

A quick guide to college applications

Quick Facts

What will you need?

Transcripts (unofficial or self-reported)
Activities & Awards list
Personal Insight Questions (UCs only).
Letters of Recommendation
Common App - College Personal Statement
SAT/ACT Scores

1

Types of colleges

UC (University of California) – 9 undergraduate campuses
CSU (California State University) – 23 campuses
California Community Colleges – Over 130 campuses
Private & Out-of-State Colleges – Examples: USC, LMU, Arizona State University. These vary in size, focus, and cost; often offer generous aid

2

Create a college list

Decide which types of colleges are best suited for you. Consider programs, location, cost and academic match. It's important to remember that you may qualify for fee waivers: up to 4 for the UCs, up to 4 for the CSUs and up to 4 for Common App colleges.

3

Stay organized!

Keep in mind all deadlines and requirements for each college you are planning to apply to.

4

Gentle Reminders

Start early! Don't wait until deadlines!

Ask for help – school counselors, college reps, trusted adults

Sign up to attend virtual info sessions for colleges you are interested in!

FAFSA or California Dream Act will open October 1st and the priority deadline is March 2, 2026.

CSS Profile: Required by some private colleges