

Navigating Your College Application Process

Community Colleges: www.losrios.edu/

Time to apply: February – March for best course selection.

Fee to apply: none.

Local community college district: Los Rios, www.losrios.edu/

Testing: not required for admission

Placement tests in Math and English are required after admission.

No letters of recommendation.

No essays.

Must be 18 or have a high school diploma to enroll.

Some Community Colleges have residence halls

California State University: www.csumentor.edu/

Time to apply: October 1 – November 30.

Cal Poly SLO has an early decision program, apply by October 31.

Fee: \$55 per campus

Testing required: SAT Reasoning or ACT. November is latest test date for Cal Poly, San Diego, San Jose, and Fresno, and scores should be rushed. Placement tests in English and Math required before attending.

Students must satisfy a-g course requirements.

No letters of recommendation.

No essays.

University of California: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

Time to apply: November 1 – 30 only

Fee: \$60 per campus.

Testing required: SAT or ACT with writing and two SAT Subject tests in two different subject areas.

December is latest test date accepted.

Students must satisfy a-g course requirements.

Minimum GPA to apply: 3.0

No letters of recommendation.

Essays (personal statements) required: 2 questions to respond to with 1000 word maximum.

Private and Out of State Public Colleges & Universities

Time to apply: varies

Where to get applications: check websites

Common Application available at www.commonapp.org

Fee for applying: varies.

Testing required: usually SAT Reasoning or ACT with Writing, possibly two or three SAT Subject tests. Check with colleges.

Recommendation required: varies. Usually required for most private colleges. You *must* allow time and complete the College Planning and Letter of Recommendation Packet.

Essays are usually required.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): <http://wue.wiche.edu/>

WUE is a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Students who are residents of WICHE states may enroll at participating two and four year college programs outside of their home state at a reduced tuition rate.

Testing Information: see requirements under each type of college

SAT: www.collegeboard.com

ACT: www.actstudent.org

Scores must be sent directly from ACT or College Board to colleges or universities.

Request score reports.

Scores are *not* on your transcripts.

Scholarships and Financial Aid – Financial Aid Workshop is December 9th

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available in December; apply January – March 2.

Everyone should do this: www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Check the Scholarship Binder in the Guidance office.

Check out Naviance for a list of scholarships.

Get a personal identification number at pin.ed.gov

Check out www.fastweb.com and meritaid.com for additional scholarships.

Ask private colleges for specific financial aid and scholarship information.

Check the financial aid websites of individual schools (all of them!); departments too.

Some private colleges require the CSS Profile: www.profileonline.collegeboard.com and have some early deadlines.

Transcripts

UCs do not want a transcript when you apply.

Some CSUs want a transcript when you apply, read their website and pay attention to e-mails.

Community colleges want a transcript after you enroll.

Private schools want a transcript.

General Tips

1. Save copies of ***EVERYTHING***.

2. **DEADLINES** are absolute! You must stay on track with due dates for college, scholarship, financial aid, **and** housing applications.

3. **Have a “good” e-mail address and read all messages carefully! Check your spam folder often, too.**