



2020 College Support One-Pager

College Information, Deadlines, & Helpful Resources for Students

Important Deadlines

Wondering when everything is due? It can be difficult to keep track of all your applications. Use this chart below to navigate your applications and meet those deadlines!

Application	What's included in this application?	Deadline to Apply
California State University Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One application that includes 23 CalState Campuses. Includes up to 4 Fee Waivers in application for students based on family income Education Opportunity Program (EOP) included in CSU application. First-generation college students are highly encouraged to apply for EOP. Frequently Asked Questions available here 	Application Website November 30, 2020
University of California Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One application that includes 9 UC Campuses Includes up to 4 Fee Waivers in application for students based on family income Frequently Asked Questions available here 	Application Website November 30, 2020
Common Application Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A single online college application form used by over 700 private and out-of-state colleges and universities. Includes a Fee Waiver in application for students Frequently Asked Questions available here The Common App: Everything You Need to Know 	Application Website Deadlines vary by school
Community College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different applications for each school. However, there is one application for 9 Los Angeles Community Colleges (LACCD). Usually applied to in the Spring. Frequently Asked Questions available here 	LACCD Website Rolling admissions
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A single online financial aid application. Fill out as early as possible after Jan 1 to qualify for the most aid. FAFSA will be completed by U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents CA Dream Act Application will be completed by undocumented students and those that qualify for AB540 	FAFSA Website Dream Act Website March 2, 2021

BD6 College Support Resource Packet!

This one-pager is a quick guide. You can find much more detailed information in our [Class of 2021 Resource Packet](#). This helpful packet walks you through every step of the application process and includes helpful tips and information as well as a few resources you can use!

Important LAUSD Resources and Links

- [College and Career Readiness Resources](#) by Parent and Community Services
- [Concurrent/Dual enrollment](#) for high school students
- [A-G Course Information](#)
- [College and Career Planning for 6-12 graders](#)
- [College Application Timeline: 12th Grade](#)

Frequently Asked Questions and Pro-Tips

- **How do I begin?**

Find out what goes into an application and begin collecting the materials you need. Create a folder for each college you are applying to. At the front of each folder, put a checklist of what you'll need for the application and when it's due.

- **How many colleges should I apply to?**

To increase your chances of getting into a selective school and to account for colleges you may not have considered before, we recommend a balanced list. A balanced list includes at least 3 reach colleges, 2 matches, and 1 safety school. They should all be colleges you'd be happy to attend.

- **Should I even bother applying to colleges I don't think I can afford?**

Yes!! Remember that after financial aid packages are determined, most students will pay far less than the "sticker price" listed on the college website. You don't know if you can afford a college until after you apply and find out how much aid that college will offer you (if you're accepted). Fill out FAFSA as early as possible after Jan. 1 to qualify for the most aid. Even if the aid package the college offers is not enough, you have options. Many colleges are willing to work with students they have chosen for admission to ensure that those students can afford to attend.

- **Do I need to take the SATs or ACTs?**

In light of testing cancellations and obstacles created by COVID-19, more than half of all 4-year colleges have decided to go "test optional" for Fall 2021 admissions (and possibly beyond). This means SAT or ACT scores are not necessarily a required part of the application. You may now be wondering if you should still take the SAT or ACT. There are a number of different ways that colleges are handling the submission of SAT or ACT scores, so make sure you know exactly how the colleges you are interested in are approaching it.

- *Test optional* schools will let you decide if you want to submit your test scores. If submitted, the school will take SAT or ACT scores into consideration but may focus on other parts of the application more.
- *Test flexible* schools will allow you to submit scores for the SAT or ACT, OR a different test in their place (such as a SAT Subject Test or AP test).
- *Test blind* schools will not consider any scores, even if you include them in the application.

- **What should I write about for my college essay/personal statement?**

Write about something that is meaningful to you. The topic you choose should also reveal significant information about your personality, your "story," or your passions.

- Who are you?
- What challenges have you overcome?
- What do you want to do with your future?
- What lessons have you learned over the years?
- How have you grown as a person?
- How have you pursued your interests over the summer or your free time?

Find a story that relates to one of these questions and tell it (if, of course, it also relates to one of the college's topics). Include some reflection on why this story is a meaningful part of who you are.

- **Who can I go to for more information?**

Your college counselors are the most informed about this process! If you don't know who your counselors are, ask your teacher to put you in touch with them!