2.0-2.99
San Francisco State University
32% 2.0-2.99
San Jose State University
34% 2.0-2.99
Sonoma State University

38% 2.0-2.99

CALIFORNIA (cont'd)

University of La Verne
8% 2.0-2.99
University of Redlands
15% 2.0-2.99
University of the Pacific
11% 2.0-2.99
COLORADO
Colorado State University
7% 2.0-2.99
Fort Lewis College
52% 2.0-2.99
University of Colorado, Boulder
8% 2.0-2.99
University of Denver
16% 2.0-2.99
University of Northern Colorado
24% 2.0-2.99

CONNECTICUT

University of New Haven
49% 2.0-2.99

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

American University
14% 2.0-2.99
Catholic University
19% 2.0-2.99

GEORGIA

Spelman College
36% 2.0-2.99 (2004)

HAWAII

Hawaii Pacific University
32% 2.0-2.99

MASSACHUSETTS

Emerson College
5% 2.0-2.99
Merrimack College
35% 2.0-2.99
Northeastern University
34% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
Suffolk University
53% 2.0-2.99
University of Mass., Amherst
23% 2.0-2.99

MONTANA

Montana State University,
Billings

42% 2.0-2.99

Montana State University,
Bozeman

23% 2.0-2.99

NEVADA

University of Nevada-Las Vegas
28% 2.0-2.99
University of Nevada-Reno
19% 2.0-2.99

NEW MEXICO

College of Santa Fe
38% 2.0-2.99
New Mexico State University
23% 2.0-2.99
University of New Mexico
28% 2.0-2.99

OHIO

Ohio Wesleyan
31% 2.0-2.99

OREGON

Oregon State University
14% 2.0-2.99
Portland State University
38% 2.0-2.99
Southern Oregon University
36% 2.0-2.99
Willamette University
5% 2.0-2.99

TEXAS

Texas A&M, Kingsville
11% 2.0-2.99 (2004)

UTAH

Utah State University
9% 2.0-2.99

WASHINGTON

Seattle University
10% 2.0-2.99
University of Puget Sound
10% 2.0-2.99
Washington State University
13% 2.0-2.99
Western Washington University
5% 2.0-2.99 (2004)
Whitworth College
5% 2.0-2.99

CSU TRANSCRIPT AND TEST SCORE REQUIREMENTS

All CSU campuses require a completed application and an official SAT or ACT score report sent directly from the testing company. The preferred method of applying is www.csumentor.edu.

Cal Poly requires an Admissions Supplemental Questionnaire if you file a paper application. If you use their electronic application, the questionnaire is already included. Complete SAT or ACT by November.

If any campus needs additional information in order to make a decision about your admission, you will be notified by mail of exactly which documents and transcripts you must submit.

Academic coursework and grades provided by you on the application will be verified following receipt of your final, official high school transcript.

THE NINE CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) SYSTEM

• **UC BERKELEY**
 Berkeley, CA 94720
 (510) 642-6000
<http://www.berkeley.edu>

• **UC DAVIS**
 One Shields Avenue
 Davis, CA 95616
 (530) 752-1011
<http://www.ucdavis.edu>

• **UC IRVINE**
 Irvine, CA 92697
 (949) 824-5011
<http://www.uci.edu/>

• **UC LOS ANGELES**
 Los Angeles, CA 90095
 (310) 825-4321
<http://www.ucla.edu>

• **UC MERCED** (opening Fall 2005)
 550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 105
 Fresno, CA 93710
 (559) 241-7474
<http://www.ucmerced.edu>



• **UC RIVERSIDE**
 Riverside, CA 92521
 (909) 827-1012
<http://www.ucr.edu>

• **UC SAN DIEGO**
 9500 Gilman Drive
 La Jolla, CA 92093
 (858) 534-2230
<http://www.ucsd.edu>

• **UC SANTA BARBARA**
 Santa Barbara, CA 93106
 (805) 893-8000
<http://www.ucsb.edu>

• **UC SANTA CRUZ**
 1156 High Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95064
 (831) 459-0111
<http://www.ucsc.edu>

UC Eligibility Index Table for California High School Graduates	
"a-g" GPA:	Test Score Total
2.80 - 2.84	4640
2.85 - 2.89	4384
2.90 - 2.94	4160
2.95 - 2.99	3984
3.00 - 3.04	3840
3.05 - 3.09	3720
3.10 - 3.14	3616
3.15 - 3.19	3512
3.20 - 3.24	3408
3.25 - 3.29	3320
3.30 - 3.34	3248
3.35 - 3.39	3192
3.40 - 3.44	3152
3.45 - 3.49	3128
>3.50	3120

Test Score Total equals:
 [SAT I composite score] + [2x (SAT II Writing score + SAT II Mathematics score + third required SAT II score)]. SAT I composite is highest combined mathematics and verbal scores from a single sitting. Highest individual SAT II scores, from any sitting, will be considered. See the ACT to SAT I conversion table that follows.

1. ACT composite, scored in intervals of 1 point from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 36.
2. SAT 1 total, scored in intervals of 10 points from a minimum of 400 to a maximum of 1600.

ACT to SAT I Conversion Table			
ACT Score	Equivalent SAT I Score	ACT Score	Equivalent SAT I Score
36	1600	23	1070
35	1580	22	1030
34	1520	21	990
33	1470	20	950
32	1420	19	910
31	1380	18	870
30	1340	17	830
29	1300	16	780
28	1260	15	740
27	1220	14	680
26	1180	13	620
25	1140	12	560
24	1110	11	500

This Handbook draft is underway at this time. Suggestions for additional pages are welcome. Please email any suggestions to Sharon Raffer at sraffer@powayusd.com.