

# **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 bookmark this handbook** 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 classes at Southwestern 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 school work. Even during years where college entrance exams are either optional or not accepted due to a global pandemic, such as we are currently dealing with, Southwestern coursework will give you the academic foundation necessary to achieve success in higher education;

--your Southwestern college counselor, teachers, deans, and headmaster are all happy to help you through the selection and application process. They've been there, applying to and entering many different colleges themselves and can give you good advice. You do NOT need to pay an outside consultant;

--your Southwestern web pages have links to test registration\*, practice tests\*, helpful search programs, and to thousands of college web pages. You do NOT need to buy other guides or programs. They're all on line for free through our internet links.

\* Always check your desired colleges' test requirements, as many schools are moving towards test-optional or "test-blind" (do not accept test scores at all) application policies.

**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 context is usually clear. Ask if you have any questions!

**TRANSCRIPTS AND GPA** – Your transcript shows all classes you have taken, with 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 10th and 11th 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** – Under normal circumstances, 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 through the test services' websites. However, please be aware that many schools are moving towards test-optional or "test-blind" (do not accept test scores at all) application policies in response to the global pandemic. Always be sure to check each school's updated entrance testing requirements.

Be sure to include Southwestern's high school code - **053 - 161** for **SAT** and **ACT**; **8098** for **TOEFL**.

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**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.

Students must have four years of college-preparatory English; three years of mathematics; two years of the same foreign language (which may be English for non-native speakers\*); two years of a lab science in biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science; one year of U. S. History in addition to either a single, year-long world history course or one semester in world history and one semester in world geography /cultures; one year of a visual/performing art elective (for example, Art or Music); and one year of a UC approved, college-level elective (Creative Writing, Economics, Introduction to Literature, Western Civilizations, or any higher-level academic course that goes beyond the other A – F requirements, such as AP Calculus, Spanish III, or other similar courses). The A to G requirements are listed in your student handbook, also known as the "Red Book". Southwestern's high school graduates with college-recommending diplomas will meet these requirements. You should check your schedule planning to be sure you are taking the right classes.

- \* For the University of California, if students completed their middle school education in another country and the language of instruction was not English (for example, the native language of the country), this foreign language requirement can be waived. Students should contact Southwestern's college counselor if they have questions about how to put this information in their applications.

### 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 teaching graduate students or research activity.

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 "MBA" in business or the "M.Ed" in education) and then for doctorates (Ph.D., a doctor of philosophy in various subject fields; Ed. D., in education; M. D., for doctors; JD, a lawyer; and so forth).

**LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE.** A four-year institution which emphasizes a program of 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 of which encompasses 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 all institutions calling themselves "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 of nursing schools. At schools affiliated with hospitals, students receive R. N. (Registered Nurse) degrees upon completion of their training. At schools affiliated with four-year colleges or universities, students receive both a B. S. degree and the R. N., and have possibilities of entering the field of nursing administration. Some states now require a bachelor's degree for licensing of nurses.

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**ARTS SCHOOLS.** These schools specialize in the various creative arts. Some will concentrate on such areas as design, 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 function entirely independent of a traditional college (such as the San Francisco Conservatory of Music), while others are connected with a larger school (Oberlin Conservatory of Music is part of Oberlin College.)

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES.** Formerly called "Junior Colleges," sometimes called "City Colleges," these are two-year institutions which provide vocational training, academic curricula for transfer to four-year colleges, and high school completion courses. Most community colleges grant after two years of studies an Associate of Arts degree ("A. A."). Some of the academic programs offered at community colleges provide "terminal courses." This means an academic program that is complete in itself. A student who completes these courses may not transfer them to a four-year college for further study without completing additional course requirements.

Community colleges also have professional programs such as dental assistants, auto mechanics, cosmetologists, lab technicians, etc. Many students attend a community college before transferring to a four-year college or university, particularly in California where the community college program is very strong. Community colleges are usually operated by an independent, tax-supported district.

**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

Many people are confused by California's three-tier system of state-financed universities and colleges. Here's an explanation of what many experts consider the nation's best public higher education network.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA [[admission.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu)]**

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

--285,216 students at 9 campuses; UC Merced is the newest, opened in 2005.

--cost for Californians is about \$14,000 in required fees and around \$20,000 for housing, health insurance allowance, food, books, and transportation. Non-Californians pay around \$44,000 plus the \$20,000 for living expenses.

--entrance requirements are stiff - top eleventh academically of high school graduates statewide, with a-g requirements completed, generally a 4.0 weighted GPA in the a-g subjects, and high SAT's\*. UC Berkeley and UCLA are very crowded, and turn down many 4.25 students. UC accepts no part-time students.

--system is experiencing severe budget restrictions this year, reducing by 10% the number of students being accepted and number of programs being offered.

--the top 9% of Southwestern's graduates meet "Eligibility in the Local Context" (ELC) and grants admissions to UC Merced upon applying. All others are based on selectivity.

\* UC will be "test-optional" for fall 2021 and fall 2022. Freshman applicants are not required to submit SAT/ACT test scores.

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### **CAL STATE UNIVERSITY [[www.calstate.edu/attend/admissions](http://www.calstate.edu/attend/admissions)]**

--emphasis on undergraduates; some master's programs, cannot offer doctorates except in conjunction with UC, has no law or medical schools. CSU is the largest system of senior higher education in the U.S. They train most of the state's teachers. Professors spend more time in the classroom and less on research than their UC counterparts.

--481,929 full- and part-time students at 23 campuses. CSU Channel Islands (in Camarillo, between L.A. and Santa Barbara) and CSU San Marcos (near San Diego) are the newest campuses.

--costs between \$7,000 to \$11,000 [varies by campus] in required fees and an additional estimated \$20,000 for room, board, books, transportation - for California residents. Non-residents including all international students pay about \$18,000 to \$22,000 plus the \$20,000 for living expenses.

--high school seniors must be in the top academic third statewide to enter, and must have taken at least 14 required courses. For California residents, 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\*. For non-residents, a 3.61 GPA in those courses makes a student automatically eligible but a GPA as low as 2.47 may be acceptable if matched by good scores on standardized tests\*.

--priority is 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 have completed the same "A to G" requirements as for the University of California.

- \* CSU has temporarily suspended the use of ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses for the 2021-2022 academic year. This temporary change of admission eligibility applies only for the fall 2021, winter 2022 and spring 2022 admission cycles.

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 December 4, 2020, for the six most popular CSU campuses:** Fullerton, Long Beach, Pomona, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Sonoma. The other 17 campuses will accept applications until March 1, 2021, **but will close down programs when they are full.** Last year most campuses were full by late January or early February.

**Apply early!** See the CSU website to track which campuses are still accepting applications and which majors are open. Early application - by fall of your senior year - is now essential to getting admitted.

### **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 some of the numbers for fall 2020:**

	<b>NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>ACCEPTED</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA</b>		
<b>Berkeley (UC or UC Berkeley)</b>	<b>88,026</b>	<b>15,433</b>
International	17,144	1,489
<b>Davis (UCD)</b>	<b>76,873</b>	<b>35,838</b>
International	15,798	9,488
<b>Irvine (UCI)</b>	<b>97,916</b>	<b>29,245</b>
International	17,525	7,710
<b>Los Angeles (UCLA)</b>	<b>108,837</b>	<b>15,643</b>
International	17,944	1,675

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<b>Merced (UCM)</b>	<b>24,376</b>	<b>22,140</b>
International	1,534	903
<b>Riverside (UCR)</b>	<b>49,252</b>	<b>32,708</b>
International	4,628	3,316
<b>San Diego (UCSD)</b>	<b>100,034</b>	<b>38,305</b>
International	19,320	6,983
<b>Santa Barbara (UCSB)</b>	<b>90,947</b>	<b>33,530</b>
International	16,690	5,291
<b>Santa Cruz (UCSC)</b>	<b>55,003</b>	<b>35,892</b>
International	7,213	5,447

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

<b>Bakersfield/Kern</b>	<b>12,935</b>	<b>10,440</b>
<b>Channel Islands (Camarillo/Ventura)</b>	<b>11,894</b>	<b>10,204</b>
<b>Chico</b>	<b>25,908</b>	<b>18,740</b>
<b>Dominguez Hills (Los Angeles)</b>	<b>20,864</b>	<b>16,066</b>
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>18,123</b>	<b>10,501</b>
<b>Fullerton*</b>	<b>50,105</b>	<b>26,398</b>
<b>East Bay (Hayward/Oakland)</b>	<b>16,195</b>	<b>12,338</b>
<b>Humboldt (Arcata/Eureka)</b>	<b>15,178</b>	<b>13,989</b>
<b>Long Beach*</b>	<b>71,355</b>	<b>28,019</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>33,641</b>	<b>16,084</b>
<b>Maritime Academy</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>1,083</b>
<b>Monterey Bay</b>	<b>12,327</b>	<b>9,280</b>
<b>Northridge (San Fernando Valley, L.A.)</b>	<b>30,661</b>	<b>18,194</b>
<b>Pomona* (Cal Poly Pomona)</b>	<b>39,726</b>	<b>21,687</b>
<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>27,576</b>	<b>22,685</b>
<b>San Bernardino</b>	<b>16,311</b>	<b>11,183</b>
<b>San Diego*</b>	<b>70,048</b>	<b>23,905</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>34,629</b>	<b>23,307</b>
<b>San Jose</b>	<b>35,307</b>	<b>22,446</b>
<b>San Luis Obispo* (Cal Poly SLO)</b>	<b>54,072</b>	<b>15,366</b>
<b>San Marcos (Escondido/San Diego)</b>	<b>17,349</b>	<b>10,699</b>
<b>Sonoma*</b>	<b>15,094</b>	<b>13,764</b>
<b>Stanislaus</b>	<b>8,764</b>	<b>7,825</b>

\* The six most popular campuses – applications close December 4, 2020 (or when full)

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES** (sometimes called "City" or "Junior" colleges)

[California community colleges listed at: <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Find-a-College/College-Alphabetical-Listing>]

--offer a wide range of academic and vocational programs leading to either an occupational certificate or a two-year "A. A." degree that enables transfer to a UC or Cal State campus.

-nearly 2,100,000 students at 116 campuses, 46 in Southern and 70 in Central and Northern California.

--costs approximately \$46 a unit (up to \$3,000 a school year) plus other fees, and plus room, board, transportation, books, for residents of the community college district or approved transfers from other California districts.

Out of state students and international student fees are much higher – between \$250 and \$400 per unit plus other fees. Community colleges across the state charge differing fees, but all are

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rising sharply. Because of the California budget crisis, community college costs are significantly higher this year than ever before.

--open to all California residents, though increasingly restricted from college to college because of budget restraints. Check with those community colleges of interest to you for exact requirements and restrictions.

However, the California College Promise Grant pays tuition fees for full-time and first-time college students *who are California residents or AB540 eligible*. This incentive is not guaranteed at every campus, so check with the institutions where you are applying. Check the California Community Colleges website (above) for additional information.

--an increasing number of community colleges have formal transfer agreements with nearby four-year colleges. For example, students at Sacramento City College may be guaranteed a transfer to UC Davis or Sacramento State if they complete two years of prescribed courses.

--many community colleges offer remedial courses, such as high school completion and ESL, plus enrichment courses for adults who want broader horizons but not credits.

--for international students who must pay out-of-state tuition and carry at least 16 units to meet their "F-1" student visa status, many California community colleges (including PCC) are offering special guarantees:

- that all classes necessary for the international student's advancement WILL be available even if already full before the international student's registration day;
- that international students with passing grades WILL be graduated with an "AA" degree and eligible to enter UC or CSU universities as juniors within two years; and
- that special counseling and advising WILL be available for F-1 students only, including tutoring and supplemental English classes if needed.

### **PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:**

The State of California's population growth and financial problems have made entrance and classes at State institutions, including community colleges, more difficult than some years ago. In the past, any Southwestern student would be sure of a place in the local community college, even if other levels of education were closed. You may have older brothers or sisters, or friends, who were admitted easily to community (city) colleges. This is no longer the case, as community colleges must limit applications because of space restrictions. It is more important than ever before to **APPLY EARLY** and to **GET HELP** from our counselor, even if you are "just looking at community colleges."

## **INFORMATION RESOURCES**

**YOUR SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE COUNSELOR** - a great person with whom to begin discussing your college concerns, and to keep meeting with through your application and selection process! Use this help – provided by your school at no extra cost - but remember we can't apply for you - or make your decisions! We urge that you DO NOT use other college counselors, particularly those living and working outside the United States. Many are not up-to-date on U.S. colleges and universities. Some have never even visited the United States. And a few are dishonest, accepting money from some struggling universities to refer students to the U.S. college, even if the student does not fit into the school's programs.

**OTHER SOUTHWESTERN TEACHERS AND STAFF** - remember the headmaster attended Stanford, our Trustee chairman went to Carleton and Brown, the deans went to California and Arizona

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state colleges and universities; others around our campus went to good but highly varied colleges such as Oberlin, Cal State, Scripps, USC, Indiana, Redlands, Ohio State, Bath University in England, Fort Hays University in Kansas, and to over 30 other American colleges.

Don't hesitate to talk with your teachers and administrators about what's right for you. But again, they can't do the work, or make the choices, for you.

**SENIOR/JUNIOR CONFERENCES** are arranged with the college counselor. Typically, we have students 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. However, due to current pandemic restrictions, all conferences with the college counselor will be hosted virtually (over Zoom, email correspondence, or other commonly used electronic platforms). Students should schedule appointments with the college counselor beforehand via email.

**COLLEGE MEETINGS** - Typically, several colleges will visit Southwestern during the year. The college counselor works hard to select a variety of visitors representing different types of colleges of particular interest to our seniors. These visitors are usually listed on the monthly calendar. However, due to current pandemic restrictions, any college representative visits will be hosted online, using either Zoom or similar virtual conferencing platforms. The schedule for these visits will be provided to students via email. 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 usually encourage juniors and seniors to **visit** colleges of interest whenever possible and Southwestern would typically help with arranging these visits; however, it may be difficult to achieve this due to current pandemic restrictions. Student health and safety is of the utmost importance. In place of physical visits, many colleges allow prospective students to take "virtual" tours. Students can ask the college counselor for more information.

**SEARCH THE NET** - Southwestern is partnered with the Crowell Library, San Marino's Public Library, for unlimited use of their extensive search programs and subscriptions. All Southwestern students have full access to the Crowell Library, which purchases subscriptions to virtually all guides and college handbooks for your free use. Of course, with your Crowell Library card all their files are open and free for you from either San Marino or Beaver Creek campuses, from the Atlantic Dorms, or from any other place around the world.

**COLLEGE PRINT CATALOGS, ON-LINE CATALOGS, AND VIDEOS** - Some are usually available in the college counselor's office in Lincoln Hall for your use, or order a personal copy from any college that you're interested in learning more about. However, it may be difficult to access hard copies of these catalogs due to current pandemic restrictions. Students can ask the college counselor for electronic copies of specific catalogs via email. Otherwise, all American college addresses and catalogs are available with your card to the on-line collections at Crowell Public Library. Southwestern's counseling office also can obtain detailed information on financial aid and on testing.

**VIDEOS AND INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL TOURS** - but remember to be careful, as they're advertising pieces and not a substitute for a visit to the campus. They're honest (at least almost all are honest) but of course they don't show you pictures of snowy or muddy days, or of hot, sticky times when the mosquitos are biting. Guide books will tell you more about the weather and all activities, or talk with a student at the schools where you're thinking of applying. On-line

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chats with "real" students can be arranged through most college admissions offices. Videos and virtual tours will increase in popularity as the country deals with the current pandemic.

**COLLEGE FAIRS** – Typically, our college counselor will let the student body know of opportunities for group meetings in the areas of Southwestern's campuses. There usually will be at least one big college fair in Pasadena in April or May, too late for most seniors but perfect for sophomores, juniors, and their parents. However, current pandemic restrictions make these fairs and other group meetings likely impossible. Instead, local, state, and national institutions alike will be relying on virtual platforms to share information and to connect with students all over. Students should check their emails daily and safely search the internet so that they are aware of these opportunities.

**COLLEGE GUIDE BOOKS** – many are available through the Crowell Library site, and 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 the best pizza on campus.

### **A GUIDE TO COLLEGE GUIDES**

#### ***ALL AVAILABLE FOR FREE THROUGH CROWELL LIBRARY***

**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**"

Arco's "**The Right College.**"

***You can print hard copies of pages about colleges that interest you to share with parents, or forward links for your family and friends to see and discuss with you.***

**Subjective guidebooks** – these give opinions of students, faculty, and the guidebooks' authors. They are not a substitute for a campus visit, personal or virtual, but these books do give you more flavor, history, even humor to help your choice come clearer:

"**The Fiske Guide to Colleges**" - 300 of 2000 four year American and Canadian colleges are listed and described.

"**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** – again, all available for you on line through Crowell Public Library:

**MONEY** and **US NEWS & WORLD REPORT** magazine issues each year with special sections evaluating colleges.

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The **US News** annual college issue has become quite famous for "rating" colleges and "winning" schools boast of their position.

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).

### **Newspapers – again, all on line through your New York Times link or at Crowell's pages**

**THE NEW YORK TIMES** publishes an "Education Life" section four times a year. Each has special sections evaluating colleges. All are always available at your NYT link, or at the Crowell Library link. A recent edition listed "Twenty colleges Worth a Trip". Some in California included Pitzer, Santa Clara, Occidental, and Redlands. Others were Southern Oregon (in Ashland), Evergreen State (Olympia), Washington, Whitman (Walla Walla, Washington), Gettysburg (Pennsylvania), Colorado College, Oklahoma, Macalester, Carleton, Grinnell, Cornell, Kalamazoo, Earlham, Miami of Ohio, Kenyon, Wooster, SUNY Genesee, Union, Wheaton (Norton, Massachusetts), and American (Washington, D.C).

These cool new 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 over 4,300 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, usually for student loans, credit cards, and other buying opportunities. 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 to you.

**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. College Link also has some useful articles and basic information about loans and scholarships.

### **usnews.com/ education**

The U.S. News' 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, where students with grants can find the highest rated schools costing the least money. The **community college** search tool is excellent, listing these two year colleges by major and distance from your home.

**CollegeQuest.com** By Peterson's, the oldest directory service, the "**personal counselor**" page is very good, and their financial aid section excellent.

Our Headmaster tried each of these sites, answering the questions as if he was a high school student looking for the right university. Each site gave a different list of colleges. However, this can be helpful to you by suggesting places you've not considered or haven't even heard about.

**INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SITES** are the next place to check, after you have lists of possible places. Every college in the USA has a site – usually under its name and "**edu**". If you can't find a college, try the usual search engines such as "**Google**" or "**Yahoo**". But always 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 the springtime mud! Use the sites to learn of schools of interest to you, but plan personal visits, if you can do so safely, to best see if they'll fit.

### **CAMPUS VISITS\***

- \* **The following information on Pg. 11 – 13 contains various recommendations that pertain to in-person campus visits. Due to current pandemic restrictions, in-person visits may not be allowed and will have to be substituted with virtual tours, teleconferences, internet browsing, phone calls, emails, and other remote forms of information sharing/gathering. The Campus Visit section can still be useful for the future; however, the safety and health of our students is most important. Therefore, in-person campus visits are discouraged until local and national health officials declare that they are safe.**

**THE BEST WAY TO EVALUATE YOUR CHOICES** - visit colleges in which you are interested! 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; but no later than the fall of your senior year in high school. Let our college guidance counselor help you arrange the visit with the college's admissions office.

--**question that person** to get the facts you need to know:

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.

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--**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 French 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 college 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** from your list of possibilities. 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.

Before planning a visit, be sure to:

--**talk with Southwestern's college counselor** 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.

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

**\*TOUR DURING THE SUMMER SESSION** before your 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.

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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 with heat/humidity/lots of bugs, other times of leaves changing, snow on the ground, mud after the snows, and spring blossoms.

The summer is also ideal 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, 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. **Wear comfortable shoes.** You do a lot of walking when you visit a college campus.

**\*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 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 dorms, so don't judge 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. 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!

Try to 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 is accepted to, and placed 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 and 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?
- 20. 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:*

**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? \_\_\_\_\_

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Student body type? \_\_\_\_\_

Do I know people attending  
from Southwestern? \_\_\_\_\_

Reputation of the college? \_\_\_\_\_

Social opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly cost? \_\_\_\_\_

Financial aid opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate employment? \_\_\_\_\_

## **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 sure will 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 900 U.S. colleges. See the list, which includes current admissions deadlines, fees, and other forms needed, at [www.commonapp.org](http://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 Universities system, and all California's community colleges require all undergraduate applications to be submitted online. This is increasingly true for other university applications.

Get the following material off the College's web page, or write to ask for the following if you can't find it on line:

--**admissions application**; specify if you are a U.S. Citizen or an international applicant, as there are usually different forms and materials.

--**see if they accept the Common Application.**

--**catalog and/or video** for your personal use

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

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

**GETTING TRANSCRIPTS SENT** - 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.

Please also check if any of the universities to which you are applying prefer electronic copies of transcripts. Due to pandemic concerns and just for quicker filing, some colleges and universities will request that the school records office and/or college counselor send them via email or secure document sharing platforms. Once you know, contact Southwestern's school records office and/or college counselor to let them know.

**ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS** - Does the college where you are applying require a recommendation or recommendations? Many do; however, the Cal State Universities and the University of California schools do not. If your college does, a form will be included in their

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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.

Ask the proper person within your college's guidelines to write recommendations.

Ask 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, and if he or she agrees to write, **GIVE** him/her the recommendation form and a stamped envelope pre-addressed to the college. **Ask in person.** Please also be aware that certain applications, for example the Common Application and Coalition, will require the recommenders to submit their letters online through the respective application websites. You should make sure the headmaster, counselors, and teachers are aware of the correct process and know where to upload the letters.

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

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.

**MAKING TEST APPLICATIONS** - Supplies of 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 can tell you where you can write for other information or special applications.

- \* Please be aware that many schools are moving towards test-optional or "test-blind" (do not accept test scores at all) application policies in response to the global pandemic. Always be sure to check each school's updated entrance testing requirements.
- \*\* TOEFL may still be administered in online format. For more information, please visit <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/>. Certain schools may allow for substitute English Proficiency tests, such as Duolingo or InitialView. Check with each school's English Proficiency requirements on their international admissions page to see what they will accept.

**SHOULD YOU GO FOR EARLY ADMISSIONS?** "Early action applicants" must apply by November 1<sup>st</sup> to colleges offering "early admissions" (or even earlier for certain schools), and the college will give you a decision (accept, reject, or defer) by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Common Application due date for most colleges is January 1<sup>st</sup>. Restrictive early action (REA) applicants must agree not to apply early to other colleges, and usually must agree to attend if accepted.

**IMPORTANT:** Early Decision is different from Early Action and Restrictive Early Action and is "binding", meaning you must withdrawal all other applications if you are admitted as an Early Decision applicant to that school. See your Southwestern college counselor if you are uncertain which, if any, you should consider doing.

## FAQ's ABOUT TESTING\*

- \* **The following information on Pg. 19 – 25 contains information that pertains to college entrance examinations under normal conditions. However, due to current pandemic restrictions, many schools are moving towards test-optional or “test-blind” (do not accept test scores at all) application policies. Always be sure to check each school's updated entrance testing requirements.**

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

**YES! – EACH!** You should take SAT and ACT more than once in your Junior year, then two or three times in the fall of your senior year. Each time is good practice to improve your scores. Some college admissions offices are dropping the SAT's for university decisions, but most have not changed. If a college admissions office has two or more candidates who are otherwise equal, they will choose by the SAT or ACT scores, even if they do not require these tests.

**REMEMBER:** Despite rumors, there are **NO** PENALTIES to taking SAT's and ACT's multiple times. Only your best score in each area is used, and your lower scores are forgotten. Also, for test-optional schools during the pandemic, you will not be penalized for choosing not to send in test scores. If you do send in scores, they will be considered and can help demonstrate your intellectual abilities; however, the colleges and universities are not trying to trick you.

### What does the PSAT mean?

**Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test** - the practice. All of Southwestern's high school students take this test each October.

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 in 2022, **juniors** must take the PSAT in **2020**. Due to pandemic restrictions, the PSAT will also be affected in similar ways to the SAT, SAT II, and other CollegeBoard examinations. Refer to the CollegeBoard website for updates.

### 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;
- 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 those 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 at PSAT's for students with hearing, learning, physical, or visual disability; if you feel you qualify, see your college counselor to obtain the eligibility form for services for students with disabilities.

**The PSAT scores, which range from 320 to 1520, help predict how you would do on the regular SATs** with scores of 400 to 1600.

**Is there a cost for the PSAT?**

Yes, the College Board charges \$17.00, 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 sophomores, juniors, and some seniors 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.

**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 use of a scientific calculator required in the Mathematics Level II-C SAT II (achievement) test.

**How does the SAT Reasoning Test work?**

Scores on the **SAT I** are reported in three categories: **Verbal, Mathematics, and TSWE** (Test of Standard Written English). Scores on the Verbal and Mathematics portions range from **200 to 800**; thus a "perfect" total score in Verbal and Math would be 1600. The **median score** is now **500**. The range of scores acceptable for your college's admissions is information available to you, information that you should obtain. 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.

**When are the SAT's given?**

The SAT's are given several times during the school year, at testing centers near San Marino and Beaver Creek. They are given in August, October, November, December, January, March, May, and June. Most students **take the SAT twice in the spring of their Junior year**, and again **two or three times, either in August or 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, or the highest overall score in one test day (commonly required of UC schools), without penalizing you for taking the test repeatedly.

**How does one register for the SAT's?**

Register on line. If you have a credit card, use it; if not, see Southwestern's business office staff to have them use a school credit card billed to your incidentals account. It is **your responsibility** to get yourself registered for tests - no one will do it for you! You can also register by mail (though on line is quick and easy). If you do use a paper form and U.S. mail, be sure to use the correct post office box on the envelope, the bar code, and to enclose a check or credit card information. There are registration deadlines, and penalties for late registration.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Be sure to indicate Southwestern's code:

**053 - 161.**

### **How can I prepare for the SAT?**

Regular studies - and **lots of reading**, in and out of class - are the best preparations. **SAT** includes one reading section of 52 questions (testing vocabulary, verbal reasoning, and reading comprehension); two mathematics sections of 58 questions, 25 minutes for 20 non-calculator questions and 55 minutes for 38 calculator questions (testing how you solve problems involving arithmetic, algebra, and geometry); one Test of Standard Written English with 44 questions; and one section of experimental questions which do not count.

Drilling or last minute cramming will not do much to help. **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 all your classes, not just in English classes. Southwestern's teachers are doing their best to help you with substantial writing practice and suggestions how you can improve your writing and build your vocabulary, not only for SAT/ACT/TOEFL testing but also for college and career use.

### **And how do I prepare for the other SAT tests?**

**SAT Mathematical Reasoning** has 58 questions to be answered in 80 minutes. There is more emphasis on applying mathematical concepts and interpreting data, and content from third-year college prep math. Most questions are multiple-choice. 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 urge you to use a calculator** when permitted, and to be **very familiar** with your choice of calculators approved for use (see the "SPECIAL NOTE ON CALCULATORS" paragraph below.)

**SAT WRITING** is the biggest challenge for most students. The test includes a 50-minute written essay and 35 minutes for 44 multiple choice questions. You must respond, in long hand (handwritten), to a question or statement. The essay topics do not require you to know any special subject or topic in advance. They're not interested in testing your knowledge, but in how well you write in English, including your vocabulary and composition skills. The questions or statements are general topics you write without previous knowledge needed.

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The multiple-choice questions include some "correct-the-passage" work, such as when you proofread and revise your own writing in English classes. The questions check if you can recognize mistakes and find the correct rephrasing.

**REGISTER WITH SAT** at <https://www.collegeboard.org/>, and they will send you (for free!) a "Question of the Day". These are fun to answer, and very helpful in stretching your brain while prepping for all those college-entrance tests.

### 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, and is accepted as an alternative to the SAT's by other colleges. Check if any of the colleges that interest you require or suggest the ACT's, and take this test if they do.

The same SAT school code is also used by ACT - for Southwestern, **053-161**.

### What is the TOEFL?

The **Test of English as a Foreign Language – TOEF iBT L-** is given on line by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to students who did not learn English as a native language. The test is given on computers at official TOEFL centers.

The **TOEFL PBT** ["Paper Based Test"] is given at test centers that do not have Internet access, primarily in other countries.

TOEFL information, including descriptions of the test and some practice questions, is on line at: **<https://www.ets.org/toefl>**.

TOEFL is required by many colleges, though others will accept high school graduation from Southwestern as evidence of English proficiency.

Southwestern's school code for TOEFL is: **8098**.

Note that **you MUST BRING YOUR PASSPORT** with you when you go for a TOEFL\*. This is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT**, as you will not be allowed to take the test without a passport. Let the student office know early in the week if you need help getting your passport or a picture ID - don't wait until the last minute! Remember to *return your passport to the student office* after taking the TOEFL, so it won't get lost or damaged.

\* Even with pandemic restrictions, TOEFL may still be administered in online format. For more information, please visit <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/>. Certain schools may allow for substitute English Proficiency tests, such as Duolingo or InitialView. Check with each school's English Proficiency requirements on their international admissions page to see what they will accept.

**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 schools. Thus Southwestern cannot send copies to colleges for you - you must request them from ETS, to be sent directly to the colleges where you are applying.

Note that **TOEFL scores are only good for two years**.

### Where can I take TOEFL iBT?

At TOEFL centers, by advance registration (except under current pandemic conditions...see note on previous page). See your college counselor or ESL teachers for information and help in registering with a credit card, or if you don't have a credit card, the business office can register you with a school card billed to your incidentals. The cost depends on the center and country, but ranges from \$160 to \$250.

### HOW TO PREPARE for TOEFL or ANY TEST? Get ready the usual way:

--**read** as much as possible! Other than required reading, you should read whatever interests you, for pleasure and for boosting your English vocabulary and writing. Read books, magazine articles, on-line or in print. Read novels such as science-fiction or romance, if you enjoy them. Read nonfiction, such as sports or adventure stories, travel, biographies and histories, whatever you like.

--**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, ACT, TOEFL, and all testing, and for college and life success.

--**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 SAT's, ACT's, and the TOEFL.

**WHAT ABOUT TEST-PREP BOOKS, COURSES, ON-LINE PROGRAMS?** There are many SAT/ACT/TOEFL-prep programs available, some through colleges and universities, many for-profit. But remember practice programs are available on line for free, many provided through your Crowell Library on-line access. These computer programs can be just as valuable as any SAT prep class, and are free for your use any time, without needing to go anywhere or pay more.

**WHAT ABOUT CALCULATORS AT TESTS?** The College Board, the group giving the PSAT'S and SATS, and the ACT test people, have approved only a few calculators for use on math achievement tests.

You can visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/taking-the-test/calculator-policy> for an exhaustive list of approved calculators. **Be sure to check your calculator soon** to see if it is acceptable for test use. If not, you should acquire one of the calculators listed as approved, and become thoroughly familiar with its use before you face the tests

## 2020-2021 SAT PROGRAM TEST CALENDAR

**SCHOOL CODE: 053161**

<b>TEST DATES*</b>	<b>REGULAR DEADLINE</b>	<b>GET SCORES ONLINE</b>
<b>October 3, 2020</b>	<b>September 4</b>	<b>October 16-22</b>



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- \*ACT is curriculum based.
- \*Colleges claim they do not prefer ACT over SAT, or vice versa
- \*Many think ACT may be a better test for students with shorter attention spans
- \*Counselors suggest that students with learning disabilities may do better taking ACT
- \*ACT questions are more knowledge-based and straightforward.
- \*English portion of ACT focuses on grammar, punctuation, syntax
- \*ACT includes questions on science and trigonometry
- \*Students who are considered "hard workers" tend to do better with ACT
- \*Students who are not good test takers, who earn low ACT test scores, will most likely not do well on SAT either, and may be better applying to colleges not requiring testing
- \*ACT test scores for males and females do not show any major sex difference

### **SAT INFORMATION**

- \*SAT takes 3 hours 50 minutes to complete
- \*SAT is aimed at more general reasoning and problem-solving
- \*SAT is more nuanced, puzzle-like, tricky at times
- \*The English portion of SAT focuses more on vocabulary than ACT does
- \*If you wish to avoid science and trigonometry questions, take the SAT
- \*Statistics suggest that "bright underachievers" tend to do better on SAT than on ACT

#### **Percentage of 2020 freshmen submitting each score:**

<b>HARVARD</b>	<b>STANFORD</b>
<b>ACT 47%</b>	<b>ACT 55%</b>
<b>SAT 69%</b>	<b>SAT 69%</b>

### **SCORE EQUIVALENTS**

<b>ACT</b>	<b>SAT</b>
36	1600
35	1565
34	1535
33	1500
32	1465
31	1430
30	1400
29	1365
28	1325
27	1290
26	1255
25	1215
24	1175
23	1140
22	1075
21	1035
20	1010

### **TRICKS OF FILLING OUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

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**REQUEST AN APPLICATION ASAP** if your college choices are among the few that do not have on line registration. (Note that UC, CSU, California community colleges require you to register on line.). As soon as you've finished your "short list," no later than early fall of your senior year, get the necessary application information needed by your choices and prepare to register soon.

**GIVE TEACHER AND COUNSELOR REFERENCE FORMS OR REQUESTS**, if your choices request recommendations, to the appropriate individuals after asking if they will write one for you, and whether your choices use The Common Application. Your early request enables those you are asking to write on your behalf and to spread their efforts across the fall months.

Remember your referees write on their own time and do not have to write recommendations for you. **The more time you give them to write for you, the better a job they can DO for you!** You must give at least **ONE MONTH** time for the reference writer to complete your request.

If a hard copy recommendation is needed, ***remember to include a stamped envelope that you have addressed to the college.*** 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. Most applications, for example the Common Application and Coalition, will require the recommenders to submit their letters online through the respective application websites. You should make sure the headmaster, counselors, and teachers are aware of the correct process and know where to upload the letters.

**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 a few years ago because of a rush job after waiting to apply up to the last minute. Mark deadlines in your student calendar. Complete your application at least ONE MONTH before the deadline.

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

**ALWAYS WRITE ROUGH DRAFTS OF ESSAYS**, proofread, then let them "cool down" and proofread your work again. 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, especially for institutions that are now moving to test-optional or "test blind" admissions policies. Remember that admissions officers want to read your sincere thoughts. **Don't even think of buying an essay**, or having someone else write for you. College admissions officers can and will detect canned or purchased essays that aren't an applicant's honest work, and will not only reject you but also will share your plagiarism and dishonesty with other colleges.

**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, you will usually be able to pay this on line as part of your application. In the unlikely situation that you are sending in hard copies of your application documents; 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. He will prepare these for you, but these forms require several days to be ready to include in your application packet.

**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, or wrote some names with family name first and then given names, and other forms with Western-style given names first, then the family name. The colleges had made two different files for the same student, so both applications were discarded as incomplete and the students lost acceptance. **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 admissions process, be sure you notify colleges where you've applied, giving old and new addresses so your application is not lost.

**[IMPORTANT REMINDER TO SENIORS: Don't forget to change your address with your college after you graduate if you have used the school as your mailing address during application. In previous years, a June graduate missed housing deadlines because forms were sent to Southwestern. 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.

**IF YOU NEED A TRANSCRIPT** from Southwestern's Registrar **EARLY!** Forms are available for this in the Records Office. Make sure you put the college name and address on the request form. Also make sure your colleges want copies of transcripts to be included with the applications. Some colleges, including California State schools, do not want transcripts to be submitted with the applications.

Please also check if any of the universities to which you are applying prefer electronic copies of transcripts. Due to pandemic concerns and just for quicker filing, some colleges and universities will request that the school records office and/or college counselor send them via email or secure document sharing platforms. Once you know, contact Southwestern's school records office and/or college counselor to let them know.

**REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS** according to the college's guidelines. Check and make sure that recommendations are required. Some colleges do not want them. Some require recommendations only for special programs. Some want them sent by email, either with The

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Common Application or otherwise, and some want hard copies mailed to them. Make sure what your choices of colleges want you to do!

**SHOULD YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO READ RECOMMENDATIONS?** Colleges will place more emphasis on recommendations written without restrictions, and many people will not write a recommendation for you unless your right to see it has been waived. We urge you to waive your right to see recommendations, especially on The Common Application.

**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!

\* **Due to current pandemic restrictions, in-person visits may not be allowed and will have to be substituted with virtual tours, teleconferences, internet browsing, phone calls, emails, and other remote forms of information sharing/gathering. The "How to make the most of a college visit" section can still be useful for the future; however, the safety and health of our students is most important. Therefore, in-person campus visits are discouraged until local and national health officials declare that they are safe.**

**SHOULD YOU ASK SOUTHWESTERN'S STAFF FOR HELP?** Absolutely positively definitely by all means! 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 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

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

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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.

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, as a few colleges do in order to judge your handwriting, write clearly and 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!

**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, 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

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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.***

**Essay tips from one student who already made it...**

### **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. Rewrite and polish your drafts.
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.
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. Include specific examples of events that caused you to mature in one way or another.
9. Don't copy the style or content of someone else's "model college application essay." Be yourself. Copying or buying an essay from a friend or on-line company is caught by college admissions offices using computer searches for similar essays. If you're caught, you're not only turned down by one college but by most others, as your cheating is posted on line for all U.S. admissions offices to find by a simple search.

**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.**

### **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 special needs 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

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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.

**V stands for VIVID.** Use examples, give details, 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, such as "CA" for California or even "O.K.," 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 almost always discovered by the colleges, who sometimes get similar essays written and sold by the same consultant in one area of the U.S. or one country abroad.

Essays bought on-line (sold as "samples" to avoid legal problems from students who copy and get caught) are even easier to spot through on-line comparisons that virtually all U.S. admissions offices use. 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.

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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!

### **HINTS FROM A WRITING COACH ON PREPARING YOUR 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 with 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 it too.
7. **Use strong verbs, adjectives, and descriptions.**
8. **Ask a friend, counselor, or teacher, to read it.** Not a relative; they 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.

### **CHECKING ON FINANCIAL AID**

**YOUR BEST PLACE** to get information on scholarships, fellowships, grants, and loan information is the Crowell Library data base, which includes their subscriptions to all sources of funding colleges. There are several places to get financial aid for college. The greatest amount of assistance awarded, by far, is based on financial need. A few scholarships are based on merit alone, but they are rare. With some on-line research, all American students can go to college. Thanks to the internet, it has never been easier to find private sources of financial aid.

**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 is always 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.

For American citizens, 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, get on line at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). If you are an American citizen registering with CSS, you need your Social Security number and a credit card to register.

**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 American 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, and part can be forgiven if you work in several social service professions such as teaching.

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 institutions, the better your chance of receiving financial help.

### **SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID:**

#### **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 - **1-888-224-7268 and select option 3**. Likewise, you can email [Studentsupport@csac.gov](mailto:Studentsupport@csac.gov).

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 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,

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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 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 **(800) 433-3243** (note that is in Maryland on Eastern time, closing at 2 pm Pacific.)

The old Federal Congressional Methodology required students to earn a minimum amount from summer jobs. Freshmen were required to earn at least \$700, and upper-class students to earn at least \$900. However, because many students have trouble finding summer jobs, Congress eliminated the minimum student earnings contributions altogether. Also, parents' home equity no longer counts.

### **OTHER FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS**

Other Federal government programs include Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (**SEOG**), **Stafford** Loans, **Perkins** Loans, Parent Loans to Undergraduate Students (**PLUS**), the Federal Family Education Loan Program, and Supplemental Loans for Students (**SLS**), as well as college work study programs (**CWS**). [Government programs love to use acronyms, initials.]

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) 433-3243**.

### **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 taking the PSAT/NMSQT, the National Merit Scholarship Board people will come looking for you to give away many different special scholarships.

There are search services to help you find a special scholarship, but don't pay them to do this for you. It's easy to do it yourself on-line (often the search services cost more than you'll receive as a scholarship). Again, your Crowell Library card gets you into all search services for free. 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 (FFEL)** 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 FFEL 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) 433-3243**.

### **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.

### **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, but can be helpful to be sure your materials are matched correctly with your child's application.

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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 IRS filings, so of course be honest.

Apply on time, preferably weeks ahead of deadlines, 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 to find the right "package" of help.

### **FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**Help with funding for citizens of countries other than the U.S. is difficult to find.**

**The Cal Grants, Pell Grants, Federal loan programs, and most special scholarships are for American citizens only born in the U.S. or Naturalized, not even available for permanent residents.**

**Public institutions such as State colleges and universities rarely, if ever, help with international aid for undergraduate students. Full out-of-state tuition must be paid, and a minimum number of credits must be taken.**

However, help *can* be found. This has happened for a Southwestern graduate from Bangladesh, who secured complete financial aid for his college studies, for a graduate from eastern Europe who also found full financial support for her to attend a fine college, and for one of our Outstanding Student awardees who found a full financial package including living expenses from the University of Wisconsin.

Independent schools are more flexible than State colleges and universities. 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 advisor 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, though his outstanding record would have brought him needed financial help if he had started early in the school year.

## CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### COMMUNITY COLLEGES (Southern California only)

*For a complete list, see: <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Find-a-College/College-Alphabetical-Listing>*

Alan Hancock, Santa Maria	Los Angeles Southwest
Antelope Valley, Lancaster	Los Angeles Trade-Technical ("Trade-Tech")
Bakersfield	Los Angeles Valley, Van Nuys
Barstow Community	Miracosta, Oceanside
Cerritos, Norwalk	Moorpark
Cerro Coso Community, Ridgecrest	Mt. San Antonio, Walnut
Chaffey, Rancho Cucamonga	Mt. San Jacinto
Citrus, Glendora	Norco
Coastline Community, Fountain Valley	Orange Coast, Costa Mesa
College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita	Oxnard
College of the Desert, Palm Desert	Palo Verde, Blythe
Compton	Palomar, San Marcos
Crafton Hills, Yucaipa	Pasadena City (PCC)
Cuyamaca, El Cajon	Rancho Santiago Community, Santa Ana
Cypress	Rio Hondo, Whittier
East Los Angeles, Monterey Park	Riverside City
El Camino, Torrance	Saddleback, Mission Viejo
Fullerton	San Bernardino Valley
Glendale Community	San Diego City
Golden West, Huntington Beach	San Diego Mesa
Grossmont, El Cajon	San Diego Miramar
Imperial Valley	Santa Ana
Irvine Valley	Santa Barbara City
Long Beach City	Santa Monica
Los Angeles City	Santiago Canyon, Orange
Los Angeles Harbor, Wilmington	Southwestern, Chula Vista
Los Angeles Mission, Sylmar	Ventura
Los Angeles Pierce, Woodland Hills	Victor Valley, Victorville
	West Los Angeles, Culver City

### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

*For a complete list, see: <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/csu-branding-standards/editorial-style-guide/Pages/campus-names.aspx>*

CSU Bakersfield - 9001 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield 93311.  
CSU Channel Islands - 1 University Dr., Camarillo 93012  
CSU Chico - 400 West First St. Chico 95929  
CSU Dominguez Hills - 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson 90747  
CSU Fresno - 5241 N. Maple Ave. Fresno 93740  
CSU East Bay - 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward 94542  
Humboldt State - 1 Harpst St., 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 Academy Dr., Vallejo 94590  
CSU Monterey Bay - 100 Campus Center, Seaside 93955  
CSU Northridge - 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge 91330

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Cal State Polytechnic - 3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona 91768  
CSU Sacramento - 6000 J St., Sacramento 95819  
CSU San Bernardino - 5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino 92407  
San Diego State - 5300 Campanile Dr., San Diego 92182  
San Francisco State - 1600 Holloway Ave., SF 94132  
San Jose State - 1 Washington Square, San Jose 95192  
Cal Polytechnic State - 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo 93407  
CSU San Marcos - 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd. San Marcos 92096  
Sonoma State - 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park 94928  
CSU Stanislaus - One University Circle, Turlock 95382

### THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM

*For more details, see: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uc-system/parts-of-uc>*

**UC Berkeley** - Berkeley 94720  
**UC Davis** - One Shields Avenue, Davis 95616  
**UC Irvine** - Irvine 92697  
**UCLA** - 405 Hilgard Ave., LA 90024  
**UC Merced** - 5200 Lake Rd., Merced 95343  
**UC Riverside** - 900 University Ave., Riverside 92521  
**UC San Diego** - 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla 92093  
**UC San Francisco** - 3rd & Parnassus, San Francisco 94143  
**UC Santa Barbara** - Santa Barbara 93106  
**UC Santa Cruz** - 1156 High St., Santa Cruz 95064

### PRIVATE CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

*For more information, see: [www.aiccu.edu](http://www.aiccu.edu) (Colleges unless otherwise noted)*

Art Center College of Design - 1700 Lida St., Pasadena 91103  
Azusa Pacific University - 901 E. Alostia Ave., Azusa 91702  
Biola University - 13800 Biola Ave., La Mirada 90639  
California College of Arts - 5212 Broadway, Oakland 94618  
California Institute of Technology (Caltech) - 1200 E. California Blvd., Pasadena 91125  
California Institute of the Arts - 24700 McBean Pkwy, Valencia 91355  
California Lutheran University - 60 W. Olsen Rd., Thousand Oaks 91360  
Chapman University - One University Dr., Orange 92866  
Claremont McKenna - 888 Columbia Ave., Claremont 91711  
Cogswell University of Silicon Valley - 191 Baypointe Pkwy, San Jose 95134  
Notre Dame de Namur University - 1500 Ralston Ave., Belmont 94002  
Concordia University Irvine (formerly Christ) - 1530 Concordia West, Irvine 92612  
Dominican University of California - 50 Acacia Ave., San Rafael 94901  
Fresno Pacific University - 1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno 93702  
Golden Gate University - 536 Mission St., San Francisco 94105  
Harvey Mudd - 301 Platt Blvd., Claremont 91711  
Hebrew Union/Jewish Institute of Religion - 3077 University Ave., LA 90007  
Holy Names University - 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland 94619  
Loma Linda University - Barton Road, Loma Linda 92350  
Loyola Marymount University - 1 LMU Dr., LA 90045  
The Master's University - 21726 Placerita Canyon Rd., Santa Clarita 91321  
Menlo - 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton 94027

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Mills - 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 94613  
Mount St. Mary's University - 12001 Chalon Rd., LA 90049  
National University - 11255 N Torrey Pines Rd., San Diego 92037

Occidental (Oxy) - 1600 Campus Road, LA 90041  
Otis College of Art and Design - 9045 Lincoln Blvd., LA 90045  
Hope International University (formerly Pacific Christian College) - 2500 Nutwood Ave., Fullerton 92831  
Pacific Oaks - 45 W. Eureka St., Pasadena 91103  
Pacific Union - One Angwin Ave., Angwin 94508  
Pepperdine University - 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu 90263  
Pitzer - 1050 N. Mills Ave., Claremont 91711  
Point Loma Nazarene University - 3900 Lomaland Dr., San Diego 92106  
Pomona - 333 College Way, Claremont 91711  
St. Mary's - 1928 St. Marys Rd., Moraga 94575  
San Francisco Art Institute - 800 Chestnut St., SF 94133  
Santa Clara University - 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara 95053  
Scripps - 1030 N. Columbia Ave., Claremont 91711  
Simpson University - 2211 College View Dr., Redding 96003  
Vanguard University of Southern California - 55 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa 92626  
Stanford University - 450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford 94305  
Thomas Aquinas - 10000 N. Ojai Rd., Santa Paula 93060  
Alliant International University - 10455 Pomerado Rd., San Diego 92131  
American Jewish University - 15600 Mulholland Dr., LA 90077  
University of La Verne - 1950 3rd St., La Verne 91750  
University of Redlands - 1200 E. Colton Ave., Redlands 92373  
University of San Diego - 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego 92110  
University of San Francisco - 2130 Fulton St., SF 94117  
University of Southern California (USC), University Park, LA 90007  
University of the Pacific (UOP), 3601 Pacific Ave., Stockton 95211  
West Coast University - 12215 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood 91606  
Westmont - 955 La Paz Rd., Santa Barbara 93108  
Whittier - 13406 E. Philadelphia St., Whittier 90602  
Woodbury University - 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank 91504

## 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
- \*form a study group with friends who are college-bound, and study together often
- \*Begin visiting local community colleges, state universities, and independent colleges with your family or friends if safe to do so (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \*participate in many activities and athletics
- \*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 visit local colleges and universities if safe to do so (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \*take the PSAT in October for practice in the admissions testing if available (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \***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 available (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \*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 (virtual accommodations made be required; see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \*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 of 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 if safe to do so (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \*take your first SAT or ACT for practice. Prepare by using the testing tips and test samples on line, especially at the College Board web page (if available; see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)

**OVER THE SUMMER BETWEEN YOUR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR**

- \*visit the colleges on your short list if safe to do so (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)
- \*this is a summer for extensive reading, to boost your vocabulary and help you prepare for college loads

**YOUR BUSY SENIOR YEAR OF APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES**

**EARLY SEPTEMBER**

- \*register for the SAT or the ACT October testing (if available; see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)

## 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

- \*If needed for your applications, request in writing references (Letters of Recommendation) from the Headmaster, counselors, teachers, etc. Remember, the Cal State Universities and the University of California schools do not require these. Also, remember to give them a stamped envelope addressed to the college for each reference unless the college prefers electronic submissions. For example, the Common Application and Coalition will require the recommenders to submit their letters online through the respective application websites. You should make sure the headmaster, counselors, and teachers are aware of the correct process and know where to upload the letters.

## 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 if safe to do so (see earlier references to pandemic restrictions)

## MAY

- \*mail your commitment deposit check to the college or university you plan to attend by the **May 1 National Candidates' Reply** (or by the university-specified date if different)
- \*proceed with the application for university housing if you plan to live on campus. **Watch the deadline carefully** or you lose out!

## GETTING IN: College Selection and Application for Southwestern's students

- \*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. Please also check if any of the universities to which you are applying prefer electronic copies of transcripts. Due to pandemic concerns and just for quicker filing, some colleges and universities will request that the school records office and/or college counselor send them via email or secure document sharing platforms. Once you know, contact Southwestern's school records office and/or college counselor to let them know.
- \*remember to advise the college of your **summer mailing address**
- \*keep reading and getting ready for a wonderful college experience