# CA COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Parent Center Workshop on the college application process was presented by the UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program ("EAOC") and focused on **admission to higher education in California.**

## FOUR SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA*

**1** **University of California ("UCs")**
10 campuses (9 open to undergraduates)

**2** **California State Universities ("CSUs")**
22 campuses

**3** **California Community Colleges ("CCs")**
116 campuses

**4** **Private/Independent Colleges and Universities**
85+ campuses

*See next page for a detailed comparison

## WHAT TO CONSIDER

**Campus**
Enrollment Size
Faculty
Location
Demographics
Graduation Rates

**Academics**
Admission Requirements
Majors
Minors
Academic Focus

**Resources**
Housing
Clubs
Campus Resources
Support Services
Employment Opportunities
Financial Aid

## UC/CSU GPA CALCULATION

- The GPA UCs and CSUs use for admission looks **only**:
  - At courses in **A-G subject areas**
  - At grades received from **summer before 10th grade through summer after 11th grade**).
- A-G Courses count toward the A-G requirements, even if not used for GPA. For example, A-G courses taken in 9th grade count toward the A-G requirements, but not be part of a UC or CSU GPA.
- For the rules on how UCs and CSUs calculate weighted GPAs, see: UC rules and CSU rules)

## WHAT IS "FAFSA"?

- The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA")
- When you submit the FAFSA, you're applying for money to help pay for college, including:
  - Federal & State Grants (free money that you don't have to pay back)
  - Government Student Loans (money you borrow at low and/or subsidized interest rates)
  - Work-Study Programs (part-time jobs on campus that help you earn money)
  - Scholarships (some scholarships require students to file a FAFSA to qualify for consideration)
- There was a Zoom presentation for all **seniors** in High School about FAFSA, and all seniors should have already created their **FAFSA ID.** There will be a parent Zoom about FAFSA later this month.
- The FAFSA opened on **October 1st.** You should apply as early as possible, because some aid is first-come, first-serve.
- **All** seniors planning to attend college should file the FAFSA. You may qualify for more than you think, and some scholarships and schools require you to file the FAFSA.

## WHAT IS "TEST BLIND"?

- When CSU and UC Schools say they are "test blind," they mean that they do NOT consider SAT, ACT, or AP scores as part of their review process at all.
- Students can still submit scores, which can be helpful for course placement after admission.
- Note that "test blind" may mean other things at different schools. For example, some schools may consider tests that are submitted, even though they do not require them to be submitted.
- In addition, test blind policies are frequently changing at many universities, so it is good to check for updates to policies for future application years.

# COMPARING THE FOUR CA SYSTEMS

|  | CCs | CSUs | UCs | Private |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **# OF SCHOOLS** | 116 Schools | 22 Schools | 10 Schools (9 for Undergrads) | 85+ Schools |
| **TYPE OF INSTITUTION** | 2 year institution | 4 year institution | 4 year institution | 2 or 4 year institution (but be wary of "for profit" schools) |
| **REQUIREMENTS** | 18+ years old OR High School Diploma or GED | High School Diploma A-G Courses GPA: 2.5+ Test Blind | High School Diploma A-G Courses GPA: 3.0+ Honors/Awards Extracurriculars Personal Insight Questions Test Blind | Varies, but may include: High School Diploma GPA: 2.0-3.0+ Honors/Awards Extracurriculars May require SAT/ACT Personal Insight Questions |
| **UNIQUE QUALITIES** | Affordable (Free for first 2 years) Career and Technical-Focused | Career-Focused Commuter Schools | Research-Focused | Smaller Classes Unique Curriculum (Some) |
| **DEGREES OFFERED** | Associate's Vocational Certificates Bachelor's (Some) | Bachelor's, Master's Doctorate's (Some) Teaching Credentials | Bachelor's Master's Doctorate's Professional (law, medicine, dental) | Associate's Bachelor's Master's Doctorate's Professional (law, medicine, dental) |
| **APPLICATION** | **CC Application** Rolling Admission | **CSU Application** ONE application for all 22 schools. Select which ones you want. | **UC Application** ONE application for all 9 schools. Select which ones you want. | **Varies** but many use the **Common App,** which allows you to apply to up to 20 schools |
| **DEADLINES** | Always Open (Rolling Admission) | Open October 1- December 1* | Open August 1- December 1* | Varies by School |

*Typically November 30th. There is a special deadline for Class of 2026 because November 30, 2025 falls on a Sunday. System glitches can happen, so students are encouraged, to submit applications on the earlier side (prior to November 1st, if possible).

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## HELPFUL SOCES/LAUSD LINKS

- Parent Portal
- LAUSD Graduation Requirements
- SOCES College Center
- Graduation Resources

## HELPFUL COLLEGE LINKS

The Parent Workshop presentation was given by UCLA's DCAC through its Early Academic Outreach Program ("EAOC"). The EAOC has a lot of great resources worth checking out, including the following (click on each button for a direct link), and the presenter (Carla Ramos) is available for questions:

- High School Checklist
- Middle School Checklist
- A-G Planning Chart
- Junior Tracking Form
- 4 Systems of CA Higher Education
- Community College Profiles
- Scholarship Opportunities
- EAOP's Instagram

## HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

- You can reach out to **Carla Ramos**, Regional Manager of **UCLA EAOP** at cramos@eaop.ucla.edu with questions about requirements for the **college admission** process for California higher education schools.
- You can also reach out to your **student's academic counselor** with questions about graduation and college admission requirements:

**Ms. Sutton (10th & 12th Grade):**
818-758-5609
sms1794@lausd.net

**Ms. Weingarten (9th & 11th Grade):**
818-758-5624
alw1339@lausd.net

**Ms. Cordes (Middle School):**
818-758-5616
jennifer.cordes@lausd.net

**Ms. Rodriguez (Elementary School):**
818-758-5623
sharon.rodriguez@lausd.net

- For help with **Parent Portal**, contact **Seta (at sxm3270@lausd.net)** or stop by the Parent Center.