

GETTING IN:

COLLEGE SELECTION AND APPLICATION

for

SOUTHWESTERN ACADEMY'S

JUNIORS AND SENIORS

This booklet holds important information for Seniors and Juniors in planning their next step after Southwestern.

We urge you to **read this through** carefully, **ask questions** about anything that confuses you, **and keep this handbook available** for your reference through the admissions process. There is a lot of material here - more than you can absorb quickly, and maybe more than you will need, but many things here are handy throughout your search for and application to the perfect college for your needs.

It's a big step to pick the right college - and a bigger step to get in! Colleges demand applications be complete and **on time**. Spaces are more limited, because of international students coming to the United States, because of financial cutbacks in government-funded colleges and universities, and because more American high school students are competing for fewer spaces in American classes.

Parents and school cannot do this job for you. We're here to help, but the effort must be yours. Please remember:

- your Southwestern classes all prepare you for the college entrance tests – you do not need to take "SAT PREP" classes if you keep up with your math, English, science, history, and other schoolwork;**
- your Southwestern counselors, teachers, deans, and headmaster all are happy to help you through the selection and application process – you do not need to pay for a consultant;**
- your Southwestern home page has links to test registration, practice tests, good search programs, and to thousands of college web pages; you do not need to buy other guides or programs.**

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

...SELECTING YOUR SCHOOLS

...MAKING APPLICATIONS and TAKING TESTS

...CHECKING ON FINANCIAL AID AS NEEDED SELECTING YOUR SCHOOLS

GETTING STARTED ... TERMS TO KNOW

NAMES - Remember that in America the terms "**colleges**" and "**universities**" usually mean the same thing - places to study after your secondary school (high school) is completed. We customarily use the shorter word "college" for both, and "college" here never refers to a secondary (high) school as it often does in other parts of the English-speaking world. Americans also use the word "**school**" to mean "college" or "university," as we do occasionally in this handbook. It's confusing, but the meaning is usually clear. Ask if you have any questions!

TRANSCRIPTS AND GPA - Your transcript shows all classes you have taken, and the letter grade and credit, in high school. You need to check to be sure all work is shown, including summer classes. Then figure your GPA. The cumulative **GPA**, or Grade Point Average - is computed on all high school courses except Physical Education and any pass-fail courses. Eighth grade classes do not count in the high school GPA, but ninth grade classes do count. Note the word "cumulative" - the GPA covers all semesters, not just the most recent semester. Some colleges base their decisions on "solid" courses only. Some schools grant additional grade point credit for honors/AP courses taken (UC does so only in 11th and 12th grades). Figure your GPA as follows:

COLLEGE RECOMMENDING: A = 4.00; AB = 3.50; B = 3.00; BC = 2.50; C = 2.00;

NOT COLLEGE RECOMMENDING: CD = 1.50; D = 1.00; DF = 0.50; F = 0 or no credit.

RANK - the most significant rank in class is determined after the senior's first semester grades (seventh semester of high school, or the February grading period). This rank is indicated on Southwestern's transcript only when required by a college, and is used by some colleges for admissions - particularly State colleges around the United States. Southwestern does not rank the class unless required by the college where you are applying.

TESTING - You will need to take the tests required by those colleges that interest you, and then retake them as many times as possible to better your score. Tests are the College Board's three [**Scholastic Aptitude Test** (SAT I), **Test of English as a Foreign Language** (TOEFL), and subject **Achievement** testing (SAT II)] and the **American College Testing** (ACT) program. Have your test scores from SAT I, TOEFL, SAT II, or ACT sent directly to the colleges by the test services. Students at both campuses use these same student codes.

Be sure to include Southwestern's high school code

053 - 161 for SAT and ACT; 8098 for TOEFL.

A to G REQUIREMENTS - these are the freshman admission standards set by the University of California and followed by Southwestern and other college preparatory high schools for a college recommending diploma. They are listed in your Student Handbook, the "Red Book".

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

COLLEGE. An institution that offers educational instruction beyond high school (secondary) level in a two-year or a four-year program. Generally, the emphasis is on teaching undergraduates (first four years) rather than on grad students or research. Colleges usually grant a B. A. (Bachelor of Arts, sometimes listed in the Latin form as "A. B.") or B. S. (Bachelor of Science) degree after four years of studies. Students may then continue at a university in "graduate studies" for the Master's degree (M. A [A. M. in Latin form] or M. S. – or a special degree such as the "M.B.A." in business or the "M.Ed" in education) and then for doctorates (Ph.D., a doctor of philosophy in various subjects; Ed. D., education; M. D., medicine; J.D., law; and so forth).

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE. A four-year institution with broad undergraduate education. These schools often include pre-professional training in such fields as medicine, law, and engineering.

UNIVERSITY. An academic organization which grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of fields and which supports at least two degree-granting professional schools that are not exclusively technological (such as medicine, journalism, agriculture, law, or business). It is composed of a number of "Schools" or "Colleges," each encompassing a general field of study. Universities generally devote a significant portion of resources (both financial and faculty time) to research activities and to teaching graduate students working for Master's or doctoral degrees. (Note that some "universities" today do not fit into this definition. For example, the University of Redlands functions more like a liberal arts college than a traditional university.)

NURSING SCHOOL. There are two kinds: Schools affiliated with hospitals, granting R. N. (Registered Nurse) degrees upon completion and schools affiliated with four-year colleges or universities, granting both a B. S. degree and the R. N., to enter the field of nursing administration. Some states now require a bachelor's degree for licensing of nurses.

ARTS SCHOOLS. Schools specializing in various creative arts. Some concentrate on such areas as design and fashion, while others offer courses in a variety of the arts (dance, film, drama, etc.). Music conservatories are a type of art school, offering intensive training in music. Some conservatories are independent (such as the San Francisco Conservatory), while others are connected with a larger school (Oberlin Conservatory is part of Oberlin College.)

COMMUNITY COLLEGES. Formerly called "Junior Colleges" or sometimes "City Colleges," two-year institutions providing vocational training, academic curricula for transfer to four-year colleges, and high school completion courses. Most community colleges give an Associate of Arts degree ("A. A."). Some of the academic programs offered are "terminal courses," academic programs complete in themselves. A student who finishes these courses may not transfer them to a four-year college for further study without completing additional course requirements. There are vocational (job training) programs such as dental assistants, auto mechanics, cosmetologists, lab technicians, etc. Community colleges are usually operated by an independent, tax-supported district. California's state system, especially Community Colleges, are experiencing serious financial problems and are limiting enrollment, raising fees, and cutting classes.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. These schools, usually called "institutes" though sometimes calling themselves "colleges" or even "universities", specialize in theoretical and applied sciences. They offer specific curricula in various fields of engineering at the undergraduate and the graduate levels. Some schools, such as MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) or Caltech (California Institute of Technology) will offer degree programs in the social studies and humanities areas, despite their names and reputations.

UNDERSTANDING CALIFORNIA'S THREE-TIER SYSTEM

California has three systems of State government-funded colleges and universities. This is confusing. Here is a brief description of and links to one of the best State programs in the USA:

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA [www.ucop.edu/pathways/infoctr/sites.html]

--education for undergraduates with a strong emphasis on graduate programs and world-class research in the sciences and humanities.

--176,000 students at 9 campuses. UC Merced is the newest, opened in the fall of 2005.

--cost for Californians is about \$14,000 in required fees and an additional estimated \$17,500 for housing, food, books, and transportation. Non-Californians pay about \$40,000 plus the \$17,500.

--entrance requirements are stiff – they take only the top eighth academically of high school graduates statewide, with a-g requirements completed, generally a 3.3 GPA in the a-g subjects, high SAT's. UC Berkeley and UCLA are very crowded, and turn down many 4.0 students. UC accepts no part-time students.

--system continues to experience severe budget restrictions this year, reducing by 10% the number of students being accepted and the number of programs and classes being offered.

CAL STATE UNIVERSITY [www.calstate.edu/tier2/campuses.shtml]

--emphasis on undergraduates; some master's programs. They cannot offer doctorates except in conjunction with UC, except for a new program in education. They have no law or medical schools. This is the largest system of higher education in the U.S. They train most of California's teachers. Professors spend more time in classrooms and less on research than UC counterparts.

--325,000 full- and part-time students at 26 campuses. CSU Channel Islands and CSU San Marcos are the newest campuses.

--costs \$6,000 for California residents in required fees and an additional estimated \$18,000 for room, board, books, transportation. Nonresidents pay about \$17,000 plus the \$18,000 for living.

--high school senior must be in the top academic third statewide to enter, and must have taken at least 13 required courses. A 3.0 GPA in those courses makes a student automatically eligible but a GPA as low as 2.0 may be acceptable if matched by good scores on standardized tests.

--priority given to California community college students who have completed the first two years of a bachelor's degree program, and to high school graduates whose high school records made them eligible. Freshmen applicants must take the same "a/g" requirements as for UC.

The Cal State system is extremely stressed this year by State funding restrictions, and many students and programs are being eliminated. **The application window this year is from October 1 through November 30, 2018, for the six most popular campuses:** Fullerton, Long Beach, Pomona, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Sonoma. The other 17 campuses will accept applications until March 1, 2019, **but will close down programs when they're full.** In 2012, most campuses were full by late January and early February. **Apply early!** See the CSU website to track which campuses are still accepting applications and which majors are open.

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YOUR ADMISSIONS ODDS FOR CALIFORNIA'S STATE UNIVERSITIES

California's public colleges and universities receive far more applications each year from prospective freshmen than they can accept. Here are the numbers for fall 2018:

	APPLICATIONS	ACCEPTED
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA		
Berkeley	74,702	15,308
International	9,213	1,142
Davis	63,416	24,538
International	4,086	2,137
Irvine	70,532	21,806
International	4,509	2,488
Los Angeles (UCLA)	99,657	17,455
International	9,829	3,143
Merced	19,148	11,874
International	445	214
Riverside	41,888	20,375
International	1,516	865
San Diego	73,838	24,939
International	6,760	3,603
Santa Barbara	64,831	25,803
International	4,111	2,102
Santa Cruz	42,954	21,936
International	1,489	589
CAL STATE UNIVERSITY		
Bakersfield/Kern	6,637	4,260
Channel Islands (Camarillo)	6,960	4,480
Chico	17,221	12,328
Dominguez Hills (L.A.)	14,741	8,138
Fresno	16,242	9,444
Fullerton#	38,882	17,790
East Bay (Hayward)	10,778	3,840
Humboldt (Arcata)	9,980	7,957
Long Beach#	54,970	16,957
Los Angeles	26,546	18,573
Maritime Academy	1,350	928
Monterey Bay	12,562	5,577
Northridge	28,296	17,411
Pomona #	28,143	14,686
Sacramento	19,702	13,728
San Bernardino	10,908	6,353
San Diego#	51,364	16,092
San Francisco	31,439	20,070
San Jose	25,154	15,967
San Luis Obispo #	36,941	11,545
San Marcos	9,978	5,841
Sonoma#	13,145	10,757

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INFORMATION RESOURCES

YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR - a great person with whom to begin discussing your college concerns! Use this help - but remember we can't apply for you - or make your decisions!

OTHER SOUTHWESTERN TEACHERS AND STAFF - remember the headmaster attended Stanford, the deans went to California and Arizona state colleges and universities; others around our campus went to such good but highly varied colleges as UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, Notre Dame, Georgetown, Occidental, Fordham, Williams, Oberlin, Cal State, Scripps, SC, Indiana, Bath University in England, Fort Hays University in Kansas, Redlands, Ohio State, and over 30 other American colleges. Don't hesitate to talk with your teachers about what's right for you. But again, remember that they can't do the work, or make the choices, for you.

SENIOR/JUNIOR CONFERENCES are arranged with the college counselor. Sign up at the student office - on a first-come, first served basis - to arrange an individual appointment. Parents are always welcome to come to these conferences, but most students come alone.

COLLEGE MEETINGS - several colleges will visit San Marino Campus during the year, and Beaver Creek students will tour Arizona colleges. The college counselor has worked hard over the summer to select a variety of visitors representing different types of colleges of particular interest to our seniors. The visitors will be listed on the monthly calendar. All interested students are welcome; juniors and sophomores can also take advantage of this opportunity to learn more of various colleges. If colleges of special interest to you are not on our list of visitors, please ask the college counselor as soon as possible to arrange a visit here, or another special chance at a neighboring school to learn more of your college. We also encourage juniors and seniors to **visit** colleges of interest whenever possible. Please let us know if we can help you with arranging visits.

THE NET – to get you started, Southwestern is partnered with Crowell Public Library in San Marino for unlimited use of their extensive search programs and subscriptions. From on or off our campuses, all Southwestern students should make extensive use of these programs at **crowellpubliclibrary.org**

COLLEGE PRINT CATALOGS, CD-ROM CATALOGS, AND VIDEOS - Available in the **San Marino campus library** in Lincoln Hall for your use, or order a personal copy from any college that you're interested in learning more about. Addresses of all California colleges and universities are in this handbook, and all American college address are available by Internet search. Southwestern's counseling office can obtain detailed information on financial aid and on testing.

VIDEOS – but remember to be careful, as they're advertising pieces and not a substitute for a visit to the campus.

COLLEGE FAIRS - our counselor will let the student body know of opportunities for group meetings in the areas of Southwestern's campuses. There will be at least one big college fair in both Pasadena and Phoenix in the spring of 2019, too late for most seniors but perfect for sophomores, juniors, and their parents to attend. Additionally, there is a mini fair which is held in November of each year. There are about 80 universities in attendance.

COLLEGE GUIDE BOOKS - sold at most book stores, and several are available in Crowell Public Library's on-line search site - often contain less hype and more information than catalogs and videos. These books often contain subjective tidbits from students on matters ranging from which departments are seen as strong or weak to which colleges serve the best pizza.

A GUIDE TO COLLEGE GUIDES

Objective guidebooks - lots of facts, usually without opinions or flavor of colleges:

"Barron's Profiles of American Colleges"

The College Board's "**College Handbook**", plus these other College Board publications: "Index of Majors and Graduate Degrees," "Guide to 150 Popular College Majors," and "The College Cost Book."

"**Lovejoy's College Guide**"

"**Petersen's Guide to Four-Year Colleges**"

Subjective guidebooks - giving opinions of students, faculty, authors - no substitute for a campus visit, but these books give flavor, history, even humor to help your choice come clearer:

"**The Fiske Guide to Colleges**" -300 of 3000 four year American and Canadian colleges

"**The Insider's Guide to the Colleges**" - 300 schools

"**How to Get an Ivy League Education at a State University**"

"**Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education**"

Magazines –

MONEY and **US NEWS & WORLD REPORT** magazine issues each year with special sections evaluating colleges. The **US News** annual college issue has become quite famous for "rating" colleges. and "winning" schools boast of their position. Beware of these. Remember these "ratings" are not at all scientific – they are based on questionnaires sent to university presidents about their opinions of other schools, and are highly subjective (in other words, just "feelings" and "reputations" that may not be at all accurate). We've summarized their West Coast picks on page 17 – along with a link to the US News web site that explains the numbers used in making these choices.

Newspapers –

Many newspapers publish college profiles at different times in the year.

THE NEW YORK TIMES publishes an "Education Life" section quarterly. This is on line at www.nytimes.com/edlife. They listed "Twenty Colleges Worth a Trip." California listed, Pitzer (Claremont; 40%), and Santa Clara (83%). Others were Southern Oregon (Ashland), Evergreen State (Olympia, Washington); Whitman (Walla Walla), Colorado College, Oklahoma, Macalester, Carleton, Grinnell, Cornell (Iowa), Kalamazoo, Earlham, Miami of Ohio, Kenyon, Wooster, SUNY Genesee, Union, and Wheaton (Norton, Mass.) We've information about each.

BEGIN HERE: SEARCH THE NET

YOUR VERY BEST SOURCE is through Southwestern's link through your on-line library at: crowellpubliclibrary.org. Southwestern funds your access to San Marino's outstanding public library, and we urge you to use its "Online Resources," including most college search programs. Use your library card barcode to log in to "Testing" and SAT tools under "College Prep Tools". The "Advanced Search" functions are especially helpful once you've some ideas to consider.

COLLEGE SEARCH SITES will help you come up with college ideas, but each college search site has some weaknesses that may keep you from getting much insight. These Internet sites are designed to help you find and apply to a college, sort of a "computer dating service" to link you to the right colleges, filtering recommendations by region, academic quality, size of school, best financial values, and lifestyle. With around 4,000 colleges and universities in the USA, this is a difficult task. Each site asks you to answer a series of questions to determine what you're looking for in a college and what type of colleges might be right for you. All these sites are free – paid for by advertising. Try them all, but don't depend on them for all the answers!

Embark.com Includes a tool for finding the right college, a scholarship search engine, information on financial aid, and tips for getting into the college of your choice. The most useful part is the college **MatchMaker** figure, which helps narrow your choices. You begin by selecting the regions of this country you might consider. Then you rate a series of options on a six-point scale, from "very" interested to "not at all". This takes about 20 minutes. Coming up with the answers can be difficult, but that's the whole idea. It forces you to think about what's important.

CollegeLink.com College Link lets you highlight only one option for each college, rather than the six-point scale of Embark. Thus this is less useful, but it does provide a useful quick glance at basic information for each school such as location, number of students enrolled, competitiveness, and tuition costs, and some useful articles and financial aid information.

Usnews.com/usnews/edu/college This college search engine is about the same as College Link, not as good as Embark. It gives the magazine's opinions on what they think are the best colleges in the country. Remember this is highly subjective! A good feature is its "**best values**" ranking, divided by region and type of school. The **community college** search tool is excellent, listing these two year colleges by major and distance from your home.

Federal Web Sites of interest: [links also found at Southwestern's web page]

www.nces.ed.gov Search colleges by location, size, programs, distance from your home. Shows who's admitted, who enrolls, tuition, biggest academic programs, graduation.

<https://studentaid2.ed.gov> Search here for admissions details, special programs, detailed breakdown as to how many students get aid and how much.

INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SITES are the next place to check. Every college has a site – usually under its name and "edu". If you can't find a college, try the usual search engines. But remember: these sites are prepared by the college, and are advertising the college. They'll be generally honest, but they're trying to present the best picture possible of their institution. Just as with catalogs and view books, they won't show their campuses covered with slushy snow or in spring-time mud! Use the sites to learn of schools of interest to you, but plan personal visits to best see if they'll fit.

CAMPUS VISITS

THE BEST WAY TO EVALUATE YOUR CHOICES - visit colleges in which you are interested! You should have your "short list" of colleges ready no later than the end of your junior year, then go visiting during spring break and during the summer before your senior year.

If you plan your visit correctly, this is the ideal way for you to decide about an institution.

--**arrange an interview** with someone from the admissions office, ideally when classes are in session, not on a weekend or during vacation time, no later than the fall of your senior year in high school. (Remember we cannot excuse absences on school days for college visits – but remember that during several days of Southwestern's Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays colleges will be in session.)

--**question that person** to get the facts you need to know that weren't on the net:

student-to-faculty ratio,
most popular majors,
how many students drop out by the sophomore year,
popular athletics and activities,
what's unique about the college, etc.

--**roam the campus** after the interview, discussing the school's pros and cons with students you might encounter. Find out if services such as tutoring or computer facilities are up to par.

--**stay overnight**, if possible, and get a campus tour by a student. Let Southwestern help you arrange this, if possible with one of our graduates attending the college you're interested in seeing.

--**check out the facilities** that would be **important to you** - the foreign language lab if you are a Spanish language student, for example, or the campus stage if you are interested in drama, or the gym and equipment available for your favorite sports.

--consider **talking by telephone** with past and present students if no time exists for a campus visit. Let Southwestern's guidance counselor or the admissions office at the college put you in touch with the right student.

--**visit on your own**; if your parents come along, plan some time on your own to explore. Parents certainly want to know about your choices and want to help, but remember you're the one who is going to attend!

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF A COLLEGE VISIT

You should plan to **visit about three to 10 different colleges** during your junior year and during the summer before your senior year. In planning that visit, try to spend overnight in the dormitories, or at least allow several extra hours to walk around, attend classes, and talk with students in addition to your interview time with the admissions office. We will be happy to help you arrange those visits.

Before planning a visit, be sure to:

- talk with Southwestern's college counselors** to see what alumni or friends we have at that college;
- make arrangements through our counselor to talk with **college alumni** on or off the campus;
- make your appointment for an interview with the **college admissions office**;
- make another appointment for an interview with the **head of the department** which you're most interested. This will give you a chance to evaluate the quality of the education you would be receiving.
- Be prepared to discuss the curriculum intelligently ... or in the case of the arts, to be asked to audition or show a portfolio. Let your teachers help you with these preparations well in advance of a visit.

Here are some suggestions on what to do during your college visits:

***TOUR DURING THE SPRING OR SUMMER** before your junior/senior year. Life is more relaxed on campuses in the summer, but you can still get a feel for the college's student life without having to compete with crowds of touring high school students.

Of course, be sure to remember the campus will look "different" at different seasons of the year – especially when touring colleges outside California, where the four seasons mean times when leaves are changing, or when snow is on the ground, then mud after the snows, and spring blossoms.

Spring and summer touring is ideal also because you'll have more quality time with the college's admissions staff. In the fall, half the college's admissions staff is on the road interviewing students while the other half is interviewing one candidate every few minutes.

***DRESS NEATLY.** Do not wear jeans, cutoffs, tank tops, bare-midriff tops, sweatshirts - you will look irresponsible. Boys should wear chinos and collared shirts; even better, a jacket and tie ... girls should wear businesslike skirts and blouses. Don't overdress, but do look neat and serious.

***WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES.** You do a lot of walking when you visit a college campus.

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***ASK FOR DIRECTIONS - FREQUENTLY!** Not because you're lost - but because you want to learn more of the college. Asking directions will give you a chance to find out how receptive and friendly the students are. Do they go out of their way to help? Give accurate information? Do people offer to show you around or answer other questions? The more you talk to the other students on campus, the better you will get to know the school.

***CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARDS AROUND THE CAMPUS.** Bulletin boards show what is really happening on campus on a daily basis. Everything will be there - plays, parties, where to buy used textbooks, etc. They'll also indicate what the students do on weekends.

***PICK UP A COPY OF THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER.** As with bulletin boards, this will tell you much of the feel of the college. Bring the paper home to better review what's happening at that university.

***EAT IN THE CAFETERIA.** At most colleges, visitors can pay to enter the dining hall. Sometimes the admissions department will provide a pass. It is important to sample a food plan that you would have to pay for later. It also lets you see whether students eat and run, or feel comfortable enough to linger or study there.

***LOOK FOR SIGNS OF CRIME PREVENTION.** Regardless of where they are located, most colleges in the United States are experiencing higher crime rates than in the past. Alarm boxes on poles and numbers to call to request police escorts show that the college is taking this matter seriously. Ask the admissions officer what other steps are being taken.

***MAKE SURE YOU GET THE INTERVIEWER'S NAME - AND SEND A THANK YOU NOTE WHEN YOU GET HOME.** Few candidates do this. In addition to being good manners, it will leave the administrator with a better impression of you. Of course, this can help if it's a tossup for acceptance.

***GET IN SEVERAL DORM ROOMS.** Even if you plan to commute, it's important to see what dorms are like - but remember that most colleges have many different groups in various types of dorms, so don't make quick judgment from just seeing a few rooms.

Again, your tour guide or a former student from Southwestern can help you visit around, or best of all help you spend the night in a dorm. Ask for this!

***SIT IN A CLASS OR TWO.** Often the admissions office can help you - or an alumnus from Southwestern attending that college. Also, you can ask a professor just before a class if you can listen. While you can't judge a school from one professor, a visit to a few classes helps you understand how personalized the instruction may be, and if you can follow the discussion.

***KEEP A DIARY OR JOURNAL.** You'll be seeing several colleges, and it's easy to forget the good and bad points of each. A journal will give you a clear idea of what you saw and will be particularly helpful if it comes down to a choice between two alternatives.

Include in your journal a few pictures of the school, and business cards you may pick up there. It gets confusing, remembering which college is which, after visiting several!

Write some **subjective** impressions of the college, what you're feeling while touring, adjectives and adverbs that pop to mind as you're walking about and visiting with students and staff. These notes can be extremely helpful in evaluating your choices of schools.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING YOUR COLLEGE RESEARCH

1. What is the average GPA of incoming freshman? How does this match yours?
2. What is the average SAT I verbal and math scores? How does this match yours?
3. Are SAT II's required? If so, what area?
4. How important are test scores in admissions and/or college placement?
5. What are the specific course requirements for admission?
6. How many students apply yearly? How many are accepted? How many actually enroll?
7. What percentage of the freshman class returns for the sophomore year?
8. What percentage of the freshman class actually graduates?
9. What percentage of graduates are accepted to, and place in, graduate schools?
10. What are the largest "majors" in numbers of graduates?
11. Which are recognized as the strongest departments or majors? How does this fit your present thinking about your major and your career?
12. Is on-campus housing required and/or guaranteed? What is it like?
13. What percentage of students receives financial aid? In what forms?
14. Are Advanced Placement exams accepted for credit, placement, or both?
15. What is school life like, and what activities are available, on and around the campus?

AND FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO CONSIDER:

16. Are admission requirements different for students who have transcripts with both foreign American high school records? Is there support for international students?
17. If a foreign language speaking student spends high school in the United States, does the minimum English test score for graduates from an accredited prep school such as Southwestern get waived?
18. Is the TOEFL required for application? If so, what is the college's minimum score?
19. If a foreign language is required for admission, may a student's native language count? Are there tests available to waive the foreign language requirement?
21. What are the costs for international students? Is there financial aid (if needed?)

Here is a grid chart some students have found useful for comparing colleges:

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MY CRITERIA FOR COLLEGE SELECTION

PREREQUISITES

Is my HS-GPA acceptable? _____
Have I met course requirements? _____
Have I taken required tests? _____

CURRICULUM/PROGRAM

Philosophies? _____
Special programs? _____
Special Strengths? _____
Athletic programs? _____
Graduate programs? _____

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Geographic location? _____
Rural, urban, suburban? _____
Size of school? _____
Size of classes? _____
Student body type? _____
Do I know people attending from Southwestern? _____
Reputation of the college? _____
Social opportunities? _____
Yearly cost? _____
Financial aid opportunities? _____
Undergraduate employment? _____

SOME SUGGESTIONS OF GOOD SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER

To help you pick among some good colleges, the Dow Jones company prepared this study of newly competitive, selective, and prestigious fallback schools. They factored in SAT scores, acceptance rates, and interviews with admissions counselors. Colleges were categorized as "NEW IVIES" (former fallback schools that are now as selective as the most competitive), "Safe," "Safer," and "Safest." These categories are geared to top students (1400 "old" SATs and above)

MIDDLE SATs ACCEPTANCE AVERAGE GPA

THE NEW IVIES Once considered backups, now in a league of their own, very hard to get in

DUKE UNIVERSITY	1450-1550	26%	3.90
GEORGETOWN UNIV.	1400-2500	22	3.90
JOHNS HOPKINS	1450-1560	31	3.91
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	1350-1500	29	3.89
NORTHWESTERN	1400-1550	33	n/a
POMONA COLLEGE	1400-1550	29	n/a
RICE UNIVERSITY	1390-1500	23	n/a
SWARTHMORE	1400-1520	23	n/a
UNIV. of NOTRE DAME	1400-1525	34	3.85
VASSAR COLLEGE	1390-1500	34	3.85
WILLIAMS COLLEGE	1380-1480	24	n/a

SAFE Still selective, but first-tier backup schools to the New Ivies

BOSTON COLLEGE	1270-1410	32%	3.82
COLGATE UNIVERSITY	1270-1430	38	3.58
EMORY UNIVERSITY	1300-1460	44	3.70
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY	1200-1330	63	3.60
GEORGE WASHINGTON	1260-1320	49	n/a
HAMILTON COLLEGE	1230-1410	39	3.40
HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE	1410-1550	46	3.80
TULANE UNIVERSITY	1280-1380	72	3.60
UC SAN DIEGO	1310-1450	38	3.90
USC	1350-1450	34	3.89
WASHINGTON (St. Louis)	1330-1440	34	n/a

SAFER Prestigious but easier to enter

AMERICAN (D.C.)	1230-1390	72%	3.28
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	1330-1470	49	3.50
CASE WESTERN RESERVE	1350-1440	71	3.70
GEORGIA TECH	1260-1440	57	3.70
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY	1221-1397	46	3.75
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT	1130-1220	62	3.32
PEPPERDINE	1150-1350	36	3.70
PROVIDENCE COLLEGE	1130-1300	57	3.41
REED COLLEGE	1260-1420	63	3.70
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY	1060-1280	69	3.51
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	1130-1300	58	3.50
UNIV. of GEORGIA	1230-1310	62	3.66
UNIV. of SAN DIEGO	1170-1270	49	3.71
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	1270-1420	55	3.57

THE SAFEST OF COMPETITIVE SCHOOLS

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ELON COLLEGE	1020-1210	61	3.54
GOUCHER COLLEGE	1070-1290	76	3.50
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS	1100-1350	77	3.62
ROCHESTER INST. TECH.	1130-1300	68	3.75
ROLLINS COLLEGE	1080-1260	71	3.40
SOUTHERN METHODIST	1060-1250	82	3.19
St. OLAF COLLEGE	1190-1370	71	3.70
UNIV. of DENVER	1010-1220	78	3.10
UNIV. of VERMONT	1080-1260	80	3.20
UNIV. of WISCONSIN	1180-1350	73	3.40
XAVIER (Cincinnati)	1130-1250	88	3.49

"HOT SCHOOLS" according to a poll of college guidance counselors –

take a look on line, and see if any of these interest you

CARLETON COLLEGE, Northfield, Minnesota	Strong international relations program
DARTMOUTH, Hanover, New Hampshire	Generous financial aid support
DICKINSON, Carlisle, Pennsylvania	International studies, with a year abroad
GETTYSBURG, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	Strong International and diplomacy
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN, Bloomington, Illinois	Midway between Chicago and St. Louis
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington, Indiana	Middle Eastern, Asian programs
MIAMI UNIVERSITY, Oxford, Ohio	Called "a public Ivy"
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, Middlebury, Vermont	International, Early-Childhood strong
NEW MEXICO MINING, Socorro, New Mexico	Fine science and engineering departm'ts
OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE, Los Angeles	Our alumni like Oxy's world affairs class
RICE UNIVERSITY, Houston, Texas	Public Policy Institute highly praised
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, St. Louis, MO	Competitive, but with good financial aid
WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Washington	Drama, communications, arts, music
WHITTIER COLLEGE, Whittier, California	Good pre-law, international relations
WILLIAM & MARY, Williamsburg, Virginia	International Relations, Diplomacy

WEST COAST "BEST COLLEGES" from US News & World Report – see

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/brief

Top Independent National Universities on the West Coast,, in order of rank: STANFORD (3) ... USC (19) ... UCLA (19)

Liberal Arts, In order of rank: OCCIDENTAL ... POMONA ... CLAREMONT McKENNA ... HARVEY MUDD ... SCRIPPS ... REED ... PITZER ... WILLAMETTE ... MILLS ... LEWIS and CLARK ... PUGET SOUND ... THOMAS AQUINAS ... WESTMONT ... UNIV. of PACIFIC ... DENVER (CO) ... SAN DIEGO (the independent, Catholic University of San Diego)*

Public, in order of rank: CALIFORNIA – Berkeley (1), U.C.L.A., San Diego, Irvine, Santa Barbara, Davis, Santa Cruz, Riverside ... WASHINGTON ... COLORADO ... ARIZONA ... ARIZONA STATE ... OREGON ... EVERGREEN (WA) ... NORTHERN ARIZONA

*It's confusing – remember that there are THREE "San Diego" universities:

University of California, San Diego (UCSD) ... California State University, San Diego (CSUSD) ... and an independent (Catholic) University of San Diego. All are good, but all are quite different. Be careful which one you're visiting on line as you check them out!

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IS MY SAT SCORE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET IN?

If you're wondering if you have the SAT scores you'll need to get into a top college in the United States, here's a side-by-side comparison of scores for the middle 50% of enrolled students. If your scores fall within or above these ranges, you're on target. Realize, of course, that SAT scores are just one part of the application. Perfect 800s don't guarantee admission if other parts of your application are weak. Admissions officers will also want to see a [strong academic record](#), a [winning essay](#), meaningful [extracurricular activities](#) and [good letters of recommendation](#).

Ivy League SAT Score Comparison (mid 50%)

	SAT Scores			
	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
Brown	660	760	650	770
Columbia	700	800	700	790
Cornell	640	740	670	780
Dartmouth	670	780	680	780
Harvard	700	800	710	790
Princeton	700	790	710	800
U Penn	660	760	690	780
Yale	700	800	700	800

Some Top College SAT Score Comparison (mid 50%)

	SAT Scores			
	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
Amherst	660	760	660	770
Carleton	660	750	660	760
Grinnell	600	720	610	710

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Haverford	650	750	650	750
Middlebury	640	740	650	740
Pomona	680	780	690	770
Swarthmore	680	770	670	760
Wellesley	650	740	640	750
Wesleyan	635	740	660	740
Williams	660	770	650	760

More Top College SAT Score Comparison (mid 50%)

	SAT Scores			
	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
Bowdoin	670	750	660	740
Bryn Mawr	600	710	600	720
Claremont McKenna	630	720	670	760
Colby	620	710	630	710
Colgate	620	720	640	720
College of the Holy Cross	<u>Test-Optional Admissions</u>			
Davidson	630	730	640	718
Denison	600	690	590	670
Dickinson	600	690	590	680
Gettysburg	610	690	610	690
Hamilton	650	740	660	730
Kenyon	640	740	610	690
Lafayette	590	680	620	700
Macalester	650	740	630	710
Oberlin	650	740	630	720
Reed	670	750	630	720

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Vassar	670	740	650	730

Top Public University SAT Scores (mid 50%)

	SAT Scores			
	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
College of William and Mary	620	730	620	720
Georgia Tech	590	690	650	740
UC Berkeley	600	720	650	770
UCLA	570	680	610	740
UC San Diego	540	670	610	720
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	540	660	690	780
University of Michigan	630	730	670	770

University of California SAT Scores (mid 50%)

Campus	SAT Scores			
	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
Berkeley	600	730	630	760
Davis	520	650	570	680
Irvine	510	620	560	680
Los Angeles	570	680	610	740
Merced	430	550	460	590

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Riverside	450	560	480	610
San Diego	520	650	590	710
San Francisco	Graduate Study Only			
Santa Barbara	540	650	550	670
Santa Cruz	490	630	510	640
California State Universities	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
Bakersfield	400	510	410	530
Cal Maritime	460	580	500	600
Cal Poly Pomona	460	580	490	630
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	540	640	580	680
Channel Islands	440	540	430	540
Chico	460	560	470	580
Dominguez Hills	370	470	380	470
East Bay	400	500	410	530
Fresno	400	520	420	540
Fullerton	440	540	450	570
Humboldt State	460	580	450	570
Long Beach	440	560	460	590
Los Angeles	380	490	390	510
Monterey Bay	420	540	420	540
Northridge	400	520	410	530
Sacramento	410	530	430	540
San Bernardino	400	500	410	510
San Diego State	480	580	500	610
San Francisco State	440	560	450	570

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San Jose State	440	560	470	590
San Marcos	430	530	440	550
Sonoma State	465	560	460	570
Stanislaus	400	510	410	530

Top Public Liberal Arts Colleges SAT Scores (mid 50%)

	SAT Scores			
	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
College of Charleston	560	640	560	640
The College of New Jersey	550	650	580	680
New College of Florida	630	740	570	680
Ramapo College	493	600	520	620
St. Mary's College of Maryland	568	680	550	650
SUNY Genesee	590	690	600	690
Truman State University	510	630	530	650
University of Mary Washington	530	640	500	610
University of Minnesota-Morris	510	650	510	650
UNC Asheville	540	650	520	620

Top California Colleges SAT Scores (mid 50%)

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	Reading		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%
Caltech	700	790	760	800
Claremont McKenna	650	750	660	760
Harvey Mudd	690	770	740	800
Occidental	600	700	600	700
Pepperdine	550	660	570	680
Pomona	680	780	690	770
Scripps	640	730	620	700
Stanford	680	780	700	790
USC	620	720	650	760

MAKING APPLICATIONS and TAKING TESTS

YOUR FIRST BIG JOB: MAKE A "SHORT LIST" - select four or five colleges that really interest you and fit your needs and desires.

Choose at least one "fallback" college that you feel will surely accept you.

Remember to consider some of the different aspects of a college - its size, location, cost, specialties, religious emphasis if any, activities of interest to you, housing, atmosphere, type of students accepted, success in offering academic and/or vocational training in your particular areas - each of these aspects need to be considered by you as you make that "short list".

THE COMMON APPLICATION for Undergraduate College Admission is now accepted by more than 450 US colleges/applications. See the list, which includes current admissions deadlines, fees, and other forms needed, at www.commonapp.org

CHECK THE COLLEGE'S WEB PAGE to see if they accept The Common Application, and how you can apply on line, or if applications are available on line to print. In most cases, you can apply or get forms at the college's web page.

NOTE: The University of California, the Cal State University systems, and California's community colleges require all undergraduate applications to be submitted online. This is increasingly true for other university applications.

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GET THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS OFF THE COLLEGE'S WEB PAGE, or write the college to ask for the following if you can't find it on line:

--**admissions application**; specify if you are a US Citizen or an international applicant.

--**see if they accept The Common Application**

--**financial aid application**, if needed

--**housing information**, if you plan to live on or near the campus.

ASK AT SOUTHWESTERN'S RECORD OFFICE FOR A SIX-SEMESTER TRANSCRIPT COPY

(your grades and credits from your 9th, 10th, and 11th grade year), one copy per application that you are making. Remember that transcripts **MUST** be requested by you on a form that you sign (as they are your private records). You need to give the **EXACT** address where your transcript should be sent – some colleges and universities use more than one address for applications.

GET SEVENTH-SEMESTER TRANSCRIPTS SENT by Southwestern's Records Office. The seventh-semester transcripts are available after the February report cards are given to you. After you have prepared an application, **write a note** to our school records office to request that your transcript be sent. Because of Federal privacy laws, transcripts can only be released by the student's signature, not by an oral request or by request of parents. Official transcripts must be sent by mail from the school's records office directly to the college(s) of your choice.

ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS - does the college where you are applying require a recommendation or recommendations? Most do. If your college does, a form will be included in their admissions packet. The college may tell you, for example, that a teacher from last year or from this year should write it; or an English teacher, or the headmaster, or the college counselor. Many colleges that request recommendations prefer one from the head of the school, summarizing your academic and personal records. Feel free to ask the headmaster to write these recommendations for you; he's happy to help. Read through the college's application guidelines to see if they want recommendations, and who they want to write recommendations for you.

Ask for recommendations from the headmaster, counselors, and teachers at least **ONE MONTH** before the deadline given by the college. Pick the person who knows you best, and for whom you have done a good job.

ASK the person first for a recommendation. **Ask in person.**

If he or she agrees to write,

GIVE him/her --the recommendation form, with your personal information completed and the waiver signed, and

-- a stamped envelope, pre-addressed to the college.

Recommendations are not a requirement of a teacher's job. Teachers write them on their own time, so a thank-you note afterward is thoughtful.

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Southwestern's teachers will write about you as sincerely - and honestly - as possible. Teachers cannot exaggerate your skills or accomplishments, however, as such is not fair to you or to other students.

MAKE TEST APPLICATIONS – Most test applications can and should be done on line. Paper applications for SAT I, SAT II, ACT, TOEFL, and other tests, and for financial aid under the State of California's programs, are available in the **Deans' office**. Also, the Deans and the college guidance counselor can tell you where you can write for other information or special applications.

SHOULD YOU GO FOR EARLY ADMISSIONS? – “Early-action applicants” must apply by November 1st to colleges offering “early admissions”, and the college will give you a decision (accept, reject, or defer) by December 15th. (The common application due date for most colleges is January 1st.) Early-action applicants must agree not to apply early to other colleges, and usually must agree to attend if accepted. A few years ago, Harvard University shook up college admissions by dropping its “early action” to make the process simpler and fairer. Other major universities have followed Harvard and also dropped early admission. Consider the policies of universities on your short list, but remember that if you need financial aid and you're bound to an early decision, you cannot compare aid packages to see what's best for you and your family.

FAQ's ABOUT TESTING

Should I take PSAT and SAT tests, or the ACT?

YES! – each, more than once in your Junior year, then two or three times in the fall of your senior year. Each time is good practice for improving scores. Some college admissions offices (led by Harvard) are complaining about using SAT's for university decisions, but at this point there is NO CHANGE in requirements of SAT's or ACT's for admissions. If a college admission office has two or more candidates who are otherwise equal, they will choose by the SAT/ACT scores, even if they've said they don't require these tests. And remember: Despite rumors, there are **NO PENALTIES** to taking SAT's/ACT's multiple times. Only your best score in each area is used, and your lower scores are forgotten.

What does the PSAT mean?

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test - the practice. All Southwestern's 9th, 10th, and 11th graders, plus 12th who haven't taken one, take PSAT's on campus Wednesday, October 16, 2013. You may also see the initials **NMSQT**, which stands for National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Juniors who score in the highest percentile range are eligible for National Merit programs. To enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and the competition for some 8,000 college undergraduate scholarships to be awarded.

The PSAT/NMSQT test helps you in several ways:

--**planning** for college, providing you with information about your verbal and mathematical skills that you will need in order to do well in college courses;

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- practicing** for college admissions tests, by letting you experience the same kinds of questions under similar conditions to the regular SAT's, and by letting you receive an estimate of the scores you can expect on the SAT's;
- selecting** a college, helping you identify colleges that offer programs at an appropriate level of challenge for you, and by giving colleges information about you;
- financing** your college education, by entering you in different national competitions for scholarships, and by getting you on college lists for information on financial aid.

NOTE: There is special provision when taking PSAT's for students with hearing, learning, physical, or visual disability; if you feel you qualify, see your counselor to obtain the eligibility form for services for students with disabilities.

The PSAT scores, which range from 20 to 80, help predict how you would do on the regular SATs with scores of 200 to 800 - **simply add a zero to your PSAT score**. The median score is 50, and the scores have been realigned to agree with the new SAT I scores.

Is there a cost for the PSAT?

Yes, the College Board charges \$22.00, paid through your incidentals at Southwestern. The College Board allows a limited number of fee waivers for low-income families; see the headmaster for information should this apply to you.

How do I register for the PSAT?

All freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and those seniors who've not taken the SAT's yet at Southwestern are **pre-registered** for the PSAT, so you don't need to fill out any forms in advance. We believe this is an important practice test. It takes two hours, and gives scores that are comparable to the SAT's.

What happens to the PSAT scores?

When the scores are returned to us (usually by **early December**), we will discuss your scores with you and we will send a copy and explanations to your parents. PSAT scores do **not** go to colleges and universities, though the NMSQT qualifying lists are sent to American higher education. The PSAT scores changed a few years ago to what the company calls "recentered" scores, still on the familiar scale of 20-80, but higher for most students. The explanations to parents tell about these changes. Mean verbal and math scores are in the center of the scale, near 50. It is possible to compare a "recentered" verbal and a "recentered" math score directly.

What does the SAT mean?

Scholastic Aptitude Test, a program of the **College Board**, a non-profit membership organization providing tests and other educational services for students, schools, and colleges. (Southwestern is a member school of the College Board.)

The **SAT Reasoning Test** is used by many colleges for admissions, particularly East Coast and West Coast colleges. The College Board has made major changes in the SAT. You should not use guidebooks or other SAT preparations older than 2009, as these will not reflect the changes. Use of a scientific calculator is required in Mathematics Level II-C SAT II (achievement) tests.

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How does the SAT Reasoning Test (the old "SAT I") work?

Scores on the **SAT Reasoning Test** are reported in three categories: **Critical Reading, Math, and Writing**. Each section of the SAT is scored from **200 to 800**. There are two writing sub-scores for multiple-choice and the essay.

The **median score** is now **500**. In addition, there is one 25-minute un-scored section, known as the "variable section." This may be either a critical reading, math, or writing choice selection. The 25-minute essay will always be the first section of the SAT, and the multiple-choice writing section will always be the final section.

The range of scores acceptable for your college's admissions is information available to you, information that you should obtain from the college catalog or web site. It is very helpful to compare your SAT scores with the profile range for colleges where you are interested in applying, to see if you'd fit that college and if they will accept you.

What are the SAT SUBJECT TESTS?

Subject Tests (the old "SAT II") are designed to measure your skills in particular subject areas, as well as your ability to apply that knowledge. You take Subject Tests to show colleges your mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science, and language. The tests do not follow any particular textbook or course. Many colleges now use the Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and for advising. There are five general subject areas:

ENGLISH ... Literature

HISTORY and SOCIAL STUDIES ... US History, World History

LANGUAGES ... Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese, Korean

MATH ... Math Level 1 (formerly Math IC), Math Level 2 (formerly Math IIC)

SCIENCE ... Biology, Chemistry, Physics

All Subject Tests are one hour, multiple choice tests.

When should you take SAT Subject Tests?

If universities where you are applying want or suggest that you take Subject Tests, you should take them as soon as possible after completing your class in the area. For example, take the U.S. History Subject Test in the summer after your junior year, after you've taken that class.

When are the SAT's given?

The SAT's are given seven times during the school year, at testing centers near San Marino and Beaver Creek, in August, October, November, December, January, March, and May.

Most students **take the SAT in the spring of their Junior year**, and again **once or twice during the first semester of their Senior year**.

You may take it as many times as you wish. College admissions offices will look at the **highest score** in each portion of the test, without penalizing you for taking the test repeatedly.

How does one register for the SAT's?

Register on line. The College Board's web page is easily available from Southwestern's home page as the first item under "COLLEGE LINKS" to the right. You should establish your own page

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at this site, and register for practice questions to be sent your email. Paper registration forms are also available at the Deans' office.

Register on line if you have a credit card, or see the school business office and they will help you register using a school credit card.

It is **your responsibility** to get yourself registered for tests - no one will do it for you! Be sure to mark the correct post office box on the envelope, to use the bar code, and to enclose a check or credit card information. There are registration deadlines, and penalties for late registration - check the list at the back of this handbook for details. Be sure to indicate Southwestern's code (To be used by students at both campuses) –

053 - 161.

How can I prepare for the SAT?

All your regular class studies - and **lots of reading**, in and out of class - are the best preparations. **SAT** includes two verbal sections of 85 questions, 30 minutes each (testing vocabulary, verbal reasoning, and reading comprehension); two mathematics sections of 60 questions, 30 minutes each (testing how you solve problems involving arithmetic, algebra, and geometry); one Test of Standard Written English with 50 questions, and one section of experimental questions which do not count. Drilling or last minute cramming will not help.

You do not need any special "SAT prep" classes, as your other classes prepare you. The abilities measured by SAT are developed over years of study. There's no way to cram at the last minute and change your score. The best tip for last-minute preparing is: get to bed early, wake early, and be sure to have a good breakfast before you head for the test site in plenty of time to find it!

How to prepare for the Writing portion of the SAT?

Simple. Do lots of practice writing in classes. Southwestern's teachers are doing their best to help you with substantial writing practice and suggestions how you can improve.

What are the ACT's?

The **American College Testing** program is a competitor to the College Board's SATs. The ACT is required by some colleges - particularly in the Midwest, where they originated at the University of Iowa. Check if any of the colleges that interest you require or suggest the ACT's, and take this test if they do. See page **31** for comparisons between the SATs and ACTs.

The ACT is less common than SATs. Most Southwestern students will not need to take them, as few of our students apply to the Midwestern schools that require them, and many colleges that do use the ACT also accept SAT scores. Applications for ACT are available through the college counselor if you need to apply for testing. The same SAT school code is also used by ACT - for Southwestern at both campuses, **053-161**.

What is the TOEFL?

The **Test of English as a Foreign Language – TOEFL iBT** - is given on line by the College Board to students who did not learn English as a native language. The **TOEFL PBT** is the paper-based version for test centers that do not have Internet access.

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The "iBT" is an "Internet Based Test". The test is given at official TOEFL centers around the world. Scores on the test are required or accepted by more than 8,000 two- and four-year colleges and universities, professional schools, and sponsoring institutions. TOEFL has information online at: <http://www.toefl.org>

Southwestern's school code for TOEFL is: 8098.

TOEFL score reports are valid (accepted by the college of your choice) ONLY if received directly from Educational Testing Service (ETS). Always require that official score reports be sent directly by ETS to your institutions.

TOEFL test scores are confidential and cannot be released by the institution or parents. Thus Southwestern cannot send copies to colleges for you - you must ask ETS to send scores directly to the colleges where you are applying. **TOEFL scores are only good for two years.**

Where can I take TOEFL iBT Tests?

By reservation on line – see any of your ESL teachers, or the director of international studies, for information – and they'll be reminding you and showing you how to register. The cost depends on the center and country, but ranges from \$160 to \$250. On-line registration can be paid by credit card. The school business office can help you with this.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE SATs

The **SAT Reasoning** Test is multiple choice, 75-80 minutes long with 75-80 questions. Much of this is the same as the old SAT verbal test, but there are some important changes. Analogies and antonyms are eliminated. Vocabulary is measured in context. There are new shorter reading passages, though long passages are also included with a pair of reading passages to analyze and compare.

The **SAT Mathematical Reasoning** Test has 60 questions to be answered in 70-75 minutes. There is more emphasis on applying mathematical concepts and interpreting data, and new content from third-year college prep math. Most questions are still multiple-choice, but all quantitative comparisons are eliminated. Some questions require students to produce their own answers and to mark them on a special grid on the answer sheet. Also, students are permitted - but not required - to use calculators. (We suggest you plan to do so, and be very familiar with a good scientific calculator by buying and using one long before the test.)

SAT Writing is the biggest challenge for most students. The test includes a 20-minute writing exercise, along with some multiple choice questions. You must respond, in long hand, to a question or statement. The essay topics do not require you to know some special subject or topic in advance. The multiple-choice questions include some "correct-the-passage" work, such as when you revise your own writing in English classes. The questions check if you can recognize mistakes and find the correct rephrasing.

How can you prepare for the SAT tests? Many materials and most class activities will help you get ready. Use the new SAT Preparation Center at least once a week to practice questions, review math, and more. The Official SAT Online Course and Study Guide is very good.

SAT will also send you a "Question of the Day" if you register at www.collegeboard.com. These are good fun, and also very helpful in stretching your brain.

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The SAT Math portion contains regular multiple-choice math questions and quantitative comparison questions. Most math questions are the same as the old SAT's, though calculators can be used. For practice, simply use your calculator with the math questions that appear in materials designed for preparing to take the old SAT's.

The SAT Math portion contains new questions requiring you to develop your own solutions and enter these responses on grids (not just recognizing solutions from among several choices). You can prepare by working through existing sample math problems to reach a solution without looking at the possible answers given in the sample.

HOW TO PREPARE? Get ready the usual way:

--**read** as much as possible!

--**work through sample math problems** on line to solve without looking at samples

--**take challenging courses** and do your best each day. Most of Southwestern's high school courses, such as in science, history, literature, government, foreign languages, and of course mathematics, are designed to help you think and reason - important to SAT, college, and life successes.

--**get involved in problem-solving activities** in school - things like student government, publications, community service programs that let you make decisions, even team sports, all these exercises in solving problems will help you with the new SAT's.

--**get to bed early** the night before the test, get a full eight hours sleep, and get up early enough **to have a good breakfast**. Get to the testing center early, so you aren't under pressure. Relax and take a deep breath before you begin!

--**remember to bring photo ID, your SAT admissions ticket, TWO #2 pencils, a calculator with fresh batteries, and snacks for the short breaks.**
(Do not bring mechanical pencils or pens, which are not allowed.)

--**arrive by 7:45 – earlier is better, to find the room –** testing will be over by 1 pm.

HELP AVAILABLE FOR SAT PREP: There are many SAT-prep programs available, some through colleges and universities, some for-profit; the Deans' offices have information available. **In general, we do NOT recommend you pay for any of these.**

The practice programs available on Southwestern's computers, the College Board's on-line SAT Preparation Center, and software you can purchase, are just as valuable as any SAT prep class. All is free except for the low-cost software.

A SPECIAL NOTE ON CALCULATORS: the College Board, the group giving the SAT's and PSAT's, have approved only a few scientific calculators for use on the Mathematics Level II-C Achievement Tests.

In choosing your personal calculator, it would be helpful to you to choose one of these approved models and to learn its operations thoroughly:

--**CASIO** models FX-82, FX-115, FX-250, FX-300, FX-570, FX-991

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--**RADIO SHACK** model EX-4008 only

--**SHARP** models EL-506, EL-509, EL-520, EL-531, EL-546

--**TEXAS INSTRUMENTS** models TI-25, TI-30, TI-31, TI-34, TI-35, TI-36

In addition, six overseas models (not available for purchase in the United States, but sold in many foreign countries) have been approved. They are: Sharp EL-556D, Sharp EL-545, and the Texas Instruments models Galaxy 30, Galaxy 40, Galaxy 40X, and Galaxy 52.

Be sure to check your calculator soon to see if it is acceptable for SAT use. If not, you should acquire one of the above models and become thoroughly familiar with its use before you face the tests.

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COMPARING ACT and SAT

ACT information:

- ACT lasts 2 hours 55 minutes, with an optional 30 minute writing test.
- Number of students taking the ACT has risen 44% on the West coast
- Number of students taking the ACT has risen 66% on the East coast.
- ACT is curriculum based.
- Colleges claim they do not prefer ACT over SAT or visa versa.
- Counselors suggest that ACT may be a better test for students with a shorter attention span.
- Counselors suggest that students with learning disabilities may do better on ACT.
- ACT questions are more knowledge based and straight forward.
- English portion of ACT focuses on grammar, punctuation, syntax.
- ACT includes science and trigonometry.
- Students who are considered "hard workers" tend to do better on the ACT.
- Students who are not good test takers, who earn low ACT test scores of 11-19 will most likely not do well on SAT either.
- ACT test scores for boys and girls do not show any major sex differences.
- Statistics show that minorities do not score as well on ACTs as they do on SAT's

SAT information:

- SAT takes 3 hours 45 minutes to complete.
- SAT is aimed at more general reasoning, and problem solving.
- SAT is more nuanced, puzzle like, tricky.
- English portion of SAT focuses more on vocabulary than ACT does.
- If you wish to avoid science and trigonometry take the SAT.
- Statistics suggest that "bright underachievers" tend to do better on the SAT than ACT.
- Boys as a group and minority groups do better on the SAT.

Percentage of 2017 freshman submitting each score:

HARVARD

ACT 35%
SAT 83%

STANFORD

ACT 39%
SAT 86%

SCORE EQUIVALENTS	ACT	SAT
	36	1600
	35	1560
	34	1520
	33	1480
	32	1440
	31	1400
	30	1360
	29	1320
	28	1280
	27	1240
	26	1200
	25	1160
	24	1120
	23	1080
	22	1040
	21	1000

TEST REGISTRATION

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SET UP "MY ORGANIZER" at www.sat.collegeboard.org. New features there let you save your college lists and searches, and give you financial aid tools and calculators.

FIND 2018-19 DATES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR TESTING:

TEST DATE	TESTS	DEADLINE	GET SCORES BY WEB
June 2	SAT SUB	May 3	July 11
Aug 25	SAT SUB	July 27	Sept 7
Oct 6	SAT SUB	Sept 7	Oct 16
Nov 3	SAT SUB	Oct 5	Nov 16
Dec 1	SAT SUB	Nov 2	Dec 14
Mar 9	SAT	Feb 8	Mar 22
May 4 `	SAT SUB	Apr 5	May 17
June 1	SAT SUB	May 3	July 10

FEES:

Current US registration fees are \$47 **for the SAT \$64**, \$46 **for the ACT** (without Writing, and \$62.50 for the ACT (with writing).

Subject tests are \$24.50 per test date plus \$13 for each test scheduled.

Late fees are \$26 for the SAT and \$22 for the ACT.

Standby testing is available for the ACT for an additional fee of \$43. NO STANDBY testing is available for the SAT.

TEST CENTERS: Locations for taking the tests in USA or other countries can be found at acttestcenters.org and at sat.collegeboard.org/testcenters. The March SAT and the August ACT are available in the U.S. and Canada only

TRICKS TO FILLING OUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

REQUEST AN APPLICATION ASAP – and **APPLY ON LINE IF IT'S POSSIBLE**. All California state universities are requiring on-line registration this year. See the college's web site. As soon as you've finished your "short list," no later than early fall of your senior year, get the necessary application packets on line from the college web site. Southwestern will have some paper applications on hand, but it's better to apply on line. Colleges whose representatives visit Southwestern will also leave application forms.

GIVE TEACHER AND COUNSELOR REFERENCE FORMS to the appropriate individuals as soon as you receive them. This enables those you are asking to write on your behalf and to spread their efforts, always on their own time, across the fall months. **The more time they have, the better a job they can do for you!** You must give at least **ONE MONTH** time for

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the reference writer to complete your request. **Remember to include a stamped envelope that you have addressed to the college.** Also, be sure to fill out the top part of the reference form with your full name, and sign the release if there is one on the form.

APPLICATION FORMS, INCLUDING ESSAYS, should be completed well ahead of the deadline given by the college. Applications submitted at the last minute all too often give the appearance of a "rush job." A good student lost admission to the college of his choice in 2005 because of a rush job after waiting to write up to the last minute. Mark deadlines in your student calendar. Complete your application materials at least ONE MONTH before the deadline. Either on line or on paper, be sure to proofread carefully before submitting.

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON THE APPLICATION, and accurately answer all questions. **Be as truthful, specific, and concise as possible.**

WRITE ROUGH DRAFTS OF ESSAYS. Have someone else proofread for you before filling in your application. Write your drafts early enough so they can cool off for a few days, letting you read them as if they're fresh. The essays are very important to your admissions chances at many colleges. Remember that admissions officers want to read your sincere thoughts.

TELL OF YOUR ACTIVITIES - including student government participation, yearbook or newspaper editing and writing, athletics, and don't forget your community service! Be sure to include somewhere in the essay or the college's application form some information about how and where you have performed your community service. Be honest, but don't be shy. Admissions officers will be impressed by your activities, and particularly by your community service. However, if you are applying to a few selective colleges such as UCLA, Cal Berkeley, and Stanford, note the essays DO NOT ask for activities, but address particular topics. **Be sure to give the college exactly what it asks to see.**

IF AN APPLICATION FEE is required, attach the correct amount in a check or money order. Southwestern's business office can provide a check for you if you wish, taken from your incidentals account. Checks are written on Friday mornings. Be sure to allow time for the business office to get you a check by asking earlier in the week. **See the Headmaster if you feel you need a fee waiver request because of family hardship.** Some colleges accept on-line fee waivers; see the applications of your college choices.

IF A PHOTO is requested, paste or staple it to the form so it won't get lost. It's also a good idea to write your name on the back of the photo in case it becomes separated from your application. Expensive portrait photos are not necessary.

USE YOUR FULL, LEGAL NAME ON APPLICATIONS - and use exactly the same name on each part of the application. Don't use nicknames or initials. Some Southwestern students have missed admissions because they submitted materials using different names, particularly nicknames, and the colleges had established two different files for each student. An Asian student in 2009 listed her last name first, then first name, on college applications, but her first name first, then her last name on the SATs. As a result, she was not admitted to her first choice college. Another student used a nickname on applications, and birth name on tests. **Consistency with your name is very important.**

USE YOUR PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS for the application, noting Southwestern's address as a temporary "mailing address" if needed. Should your home address change during the application process, be sure you notify all colleges where you have applied, giving your old and new addresses so your application is not lost. **Again last summer, a June 2010 graduate**

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missed a housing opportunity because the materials were sent to Southwestern and we had no forwarding information - use your home address!

IF YOU NEED FINANCIAL AID OR HOUSING INFORMATION, indicate this on your application and return the supplemental form if required by your college.

REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT from Southwestern's student office **EARLY!** Forms are available for this in the office. Make sure you put the college name and address on the request form.

REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS according to the college's guidelines.

SHOULD YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO READ RECOMMENDATIONS? Yes! Colleges will place more emphasis on recommendations written without restrictions. Many people will not write a recommendation unless your right to see it has been waived. .

SHOULD YOU SEND EXTRA LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS? It does not usually help to have extra letters written on your behalf. Since these recommendations are invariably positive, they do not help distinguish your application. Some colleges are flooded with letters from alumni or other important people asking acceptance for certain applicants; this type of pressure is usually worthless, as the colleges ignore such recommendations.

SHOULD YOU GO FOR A PERSONAL VISIT AND INTERVIEW? Yes, if you possibly can; most admissions officers are happy to meet with you - by appointment in advance, of course - and their subjective impressions of you will become an important part of your file. A few selective colleges, such as Stanford, specify they do not want interviews, but visits are still important to be sure the college fits your needs. Note that Chelsea Clinton still visited Stanford before she applied! Be sure to prepare carefully for such a visit - ask the right questions about the college, and sell yourself in a pleasant, honest way. See the section on "**How to make the most of a college visit**". Let us know how we can help you arrange a visit, including transportation and housing details. But you must make the effort to ask!

SHOULD YOU ASK SOUTHWESTERN'S STAFF FOR HELP? Absolutely positively definitely by all means **YES!** We're here to help you introduce yourself to colleges. Be sure to talk with any school staff that you think can help you decide and apply - the college admissions counselor, headmaster, dean, teachers - we'll all do whatever possible to help you - if you'll ask! **But we won't – can't – make the decisions or do the applying for you!**

THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE ESSAY or PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal essay (a writing sample) has become a significant part of the college application at many schools. It is in the essay that you can distinguish yourself from hundreds of other qualified applicants. It is here in the essay where you "sell yourself" to the admissions committee of the college you hope to attend.

BOTH SUBSTANCE AND APPEARANCE ARE IMPORTANT - be aware not only of what you write, but also how you present it. And be sincere!

Most essays focus on your values and your future goals. Your values would be defined as those things that mean the most to you. This may include information on your family or friends, your education, money or material possessions, or other outside interests. Your goals, which often grow out of your values, would be those things that you aspire to achieve.

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Essays may also emphasize the characteristics or personality traits that you feel you exhibit.

Most essays average about 200 to 400 words, about a page or two. The University of California application looks for something a little longer.

The key points to watch are **APPEARANCE** and **SUBSTANCE...**

APPEARANCE: Always type everything unless specifically instructed otherwise on the application (if you are asked to hand-write, do so carefully.) Do not make typing errors, and do not use white-outs.

Submit all sections of your application well before the deadline. This gives the college admissions people more time to read and remember your application - and gives the appearance you are not a procrastinator!

Arrange for any recommendations to be sent well in advance of the due date.

SUBSTANCE: Read the essay question or topic with great care, and then be certain you answer the question and supply the information the individual college seeks from you. Writing a great answer to the wrong question can be fatal.

Make an outline before you begin, and stick to it. Rewrite your essay as often as you can. This will only improve your chances.

Try to distinguish yourself as an individual. Tell about your activities, including student government, publications, athletics, and service in school and the community. Be yourself. Let the admissions committee learn something about you, your life, your goals, hopes, and expectations.

Be honest. Do not waste time justifying past mistakes or failures; rather, emphasize your successes and personal achievements.

Finally, be persuasive. Tell the admissions committee exactly why you want to attend their college above all the others, and show them why they should want you above all the other applicants at their college.

SAMPLE ESSAYS

Here are six sample essay topics selected from six different university application forms:

A. Write an essay about yourself, discussing your values and goals - that is, the things that are important to you and the reasons why they are important. This may include your interest in your intended field of study, your family background if it has affected your level of performance, and anything else you feel the University should know about you. Be sure to cite examples of both in-school and out-of-school activities that demonstrate achievement, leadership, motivation, self-discipline, and commitment.

B. "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Please discuss a book you have read recently which exercised your mind and perhaps affected your behavior.

C. It is the intent of this essay portion to give you the opportunity to personalize your application and to demonstrate your creativity and ability to organize and express your thoughts. With these objectives in mind, choose one of the following topics and carefully prepare a brief essay on either topic: (1) - What do you see as the turning point(s) or important events in your life, and why do you view them as such? (2) - Given the opportunity to interview an influential personal from another era, whom would you choose, why, and what questions would you ask?

D. What are your primary outside activities? As you think about your involvement in these activities, what character traits do you illustrate through your participation in them?

E. What do you regard as your primary areas of strength, and how have you seen them contribute to your success so far? In what ways will you utilize them to make the most of your future?

F. What do you regard as your primary areas of weakness? How do you tend to combat these weaknesses or attempt to overcome them? Are there ways to turn your weaknesses into forces for the positive?

Each of these is a difficult topic. Your response may be the single most important element of your college application. We urge you to take this exercise seriously.

A Southwestern alumnus sent us these essay tips for you:

1. Start early! Read the question carefully and think about it for a few days before you begin.
2. Write a first draft, then proofread it for mechanical errors.
3. Give specific examples of key learning experiences - a memorable classroom moment, or a moving experience of reading or listening.
4. Do research about your particular college, and include in your essay if appropriate why you want to attend that college.
5. Indicate what you can contribute to the college student body. Be honest.

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6. Avoid starting the essay with your day of birth and moving chronologically through your life history. Make it interesting for the reader; don't put the reader to sleep.
7. Avoid vague statements such as "I know your school will give me a really thorough education that can prepare me for the future."
8. Don't copy the style or content of someone else's "model college application essay." Be yourself.
9. Include specific examples of events that caused you to mature in one way or another.

Hints from Jay Douglas, writing coach, on preparing a personal statement:

1. **Nobody knows.** A personal statement is not a quiz. There's no right or wrong answer.
2. **Brainstorm.** Use free-writing or clustering to narrow in on a topic.
3. **Be specific.** Write a story, not a resume.
4. **Start at the slap.** Begin at the height of drama.
5. **Write what you know.** Write the end first, or the middle last. When you're ready to write a paragraph, write it, no matter where it goes.
6. **Create the picture.** See an image in your mind. Use words to make the reader see the same image.
7. **Use strong verbs, adjectives, and descriptions.**
8. **Ask a friend, counselor, or teacher.** Not a relative. Relatives can be too nice.
9. **Nothing is written.** Everything is re-written.
10. **Do it yourself.** Typing is re-writing, and re-writing is writing.

When you have finished your essay, please make two copies - keep one in your records for your own reference, and give one to Southwestern's records office for your personal file. Counselors or teachers may use your essay for further information in writing their own recommendations; it will not be sent out by us to anyone without your specific permission.

Stanford's Tips on Application Essays:

BE SURE TO CHICAV-OOOP!

Stanford University's admissions office offers some comforting advice to high school seniors pondering what to write in their college application essays: "Just imagine you're in pajamas, drinking cocoa and writing a letter about yourself to a pen pal in a foreign country. Talk to us ... tell us about yourself ... relax, and let your thoughts flow smoothly.

"The biggest mistake people make in essays is being gimmicky or artificial, trying to think of something that will please us or psyche us out. They're not being themselves," Stanford's dean of admissions adds. The process worked for Chelsea Clinton, Tiger Woods, and many others - it can work for you.

Stanford and Ivy League colleges ask "slice-of-life" questions on their essays - "Tell about one of the best conversations you've had," for example. The University of California asks applicants to describe themselves. Whatever the essay question, it's important to keep in mind some of the key qualities that make a good essay, which Stanford's admissions people summarize with the mnemonic **CHICAV-OOOP**:

C stands for CONCISE. Follow instructions. If the application asks for a one-page answer, that's what they want. If a student can't summarize well, that's a problem. If you are writing something riveting, it can be riveting in one page. Don't ramble. Give them just what they want in length!

H stands for HONESTY. Some students make themselves sound like the editor-in-chief of the yearbook, when in fact they simply wrote for the book - or they think they have to write about something exotic, like climbing Mount Everest. It's perfectly all right to write about something common like your family, or about teaching a retarded kid to swim at summer camp, if that was distinctive in your personal development. The normal can be extremely significant. It's how you articulate it that is important.

I stands for INDIVIDUAL. Colleges want to know what makes you distinctive, particularly if you have been thoughtful about your life experiences. The essay is an excellent place to bring up disadvantages you may have faced, such as family losses or illnesses, thus helping admissions officers better understand a mixed academic record. If you care deeply about politics or religion, feel free to write about it. "We don't care if you're pro-life or pro-choice, Republican or Democrat, religious or agnostic," Stanford says. "The important thing, if you have a passion, is that it be rationally explained and presented in a way that does not condemn other people." But don't feel you must express interests that you don't really feel strongly about, or support causes that aren't your passions.

The next C stands for COHERENT. Write about one subject - don't write about everything in your whole life. You can't do it. Make sure your essay has a good beginning, a middle section supporting the beginning, and a clear conclusion, sticking with the topic.

A is for ACCURATE. Good, even graceful, English is expected. Typing errors, hard to read printing or poor penmanship, are not appreciated and hurt your chances. If your favorite book is War and Peace, don't say it was written by Dostoevsky. If you want to use big or unusual words, make sure you're using them correctly, and that these words are saying exactly what you want to convey - check them out in a good dictionary, and ask an adult reader to advise you if any words seem inaccurate for what you're trying to express.

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V stands for VIVID. Use examples, give details, and give the reader a sense of place.

The remaining letters in the mnemonic, **OOOP**, refer to pitfalls that must be avoided:

OBNOXIOUS - don't be. Obnoxious would be telling the college that your high school grades weren't as good as they could have been because you had lousy teachers and were bored, or that you could have done well if you wanted to study but you didn't want to work in high school. Admissions people really hate such bad attitudes.

OBSCURE - don't be. Obscure would be saying you won the Engelbert Humperdinck Award without telling the college what it was for, or that you'd held an interesting job without explaining what it was and why it was interesting. Don't use abbreviations, nicknames, or initials, but write everything out in full. Check through your essay to be sure everything you talk about is quite clear, particularly when a stranger reads your paper.

OBSCENE - don't be, even indirectly, like a student applicant who said the person with whom he'd most like to spend the day and night was Marilyn Monroe. "If you're a funny person, we'd like to know," Stanford says. "It warms our hearts. But it can misfire. Many times people try to be funny when they're not, or they will sprinkle their application with cute drawings or send in a comical object." (One student sent Stanford a shoe with the note, "Hope this gets my foot in the door." It didn't.) Good humor is basically humane. Sarcasm or obscenity doesn't get you very far in college admissions.

PLAGIARIZE - don't even think of it. "This should be obvious," Stanford's admissions people comment, "but every year we read things in essays that we've seen somewhere before. There's a book out - not a bad one - that contains a sample essay to Stanford. A few years ago we received an application essay that someone had copied straight from that book!" Some students and families pay consultants to write, or to freshen-up, student essays for them. This is usually discovered by the colleges, who sometimes get similar essays written by the same consultant in one area. Do your own work. Parents - or even consultants - can help point out mistakes or areas to strengthen, but colleges want - and can recognize - the freshness of your own voice.

So remember to CHICAV-OOOP!

Don't wait to the last minute to start your essay. Think about it for a few days, planning in your mind what you want to express before you even start to put anything down on paper. It can be written in a weekend, but it's best that you write a first draft, then put it away for a few days or a week. Then dig it out and read it as if you haven't written it.

When you think you've finished, proofread several times, and ask someone else to proofread again so it's perfect.

A great idea: show your draft essay to someone who doesn't know you very well, such as a teacher or administrator that you're not taking a class from, and ask him or her to read your essay and tell you: Does this sound like me? Do I come across as an interesting person? That's what colleges want to read!

CHECKING ON FINANCIAL AID

YOUR BEST SOURCE for scholarships, fellowships, and loan information is at the San Marino Public Library subscription service that Southwestern funds. See www.crowellpubliclibrary.org, and look for "Online Resources", then "TFS" (tuition funding sources).

OTHER SITES TO KNOW:

The Federal website on financial aid and higher education is www.students.gov.

The official FAFSA site: www.fafsa.gov

Student aid on the web: studentaid.ed.gov

The primary responsibility for meeting college costs lies with the family. When the family is unable to meet the full cost of attendance at the college of their child's choice, financial aid should be available. The amount of financial aid awarded will attempt to meet the difference between what a family can reasonably afford to pay and the total cost of a student's education. Total costs include tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and travel expenses. Almost all families make some contribution toward their child's education. Reasonable parental contribution levels are determined by computer, from financial information supplied by parents on the Financial Aid Form (FAF) of the College Scholarship Service (CSS), a part of the College Board. This form needs to be completed honestly and fully by your parents if you need financial help. A new form must be filed each year if a student wishes to continue receiving aid through college. Aid may increase or decrease, based on significant income changes or more children in the family attending college. Copies of your parents' income tax filings - the 1040s and other Federal tax submissions - must be included with the FAF submission. This means parents should complete their income tax forms as early as possible in the new year, certainly well before the April 15th deadline, so 1040s are available to send with the PCS.

CSS OPERATES "PROFILE". This is the best place to get information on college costs and how to meet them. To register for your customized PROFILE application, you can get online (www.collegeboard.org.) Your social security number and a credit card is necessary if you are an American citizen registering with CSS by telephone or electronically.

www.profileonline.collegeboard.com

The Higher Education Amendments raised **Pell Grant** limits for low-income students, subject to annual appropriations by Congress. In addition, the Amendments set up a non-subsidized loan program for middle-class families, a more sympathetic need-analysis formula, and a simplified, streamlined admissions process. **The Federal Family Education Loan Program** makes it possible for middle-income families to borrow the entire amount of their student's educational costs, minus any financial aid they may have received, at a government-guaranteed low interest rate. Payment of the principal is deferred until after college graduation.

To meet the full cost of college attendance, a financial aid "package" is constructed by the college or university. This package usually combines money from parents, student, grants, and loans according to the needs of the individual student; the package also sets earnings goals for a student's summer and school year jobs. Financial aid packages vary from individual to individual and from college to college. Families may discuss - even negotiate - the package with their college's financial aid office. If you don't get enough aid from the college you really want to attend, go back to the financial aid office at that college and discuss your circumstances further, making it clear that that is the college you really want to attend. The more selective the institution, the better your chance of receiving help.

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID:

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CALIFORNIA STATE AID COMMISSION

The State of California has aid available - to California State legal residents (**not** to "F-1" international students or residents of other states) - though funding for these programs has been reduced sharply because of the State's budget crisis. California grants are money based on need, according to the tuition charged at a particular college. These "Cal Grants" cover only tuition and fees, however - room and board, books, and personal expenses are not included. For example, if parents' contribution is calculated to be \$1,000 annually and a student plans to attend a state university with fees approximating \$300 a year, no assistance would be granted. If the student is accepted and plans to attend an independent college costing \$5500 in tuition, then the Cal Grant could be \$4500. See the free booklet "Financial Aid for Students Workbook," published by the Student Aid Commission Central Inquiry Unit and available at Southwestern - or call them if you have questions the booklet does not answer - **(916) 445-0880**.

Cal Grants must be used by a California State resident to attend a California institution, public or independent. There are three Cal Grants available (you may apply for only one). Cal Grant A covers four-year colleges; Cal Grant B covers minority students or students from extremely low income families; Cal Grant C covers occupational and trade school training. Deadlines are rigorously followed by the State. Be sure you meet every deadline. Cal Grant deadlines are noted in the Cal Grant application forms, available at Southwestern's college counseling office.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Individual colleges and universities give outright awards to students who show academic potential and financial need. Colleges who especially want a particular student at their school may offer more money to help make attendance financially possible. Colleges administer aid based on their own criteria, though it is always non-discriminatory regarding race, sex, religion, or national origin. College aid is awarded in combination with Cal Grants or other governmental programs.

If you need financial assistance, indicate this on the college application. Remain in close contact with the financial aid office of your college. They will work with you in developing your package, and they are an excellent resource for answering your financial aid questions.

PELL GRANTS

The "Pell Grant" is outright assistance given to financially needy American citizens by the Federal government. Limits were raised, so middle-class families should receive funding.

If you apply to the State of California for a **Cal Grant**, you **must also apply** to the Pell Grant program. Fewer students can qualify for these Federal grants than for state assistance. Forms are available at Southwestern's counseling office or from any college financial aid office.

The Federal Student Aid Processing Center in Maryland will do a free status check on a Pell Grant application if needed, but processing an application takes from four to six weeks. To receive an application, call them at **(301) 722-9200** (this is in Maryland - Eastern Time - and a toll call.) A few years ago, the old Federal Congressional Methodology required students to earn a minimum amount from summer jobs. However, because many students have trouble finding summer

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jobs, Congress eliminated the minimum student earnings contributions altogether. Also, parents' home equity no longer counts.

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Other Federal government programs include Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Parent Loans to Undergraduate Students (PLUS), the new Federal Family Education Loan Program, and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), as well as college work study programs (CWS). Money available to individuals will vary from \$200 to \$20,000 per year, depending on the program. Information is available in the Federal Student Financial Aid Information Center's pamphlet, "The Student Guide," (available from Southwestern's college guidance office), or through a free telephone call to **(800) 4-FED-AID**.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Some businesses, charity organizations, churches, and professional organizations award their own scholarships. Every group has its own criteria. Ask if your parents' employers, your family's organizations or clubs, or associations in your area of professional interest may have scholarship programs. If your score was high as a junior on the PSAT's, the National Merit people will come looking for you with many different special scholarships. There are search services to help you find a special scholarship, though you can do it yourself on-line (some of the search services cost more than you'll receive) Special scholarships range from just \$100 to several thousand dollars.

LOANS

Three special Federal loan programs for Americans exist. These are the **National Direct Student Loan Program (NDSL)**, the **Federal Family Education Loan Program (FELP)** and the **Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSL)**. Repayment of these loans is deferred to begin nine months after a student is no longer enrolled on at least a half-time basis. All of these loans are offered at very low interest rates. The FELP and the NDSL are administered for students through the colleges. Families apply for the GSL through specific banks, savings and loans, credit unions, or a few particular colleges. Loans are often part of a financial aid package. Parts of both NDSL's and GSL's will be excused if a student graduates and spends some time in teaching.

As listed above, information is available in "The Student Guide" or by calling the Federal Student Financial Aid Information Center at **(800) 4-FED-AID**.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Colleges supply on-campus jobs for students and help students find off-campus employment. These are coordinated through the Placement Center of your college. Some jobs are part of the **Federal Work-Study (CWS)** program; others are not. Most on-campus jobs pay standard college-determined wages. In addition to on-campus or school year jobs, financially needy students are usually expected to earn money toward their education through summer jobs. Again, the college's Placement Center helps students find summer jobs.

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WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO FOR COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

As soon as a student enters high school, parents should create special files, separately from usual financial papers, to retain all materials that will be needed in applying for college financial aid:

--State and Federal income tax statements;

--bills, receipts, and cancelled checks for educational, health care, and any extraordinary expenses that will help establish financial needs;

--copies of financial aid application materials;

--correspondence with colleges or government financial aid offices.

Make sure the colleges where your student is applying have up-to-date, permanent and local addresses to be sure you receive everything.

If your address changes, be sure the colleges get notice. **Always use the same full, legal name of the student** on all correspondence. Don't use nicknames or initials. If your last name is different from your child's, make sure your connection is clearly stated. Using Social Security numbers sounds coldly bureaucratic and opens to identity theft, but can be helpful to be sure your materials are matched correctly with your child's application. Some parents use only the last four digits of their Social Security number as identification on ALL forms they submit.

Prepare your Federal income tax filings as early as possible, preferably **in January**, even if you delay filing until April 15. Parental 1040's are vital for applications. They will be checked against your IRS filings, and must agree.

Apply on time to university and government agencies. Late applications seldom get full funding.

Check into financing programs through the college, such as parent loan programs permitting installment payments over an extended period of time at low interest rates.

Investigate independent financial aid sources for your child, such as through unions, churches, clubs, or corporations where you have affiliations, particularly those offering scholarships.

Consider investing in tax-exempt bonds for later college use.

Most important: decide with your student which college is right, regardless of cost. Then if you feel you need help to attend that college, by all means file a financial aid application with the college, and discuss with their financial aid office just what your needs may be. Almost all colleges will work with you successfully.

WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE ON LINE

Here are a few resources for college financial aid and for information on costs of college:

www.finaid.org

links to state, federal, and local sources of aid.

www.fastweb.com

an excellent electronic research tool that searches more than 600,000 sources to help find private scholarships, grants, and aid.

www.collegeboard.org

financial aid information and advice, along with a handy calculator to help you and your parents determine how much of the college costs your family will be expected to pay.

BOOKS ON FINANCING COLLEGE

There are many books with information on aid applications and college costs. Here are the better ones, available at our school, at the Crowell Public Library and its site, and most libraries:

Financial Aid Handbook (The College Board)

Scholarship Handbook (The College Board)

Book of Majors (The College Board)

College Handbook (The College Board)

Kiplinger's Financing College

The Complete Scholarship Book, FastWeb.com (Sourcebooks)

The Scholarship Advisor (The Princeton Review)

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FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Help with funding for citizens of countries other than the United States is difficult to find. The Cal Grants, Pell Grants, Federal loan programs, and most special scholarships are for American citizens only. Public institutions such as State colleges and universities rarely if ever help with international aid for undergraduate students. However, help **can** be found - as happened in 1999 for a Southwestern graduate from Bangladesh, who secured complete financial aid for his college studies; in 2009 for a graduate from eastern Europe who also found full financial support for her to attend a fine college; and for our Outstanding Student who found a full financial package from the University of Wisconsin. Independent schools are more flexible than State. Some colleges may be particularly interested in certain world regions or countries. Some international corporations, foundations, and successful Americans from various ethnic backgrounds may be particularly interested in helping students from overseas. Talk with your college advisors and with the colleges of interest to you for ideas and suggestions on securing aid. A key to success is applying early - one student who delayed applying until late spring was not able to find funding this year, though his outstanding record would have brought him needed financial help if he had started early in the school year.

HERE ARE SOME COLLEGES WITH FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Schools with awards to more than 150 students:

Arizona State University	Illinois Institute of Technology	Ohio Wesleyan Univ.
Barry University	Liberty University	Princeton
Clark University	Louisiana State University	University of Bridgeport
Eastern Michigan University	Macalester College	University of Houston
Grinnell College	Marquette University	Univ. of Pennsylvania
Harding University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Univ. of South Florida
Harvard University	Mount Holyoke College	

Schools with awards to 100-149 students:

Brown University	Graceland College	Stanford University
Calvin College	Luther College	Texas Christian Univ.
College of Wooster	Middlebury College	Tri-State University
Dartmouth College	Northeast Louisiana University	University of Miami (FL)
Dordt College	Oberlin College	University of Rochester
Eckerd College	Savannah College of Art	Yale University
Florida Institute of Technology	Slippery Rock University	

Schools with awards to 50-99 students:

Abilene Christian University	George Washington University	Rochester Inst. of Tech.
Allegheny College	Goshen College	St. Augustine College
Augsburg College	Houghton College	St. Johns College
Beloit College	Ithaca College	St. Lawrence University
Bethany College	Julliard School	St. Olaf College
Brandeis University	Knox College	Trinity College
Bryn Mawr College	Lake Forest College	Tulane University
California Lutheran College	Lawrence University	University of Maine
Cleveland Institute	Lewis & Clark University	University of Wisconsin
Colby College	Lynn University	US International University
Columbia University	Monmouth College	Washington University
Cornell University	North Park University	Wesleyan University
Denison University	Principia College	Western Maryland College
Franklin & Marshall College		Wittenberg University

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

COMMUNITY COLLEGES (Southern California only)

For a complete list, see: www.placercoe.k12.ca.us/

Alan Hancock - 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria 93454.
Antelope Valley - 3041 W. Ave K, Lancaster 93536.
Bakersfield - 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield 93305.
Barstow - 2700 Barstow Road, Barstow 92311.
Cerritos - 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk 90650.
Cerro Costo - 3000 College Heights Bl., Ridgecrest 93555.
Chaffey - 5885 Haven Ave, Rancho Cucamonga 91701.
Citrus - 1000 West Foothill Bd., Glendora 91740.
Coastline - 11460 Warner Ave, Fountain Valley 92708.
College of the Canyons - 26455 North Rockwell Canyon Road, Valencia 91355.
College of the Desert - 43500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert 92260.
Compton - 1111 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton 90221.
Crafton Hills - 11711 Sand Canyon Rd., Yucaipa 92399.
Cuyamaca - 2950 Jamacha Road, El Cajon 92019.
Cypress - 9200 Valley View, Cypress 90630.
East Los Angeles - 1301 Brooklyn Ave., Monterey Park 91754.
El Camino - 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance 90506.
Fullerton - 321 East Chapman Ave., Fullerton 92634.
Glendale - 1500 N. Verdugo Rd., Glendale 91208.
Golden West - 15744 Golden West St., Huntington Beach 92647.
Grossmont - 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon 92020.
Imperial Valley - 380 E. Ira Aten Rd., Imperial 92251.
Irvine Valley - 5500 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine 92720.
Long Beach City - 4901 E. Carson St., Long Beach 90808.
Los Angeles City - 855 N. Vermont Ave, L.A. 90029.
Los Angeles Harbor - 1111 Figueroa Pl., Wilmington 90744.
Los Angeles Mission - 1212 San Fernando Rd., San Fernando 91340.
Los Angeles Pierce - 6201 Winnetka Ave, Woodland Hills 91371.
Los Angeles Southwest - 1600 W. Imperial Hwy. LA 90047.
Los Angeles Trade-Technical ("Trade-Tech") - 400 West Washington Blvd., L. A. 90015.
Los Angeles Valley - 5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys 91401.
Miracosta - One Barnard Drive, Oceanside 92056.
Moorpark - 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark 93021.
Mt. San Antonio - 1100 North Grand, Walnut 91789.
Mt. San Jacinto - 1499 N. State St., San Jacinto 92383.
Orange Coast - 2701 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa 92628.
Oxnard - 4000 South Rose Ave., Oxnard 93033.
Palo Verde - 811 W. Chanslorway, Blythe 92225.
Palomar - 1140 W. Mission, San Marcos 92069.
Pasadena Community - 1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena 91106.
Rancho Santiago - 17th & Bristol, Santa Ana 92706.
Rio Hondo - 3600 Workman Mill Rd, Whittier 90608.
Riverside - 4800 Magnolia Ave., Riverside 92506.
Saddleback - 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo 92692.
San Bernardino Valley - 701 South Mount Vernon Ave., San Bernardino 92410.
San Diego City - 1313 12th Ave., San Diego 92101.
San Diego Mesa - 7250 Mesa College Dr., SD 92111.
Santa Barbara - 721 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara 93109.

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Santa Monica - 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405.
Southwestern - 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista 92010.
Ventura - 4667 Telegraph Rd., Ventura 93003.
Victor Valley - 18422 Bear Valley Rd., Victorville 92392.
West Los Angeles - 4800 Freshman Drive, Culver City 90230.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

SEE THE CSUMentor – a free website designed to help you and your family know more about the CSU system. It's always up to date with information on campuses still open for admissions. Go to: www.csumentor.edu

CSU Bakersfield - 9001 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield 93311.
CSU Channel Islands – One University Drive, Camarillo 93012 (Not on the islands!)
CSU Chico - 1st & Normal Sts., Chico 95929.
CSU Dominguez Hills - 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson 90747.
CSU Fresno - Shaw & Cedar Ave., Fresno 93740.
CSU Hayward - Harder & Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward 94542.
Humboldt State - Wood Blvd., Arcata 95521.
CSU Long Beach - 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach 90840.
CSU Los Angeles - 5151 State University Dr, LA 90032.
California Maritime Academy - 200 Maritime Dr, Vallejo 94590
CUS Monterey Bay - 915 Hilby Ave., Seaside 93955
CSU Northridge - 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge 91330.
Pomona - Cal State Polytechnic - 3801 W. Temple Ave, Pomona 91768.
CSU Sacramento - 6000 J St., Sacramento 95819.
CSU San Bernardino - 5500 University Pkwy, San Bdo 92407.
San Diego State - 5300 Campanile Dr., San Diego 92182.
San Francisco State - 1600 Holloway Ave., SF 94132.
San Jose State - 1 Washington Sq, San Jose 95192.
SLO - Cal State Polytechnic University - Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo 93407.
CSU San Marcos - 820 W. Los Vallecitos Bl, San Marcos 92069.
Sonoma State - 1801 E. Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park 94928.
CSU Stanislaus - 801 W. Monte Vista Ave, Turlock 95380.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM

SEE UC PATHWAYS – everything on applying to any/all of UC: Go to: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

UC Berkeley - Berkeley 94720.
UC Davis - Davis 95616.
UC Irvine - Campus Drive, Irvine 92717.
UCLA - 405 Hilgard Ave., LA 90024.
UC Merced – POB 2039, Merced 95344
UC Riverside - 900 University Ave., Riverside 92521.
UC San Diego- La Jolla 92093.
UC San Francisco- 3rd & Parnassus, San Francisco 94143.
UC Santa Barbara - Santa Barbara 93106.
UC Santa Cruz - Santa Cruz 95064.

INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
For more information, see: www.aiccu.edu

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Art Center College of Design - 1700 Lida, Pasadena 91103.
Azusa Pacific - 821 E. Alostia Ave, Azusa 91702.
Biola - 13800 Biola Ave, La Mirada 90639.
California College of Arts - Oakland 94618.
California Institute of Technology (Caltech) - 1201 E. California Blvd., Pasadena 91125.
California Institute of the Arts - Valencia 91355.
California Lutheran - 60 W. Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks 91360.
Chapman - 333 N. Glassell St., Orange 92666.
Claremont McKenna - 747 N. Dartmouth, Claremont 91711.
College of Notre Dame - 1500 Ralston Ave, Belmont 94002.
Concordia University Irvine (formerly Christ) - Irvine 92715
Dominican - 1520 Grand Ave, San Rafael 94901.
Golden Gate - 536 Mission St., San Francisco 94105.
Harvey Mudd - 12th & Dartmouth, Claremont 91711.
Holy Names - 3500 Mountain Bl, Oakland 94619.
Loma Linda - Barton Road, Loma Linda 92354.
Loyola Marymount - Loyola Blvd., L.A. 90045.
Menlo - 100 El Camino Real, Atherton 94027.
Mills - 5300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 94613.
Mount St. Mary's - 12001 Chalon Rd., LA 90049
National - 4141 Camino del Rio South, San Diego 92108.
New - 50 Fell St., San Francisco 94102.
Northrop - 5800 W. Arbor Vitae St., LA 90045.
Occidental - 1600 Campus Road, LA 90041.
Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design (Otis-Parsons) - 2401 Wilshire Bl., LA 90057.
Pacific Oaks - 5 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena 91103.
Pacific Union - 1 Deer Park Rd., Angwin 94508.
Pepperdine - 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu 90263.
Pitzer - 1050 N. Mills Ave., Claremont 91711.
Point Loma Nazarene - 3900 Lomaland Dr, San Diego 92106.
Pomona - 333 College Way, Claremont 91711.
St. Mary's - Moraga 94575.
San Francisco Art Institute - 800 Chestnut, SF 94133.
Santa Clara - 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara 95053.
Scripps - 1030 N. Columbia Ave, Claremont 91711
Southern California College - 55 Fair Dr, Costa Mesa 92626.
Stanford University - Stanford 94305.
Thomas Aquinas - 1000 N. Ojai Rd., Santa Paula 93060.
United States International University - 10455 Pomerado Rd., San Diego 92131.
Univ. La Verne - 1950 3rd St., La Verne 91750.
Univ. Redlands - 1200 E. Colton Ave., Redlands 92373.
Univ. San Diego - Alcalá Park, San Diego 92110.
Univ. San Francisco - Ignatian Heights, SF 94117.
Univ. Southern California (USC), University Park, LA 90020.
Univ. of the Pacific (UOP), 3601 Pacific Ave, Stockton 95211
West Coast Univ. - 440 Shatto Place, LA 90020.
Westmont - 855 La Paz Rd., Santa Barbara 93108.
Whittier - 13406 E. Philadelphia St., Whittier 90608.
Woodbury - 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank 91510.

STEP BY STEP CALENDAR: THE PATH TO COLLEGE

NINTH GRADE

- *maintain A's and B's in all subjects
- *READ LOTS, books, magazines, material that interests you
- *begin learning about various colleges and universities that might be right for you by looking through viewbooks in Southwestern's counseling office or with older students here, and searching on line through the Crowell Library programs
- *begin visiting local community colleges, state universities, and independent colleges with your family or friends
- *participate in many activities and athletics

Very Helpful:

- *start a personal resume file – save and include:
 - copies of your report cards
 - copies or a list of any awards and honors you receive
 - a list of offices you hold in clubs or organizations
 - a list of school and community organizations you join
- Update this file each semester

TENTH GRADE

- *continue to maintain A's and B's in your classes
- *READ LOTS MORE
- *continue to review catalogs and to visit local colleges and universities
- *take the PSAT in October for practice in admissions testing
- *update your personal resume file each semester

ELEVENTH GRADE – FALL SEMESTER

- *maintaining A's and B's is especially important during your junior year. You should be doing a minimum of two hours' homework each night, and continuing to participate in study groups.
- *READ, READ, READ in books, magazines, materials you like
- *take the PSAT in October, which is your NMSQT
- *if you are taking AP subjects, register to take AP exams in the spring
- *attend college fairs and presentations by college representatives who visit Southwestern
- *spend some time each month doing research on line, searching for schools and colleges that interest you
- *create a file on the colleges that appeal to you
- *update your personal resume file

-SPRING SEMESTER

- *continue all the above, plus
- *make a short list of schools that interest you
- *collect catalogs and materials from those colleges on your short list
- *begin visiting colleges that interest you
- *take your first SAT or ACT for practice. Prepare by using the testing tips and test samples on line at the College Board web page

OVER THE SUMMER BETWEEN YOUR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR

- *visit the colleges on your short list
- *this is a summer for extensive reading, to boost your vocabulary and help you prepare for college loads

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YOUR BUSY SENIOR YEAR OF APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES

- EARLY SEPTEMBER** *register for the SAT or the ACT October testing
- OCTOBER**
- *make a final list of colleges that interest you. Be sure to have their current applications and materials on your field of study
 - *keep a file on each college. Put a checklist at the front of each file to show all required admission items (transcripts, application fees, recommendations, essays, test scores)
 - *pay special attention to deadlines – mark them in your “Red Book”
 - *get information on fee waivers from the headmaster if the application fees would be a heavy financial burden to your family
 - ***APPLY EARLY!** Be sure you meet the deadlines for applying to the schools on your short list, as well as deadlines for any merit scholarships and financial aid programs. Practice filling out applications on a photocopy first
 - *make and keep photocopies of all forms and correspondence you send to colleges – just in case something gets lost
 - *complete the CSS PROFILE registration form if you wish financial aid
- NOVEMBER**
- *request in writing references from the Headmaster, counselors, teachers. Remember to give them a stamped envelope addressed to the college for each reference
 - *note November deadlines for some Cal State Universities
- DECEMBER**
- *this is a critical month for early-decision deadlines
 - *obtain the Free Application for Federal student Aid from the dean’s office if you are filing for Federal help. Remind your parents to prepare their income tax statement early in January, as a photocopy must be sent to most colleges where you apply for aid.
- JANUARY**
- *if you apply for a Cal-Grant, have the school submit its form
- MARCH/APRIL**
- *most acceptance letters will arrive. Compare them. If you need to re-visit a campus to clarify any issue, Spring Vacation is the time
- MAY**
- *mail your commitment deposit check to the college or university you plan to attend by the **May 1 National Candidates’ Reply**
 - *proceed with the application for university housing if you plan to live on campus. **Watch the deadline carefully** or you lose out!
 - *write the colleges to which you were admitted, but will not be attending, and inform them where you will attend.
 - *take AP exams for any AP subjects you took in high school
- SUMMER**
- *participate in any orientation programs for incoming freshmen
 - *remember to send a request to Southwestern’s Records Office to have your official final transcript sent the college of your choice
 - *remember to advise the college of your **summer mailing address**
 - *keep reading and getting ready for a wonderful college experience

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YES, YOU CAN!

The college selection and admission process isn't quick and easy, but each member of Southwestern's recent graduating classes has succeeded in gaining admission to colleges and universities of their choice. Here are those colleges that accepted Southwestern graduates of classes of 2013-2018

Class of 2018

Albion College...Arizona State University...Baylor University...Bergen University...Boston College...Boston University...Brown University...Bryn Mawr College...California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic, Pomona ...California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo...California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach...California State University, Los Angeles...California State University, Northridge...California State University, San Francisco...California State University, San Jose...Case Western University...Chapman University...Citrus College...City College of New York...Clark University...Dominican University...Drexel University...Earlham College...Florida Institute of Technology...Fordham University... Hofstra University...Illinois Technical Institute...Ithaca College...Knox College...Loyola Marymount University
Massachusetts Col. of Pharm/Health Science...Menlo College...Molloy College...Mount Holyoke University...Mt. St....Mary's College...Muscatine Community College (Iowa)...New York University...Newbury University...Notre Dame de Namur...Occidental College...Ohio Wesleyan University...Otterbein College...Pace University...Pacific University...Pasadena City College...Pennsylvania State University...Pepperdine University...Pitzer College...Purdue University...Quest University...Siena College...St. John's University...State University of New York, Brooklyn...Stony Brook University...Suffolk University...Syracuse University...Trinity College...Tulane University...University of Arizona...University of California, Davis...University of California, Irvine...University of California, Los Angeles...University of California, Merced...University of California, Riverside...University of California, San Diego...University of California, Santa Cruz...University of Colorado, Boulder...University of Delaware...University of Denver...University of Detroit Mercy...University of Illinois, Chicago...University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign...University of Indiana, Bloomington...University of La Verne...University of Massachusetts, Amherst...University of Massachusetts, Boston...University of Missouri...University of Nevada, Las Vegas...University of Oregon...University of San Francisco...University of Texas, El Paso...University of the Pacific...University of Washington...University of Southern California...Wentworth Institute of Technology...Wesleyan University...Western...Michigan University...Western New Mexico University...Westminster College...Whittier College...Woodbury University...Worcester Institute of Technology

Class of 2017

Arizona State...Boston College...Boston University...Cal Poly Pomona...Cal State LA...Cal State Monterey Bay...Cal State Northridge...Cal State Fullerton...Case Western Reserve...Chapman...Clark Uni...Concordia Uni...Dominican Uni of Cali...Fordham Uni...Franklin and Marshall...Gettysburg College...Hofstra Uni...Hult Uni...Indiana Bloomington...Johnson and Wales...Loyola Marymount Uni...Marymount California...Menlo College...New York University...Northeastern University...Occidental College...Penn State...Pepperdine University...Rutgers University...Seattle University...Sierra Nevada College...St. Johns Uni...Stony Brook Uni...UC Davis...UC Irvine...UCLA...UC Riverside...UC San Diego...UC Santa Barbara...UC Santa Cruz...Uni of Connecticut...University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign...Uni of Iowa...Uni of La Verne...Uni of Rochester...Uni of San Francisco...University of Southern California...Wentworth Inst. of Tech...Wheaton College...Whittier College

Class of 2016

Arizona State...Art Center College of Design...Auburn...Austin College...Babson...Baker University...Becker College...Boston University...Cal College of Arts...Cal Poly Pomona...Cal State Channel Islands...Cal State Fullerton...Cal State LA...Carnegie Mellon...Chapman...Clark University...Drexel University...Fordham...Gettysburg College...Loyola Marymount...New York University...Occidental College...OTIS...Pepperdine...San Francisco State...St. John's...St. Louis University...Tulane...UC Berkeley...UC Davis...UC Irvine...UCLA...UC Riverside...UC San Diego...UC Santa Barbara...UC Santa Cruz...UMASS Boston...University of Chicago...University of Illinois Champaign...University of Minnesota...University of San Francisco...University of Washington...Whittier College...

Class of 2015

Cal State Fullerton... USC... Michigan... University of Chicago... Duke University... UCLA... Fordham University... OTIS College of Art... University of Buffalo... LA Film Academy... University of Vermont... UC Santa Cruz... UC San Diego... UC Davis... UC Santa Barbara... UC Berkeley... UC Irvine... Suffolk University(Madrid)... University of Massachusetts... Stanford University... Stony Brook University... Northeastern University... Coventry University... UNLV... Cal State Los Angeles... Penn State University... Loyola Marymount University... Cal State Northridge... Art Center College of Design... Albion College... CUNY-Staten Island...

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Class of 2014

UC Davis... USC... UC Irvine... Cal Poly Pomona... Northeastern University... University of Toronto...
Embry-Riddle University... University of Washington... Purdue University... University of La Verne...
ArtCenter... Penn State... Syracuse University... Miami University(Ohio)... Stony Brook University..
Cal State San Marcos... Becker College... Seattle University... UCLA... Woodbury University...
Hofstra University... University of Utah... Parsons School of Design... Drexel University...

CLASS OF 2013

Arizona State University ... Bunker Hill Community College ... Cal Poly Pomona ... Chaffey College ... Citrus College ... CSU
Bakersfield ... CSU Fullerton ... CSU San Bernardino ... El Camino Community College ... Loyola Marymount ... Massachusetts
College of Pharmacy/Health Sciences ... MT. San Antonio College ... Occidental College ... Santa Monica College ... Southern
Oregon University ... SUNY-Plattsburgh ... Texas Christian University ... University of Advancing Technology ... UC Davis ... UC
Irvine ... UC Los Angeles ... UC Santa Barbara ... University of Rhode Island ... University of San Francisco ... University of Vir-
ginia ... Whittier College.