



--- APPLYING TO COLLEGE -----

CSU – California State University

Cal State Apply website: www2.calstate.edu/apply
Application submission window: October 1 – November 30, 2026 (deadlines might be extended, but do NOT plan on it)
Self-report your grades on application. Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA in “a-g” courses to qualify. <i>However, “Any California high school graduate or resident of California earning a GPA between 2.00 and 2.49 may be evaluated for admission based upon supplemental factors,” such as number of courses exceeding minimum “a-g” requirements, household income, extracurricular involvement, and other available information that would inform the campus admission decision. Each CSU campus will determine their supplemental factors.</i>
Supplemental Questions
No Transcripts at the time you apply ☐ Tip: Check college web portals regularly to see if they ask you for a transcript
No Test Scores used for admission consideration.
No Letters of Recommendation and No Essays
Test score clarification: ACT/SAT scores will NOT be used for the purpose of determining admission eligibility. However, once admitted, an ACT or SAT may be used as one of the measures for placement in Math and English. In this case, it might benefit a student to have a score but it would not hurt a student who does not have a score.

UC – University of California

UC Application website: apply.universityofcalifornia.edu
Application submission window: October 1 – November 30, 2026
☐ Tip: You may begin working on your application in August
Self-report Grades (must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in “a-g” course), Activities, Short Answers (Personal Insight Questions)
No Transcripts at the time you apply ☐ Tip: Check college web portals regularly to see if they ask you for a transcript
No Letters of Recommendation
No Test Scores
*Test score clarification: “UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used for course placement after you enroll.”

Common Application / Coalition Application

Common Application website: www.commonapp.org / Coalition App Website: www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
Deadlines vary
Early Decision (Binding) / Early Action (Non-Binding) / Regular Decision
Grades, *Test Scores, Activities, Essays (Look for supplemental essays. For Common App, the Writing Supplement link can be found in the Writing Requirements section.)
Secondary School Report (SSR) Letters of Recommendation (1-2 Teachers and Counselor)
Transcript uploaded by Counselor
Student sends test scores from testing agency (*test score requirements will vary by campus)
*Test score clarification: You will need to refer to the websites for the colleges on your list. You may find that many colleges are “test optional.” Learn the requirements for each college. For example, schools offering the WUE scholarship may ask for test scores.

All Other Colleges (ex: out-of-state and/or private schools not found on Common App)

Application websites vary. Check the college websites for application instructions.
Deadlines vary
Students must request an Official Transcript through Parchment online https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/5900/account .
*Test score clarification: You will need to refer to the websites for the colleges on your list. You may find that many colleges are “test optional.” Learn the requirements for each college. Test scores may be requested for WUE or other college scholarship consideration.

Community College

For California Community Colleges, apply early in the Spring semester of your Senior year (rolling admission = no hard deadline but it's suggested that you apply before March). Step 1- Go to the website of the college you want to apply to. Review the steps for enrollment and carefully follow directions. When you click “Apply” you will be directed to the OpenCCC website and you will be asked to create an account. Note: This is not your application. You must continue past this step and submit your application to the college.
No Transcripts at the time you apply and No test scores.
Application steps, deadlines, and processes will vary for out-of-state community colleges.

--- FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS -----

FAFSA (For all students, no matter the college)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) website: studentaid.gov
FAFSA is the way you apply for Pell Grant, Cal Grant, Loans, & sometimes institutional scholarships
Submission Window October 1- March 2 (although you can technically submit a FAFSA after March 2nd, this is the deadline for Cal Grant, so this is the deadline you should use)
☐ Tip: Create a FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID) fsaid.edu.gov DO THIS FIRST! Do this before you login to your FAFSA. A FSA ID is needed for the student and also a parent (just 1 parent needs it, not both).
☐ Tip: Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1
☐ Tip: List all the colleges you're applying to (include 1 California college, for Cal Grant consideration, just in case)
FAFSA Helpline: 800-433-3243 or go to the FAFSA YouTube Channel

CSS Profile (Required by some private colleges)

CSS (College Scholarship Service) Profile website: cssprofile.collegeboard.org
Submit this in addition to the FAFSA, if it's required by any of your colleges.
☐ Tip: See if your colleges require the CSS profile at the website listed above
Opens October 1 st . Deadline determined by colleges.
☐ Tip: If you have a college board account, use that username and password

Applying for Scholarships

Institutional Scholarships or Merit Aid – Visit your college websites to learn about application processes for possible institutional scholarships (money that comes from the school if you meet certain criteria). Do this in the Fall so you don't miss deadlines.
WUE - Applying out-of-state? Check out WUE (Western Undergraduate Exchange) scholarships: wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/
Local Scholarships – El Dorado County organizations/businesses offer scholarships to students in El Dorado County. That's you! Individual applications required. Applications open Nov. 1st at scholarships.edcoe.org . You probably qualify for many!!
☐ Tip for local scholarships: Deadlines and details will be updated throughout the Fall. See Mrs. Escobar in the College & Career Center if you have questions. She can help you get started on these scholarships and others!
More Scholarships - Suggested Online Scholarship Search Sites: Fastweb.com and/or Scholarships.com

--- REQUESTING SENIOR TRANSCRIPTS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS -----

When requesting your Ponderosa transcript for college applications, the process is specific to the colleges where you are applying. Please follow the guidelines listed below to assist you with this process.

UC/CSU

No transcript needed. The colleges will review your grades based on what you self-report on the application.
Note: We'll send your final high school transcript to your college of enrollment <i>after</i> you graduate
☐ Tip: Check college web portals OFTEN in case the admissions office makes a special request to see your transcript early.

Common Application / Coalition Application

Your counselor will send your transcript electronically. Please invite your counselor to fill out the recommender section by providing their email address on the application.
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Out of State Colleges (those not found on Common App or Coalition App)

Students must request an Official Transcript through Parchment online https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/5900/account .
