

# Exploring College Options

## Class of 2027



Margaret A. Rice  
PGHS Counseling  
March 19, 2026

# PGHS: Looking Ahead

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Information & Support

Activity		Presented by	Timeline
Senior Review	Individual student meeting	Counselor	August/September
Senior Shorts	Lunchtime & classroom presentations	Counselor	August/September
Apples to Apps Workshops	College Applications Support	PGHS College and Career Center	October/November
Applying to College: Information for the Class of 2027	Evening presentation	Counselor	September
Financial Aid Night	Evening presentation	Guest Speaker	January
FAFSA Workshops	Evening workshops	Guest Presenters	October-February

# PGHS College and Career Center

Mr. Kent Leatham

[kleatham@pgusd.org](mailto:kleatham@pgusd.org)

PGHS Library

- MPC Dual Enrollment Registration Support
- College Fair (Fall)
- Career and Service Fair (Spring)
- College Application Assistance
- Mock Interviews for Seniors
- College Search Assistance
- College Representative Visits
- MPC Registration for Seniors (March/April)
- Community Service Opportunities
- Individual appointments available for students at every grade level, upon request.

# Class of 2027: SAT/ACT UPDATE



- UC and CSU campuses **are test blind for** SAT or ACT scores for current and future freshman admissions.
- All 116 California Community College campuses, to include MPC, **are test blind for** SAT or ACT test scores for freshman admissions.
- While some private colleges no longer require the SAT or ACT for admissions, **others still require standardized test scores.**
- Students should check the websites of the individual private or out-of-state colleges they are interested in attending to confirm if the SAT or ACT test is considered for admission.

# Testing 'Glossary'

- Standardized Tests Required: To have your application reviewed you must submit an ACT or SAT test score with your application or your application is incomplete.
- Test Blind: Colleges will not review your test scores until after they have made admissions decisions.
- Test Optional: You can submit test scores or not without prejudice.
- Super Score: You submit your best section-level scores, even if they're from different tests.

# Confirmed 2026–2027 SAT Test Dates

- College Board generally releases the SAT testing dates for the following year in May or June.
  - Note the testing dates and be prepared to register for your preferred date as soon as the registration window opens.
    - Popular testing dates in August, September, and October fill quickly.
- August 22, 2026
  - September 12, 2026
  - October 3, 2026
  - November 7, 2026
  - December 5, 2026
  - March 6, 2027
  - May 1, 2027
  - June 5, 2027

# Planning to Take the SAT or ACT?

- To see available testing sites, go to: [SAT Test Center Search](#) ★
- To register for the SAT, go to: [Online SAT Registration](#) ★
- To register for the ACT, go to: [ACT Registration & ACT Testing Dates | The ACT Test](#) ★
- If test scores are required by the colleges you plan to apply to, consider taking the SAT or ACT test in Summer or Early Fall.
  - These test dates should allow your scores to be received by most colleges in time for admission.



# Applying to College: What Are the Options?



- California Community College
- California Public University
  - University of California campuses (UC)
  - California State University (CSU)
- Private College
- Out of State Public University
- International University

# California Community College

California Community Colleges ★

SAT or ACT scores are not used in admission.

All students with a high school diploma are accepted to any of the 116 California campuses.

Transfer program agreements are available with UC and CSU campuses.

- Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) (UC) ★
- CCC-Associate Degree for Transfer | CSU ★

Free tuition is available for most California residents through the **California Promise Grant** upon completion of the FAFSA.

- California College Promise Grant ★



# California Public Universities

There are two branches of state university in California: The *University of California* system and the *California State University* system.

- 9 Undergraduate UC Campuses
- 22 CSU Campuses

One UC application covers 9 campuses. One CSU application covers all 22 campuses.

- Note: Each campus has a separate application fee.
- PGHS students will be able to fill their college applications from [californiacolleges.edu](http://californiacolleges.edu) to the UC, CSU, CCC.

California residents are offered an in-state tuition discount for both the UC and CSU systems.

California residents who meet income eligibility requirements have the opportunity for need-based aid through Cal Grant when attending a UC or CSU campus.

Admission priority is given to in-state applicants for both UC and CSU campuses.

Our local university, CSU Monterey Bay, assigns PGHS student applicants additional priority points which gives them an advantage for CSUMB admissions over applicants from outside of Monterey County.

# California Public Universities

## 22 CSU Campuses

Base tuition for the 2027-2028 school year of \$7,248 plus fees for residents.

Housing costs and campus fees vary per university. Check the individual campus websites for details.

- [Future CSU Tuition](#)★

## 9 UC Campuses

Base tuition for the 2026-2027 school year of \$15,588 plus fees for residents.

Housing costs and campus fees vary per university. Check the individual campus websites for details.

- [Tuition & cost of attendance | UC Admissions](#)★



**Financial aid: Cal Grant applies to both UC's and CSU's**



# Private Colleges: For-Profit vs. Non-Profit

- **Non-Profit universities** can be either public or private. The overriding purpose of a non-profit university is to educate students. A nonprofit school reinvests a student's tuition dollars in the campus to improve programs, facilities, and faculty.
  - Public universities in all 50 states are non-profit.
  - There are roughly 1,700 four-year private, non-profit colleges in the United States, including those in the Ivy League and all selective colleges. Private nonprofit schools are typically funded through private endowments or grants and are not in business to make a profit.
- **For-Profit universities** are those with shareholders. The ultimate purpose of these institutions is to increase shareholder earnings. Money earned from tuition and fees are used for marketing and recruitment, as well as for increasing shareholder profit. There are roughly 690 for-profit universities in the US, many of them online.
- In general, academic counselors and college professionals recommend **Non-Profit** institutions as providing the highest quality of education.
- [DAPIP | Homepage](#) ★

# Out-of-State Public Universities

A student does not have to live in a particular state to be eligible for admission to its public universities. There are differences, however.

- Many popular state universities have more generous admission rates than UC campuses.
- Tuition is more expensive for out-of-state applicants than for in-state residents. There are often tuition discount options to assist with the increased out of state tuition cost.
- Public universities in other states may have different minimum admission requirements than the UC and CSU campuses.

# Out-of-State Public Universities

## Admissions requirements

Out-of-state public schools or private schools may have different admission requirements than UC or CSU campuses. For example:

- The University of Arizona has a minimum three-year science requirement, while the UC and CSU campuses require two years of science to apply.
- Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO) have a minimum three-year science requirement, while the UC and CSU campuses require two years of science to apply.
- The University Washington has a minimum three-year science requirement, while the UC and CSU campuses require two years of science to apply.
- The UC and CSU campuses do not require SAT or ACT scores for admission but there are other campuses that still have the testing requirement.

# Western Undergraduate Exchange

## Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) - Tuition Savings★

Out-of-state tuition is always more than in-state tuition at public state universities; however, many colleges have programs that bring down the cost of out-of-state tuition for **eligible** students such as:

The **Western Undergraduate Exchange, WUE**, gives a discount to California students that meet specified GPA and major requirements so that the tuition is closer to in-state. WUE is available in:

*Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho,  
Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon,  
South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming*

- Check the WUE website to see if one of the schools you are interested in offers a WUE discount and what the requirements are to apply.
- Even schools that don't have WUE typically have some type of discount program so if the school you are interested in is not listed as a WUE institution, call the admissions office to see if they have another discount program in place.

# Which Option is Best for Me?

## How to Research Colleges to Find the Best Fit



# Looking for a *Good Fit*?

## Personal Considerations

Do I want to live on a large campus or a smaller one?

How far from home am I willing to go?

Do I want to live in an urban, suburban, or rural community?

Does weather matter to me?

Is the diversity of the student population on campus important to me?

Is there an extra-curricular program that I want/need that campus to have?

# Looking for a *Good Fit*?

## Practical Considerations

Does this college have the major/programs that I am interested in?

What is the average grade point average for admitted freshman students?

What is the freshman admission rate?

What are the costs of attendance?

Do they require the ACT or SAT for admissions?

# The Good News...



Researching personal and practical considerations is now easier than ever.

- CaliforniaColleges.edu
  - [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://www.calcolleges.edu)★
- Big Future
- UC Admissions Site
- CSU Apply
- Common App

# CaliforniaColleges.edu

**WE BELIEVE ALL STUDENTS  
DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO SUCCEED.**

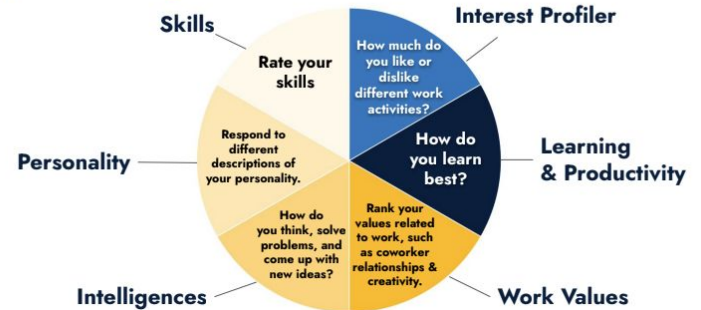
CaliforniaColleges.edu is a student's  
one-stop shop for the tools they  
need to plan for life after high school.

## **FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE SUCCESS: TRACKING A-G PROGRESS ONLINE WITH CALIFORNIACOLLEGES.EDU**

Tune in to learn how to stay on track  
with your A-G college entrance  
requirements and the benefits of  
CUSD's college & career tool.  
Recommended for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>  
grade students and families!



### **Career Assessments**



# Launch Your UC and CSU Applications



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

- Launch the Cal State Apply application from [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu)
- Track your application status to ensure it's successfully submitted
- Access the CSU Application Info Tab in the Academic Planner for additional help
- [PARTNER DISTRICTS ONLY] Import pre-verified course and grade data directly into your application



## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

- Launch the UC Application from [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu)
- Track your application status to ensure it's successfully submitted
- Access the UC Application Info Tab in the Academic Planner for additional help
- [PARTNER DISTRICTS ONLY] Import pre-verified course and grade data directly into your application



# College Board: Big Future

Explore Careers ▾ Plan for College ▾ Pay for College ▾ Communities & Events ▾ My BigFuture ▾

[+Create Your College List and Qualify for a \\$40K BigFuture Scholarship!+](#)

## See Your Options

What do you want to do after high school? Answer questions to help you make a plan.



### Career Quiz

Use your passions and interests to get matched with possible career paths.

[Take the Career Quiz](#)



### College Quiz

Are you looking for a big school? Something close to home? Find what schools are right for you.

[Take the College Quiz](#)




### Scholarship Quiz

6,000 scholarship programs are giving away \$1.5 billion a year. Let's get you some!

[Take the Scholarship Quiz](#)

What can you do with BigFuture?



- Free online search engine created by the College Board
- Can be use to search all private and public colleges
- The platform is straightforward and easy to use
- Popular with students and counselors
- [BigFuture](#) 

# Search for a UC Campus

[Check majors](#) | [UC Admissions](#) ★

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the University of California Admissions website. The navigation menu includes: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Admissions, Requirements, How to apply, Tuition & financial aid, Campuses & majors (highlighted), and an Apply now button. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and a search icon are also present.

The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: [Home](#) > [Campuses & majors](#) > [Check majors](#).

## Check majors

Before you start your application, see which majors you can apply to for upcoming terms.

---

### Fall 2025

All campuses are open to applicants for fall 2025.

---

#### Campuses & majors

- [UC Berkeley](#)
- [UC Davis](#)
- [UC Irvine](#)
- [UCLA](#)
- [UC Merced](#)
- [UC Riverside](#)
- [UC San Diego](#)
- [UC Santa Barbara](#)
- [UC Santa Cruz](#)

# Search For a CSU Campus

[Choosing a Campus](#) | [CSU](#) ★



[Apply](#) / [Choosing a Campus](#)



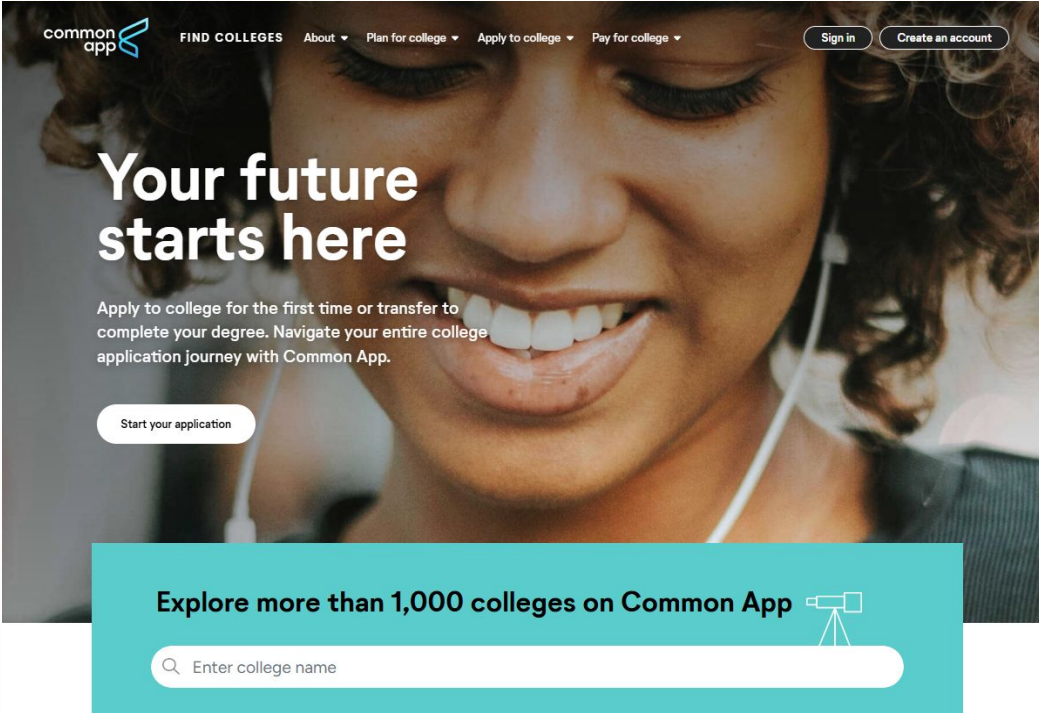
## Choosing a Campus

[Apply for fall 2025](#)

[Apply Home](#)

# Common Application (App)

## Common App★



The image shows a screenshot of the Common App website. At the top left is the 'common app' logo. To its right is a navigation menu with the following items: 'FIND COLLEGES', 'About', 'Plan for college', 'Apply to college', and 'Pay for college', each with a small downward arrow. Further right are two buttons: 'Sign in' and 'Create an account'. The main content area features a large, close-up photograph of a young woman with curly hair, smiling and wearing white earbuds. Overlaid on the left side of the image is the text 'Your future starts here' in a large, bold, white font. Below this is a smaller white font paragraph: 'Apply to college for the first time or transfer to complete your degree. Navigate your entire college application journey with Common App.' Underneath the paragraph is a white button with rounded corners that says 'Start your application'. At the bottom of the page, there is a teal-colored banner. On the left side of the banner, it says 'Explore more than 1,000 colleges on Common App' in white text. To the right of this text is a white search bar with a magnifying glass icon on the left and a white camera icon on the right. Inside the search bar, the text 'Enter college name' is visible.

# What Makes a College *Good*?

Many students confuse *college selectivity* with the quality of the education it offers. A *good* college is one that meets the student's academic, social, and emotional needs.

# Balanced College List



A balanced college list includes colleges and universities in your “Reach,” “Target,” and “Likely” categories that you are excited about applying to and can see yourself attending.

[Your List of Colleges: What Are Likely, Target, and Reach Schools?](#)



[Categories of College Selectivity](#) ★

# Creating a Balanced College List

## Reach/Dream

- Ideally, these schools are *not* “out of your academic range” but at the very top of it.
- All Ultra-selective schools should be classified as a Reach/Dream School due to their admissions rates.

## Target

- Schools match your GPA and standardized test scores (if required or used).
- While chances of being accepted is reasonable there’s still the possibility of being waitlisted or denied, especially the more competitive a school is.

## Likely

- The school should check off all of your boxes (size, location, degree) but consistently accept students with GPAs and test scores at or slightly below yours.
- You want the college to fall within, not below, the academic range so you are challenged and get out of the college what you need.

# How Many Colleges Should I Apply To?

## According to the College Board:

“There is no magic number, but **five to eight applications** are usually enough to ensure that a student is accepted into a suitable institution (depending, of course, on the individual student's record and circumstances). **This number should be made up of a combination of “likely”, “target”, and “reach/dream” colleges.**”

Make sure the different colleges you apply to **vary in terms of selectivity.**




# UC Admission Rates

Fall 2025

[First-year admit data](#) | [UC Admissions](#)★

Campus	Admit Rate	GPA	Applications	Admits
Berkeley ( <i>Cal</i> )	11%	4.15-4.29	126,836	14,451
Davis	45%	4.00-4.26	102,980	45,963
Irvine	29%	4.04-4.27	124,230	35,661
UCLA	9%	4.20-4.30	145,070	13,660
Merced	95%	3.54-4.15	49,358	46,932
Riverside	87%	3.65-4.16	70,862	61,718
San Diego	28%	4.11-4.28	136,740	38,846
Santa Barbara	38%	4.09-4.28	110,178	42,170
Santa Cruz	73%	3.83-4.20	66,373	48,244

CSU Campus	Acceptance Rate Fall 2025	CSU Campus	Acceptance Rate Fall 2025
CSU Bakersfield	84%	CSU Northridge	92%
CSU Channel Islands	94%	Cal Poly Pomona	74%
CSU Chico	91%	CSU Sacramento	94%
CSU Dominguez Hills	94%	CSU San Bernardino	94%
CSU East Bay	88%	San Diego State University	37%
CSU Fresno	96%	San Francisco State University	90%
CSU Fullerton	88%	San José State University	79%
Cal Poly Humboldt	94%	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	30%
CSU Long Beach	45%	CSU San Marcos	93%
CSU Los Angeles	91%	Sonoma State University	95%
Cal Poly Maritime Academy	60%	CSU Stanislaus	95%
CSU Monterey Bay	97%	 <a href="#">CSU Application Data</a>	



Campus:

Resident Type:

Student Type:

Sex/Gender:

Ethnicity:

Institution of Origin Type:

Enrollment Support Type:

### New Student Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment

CSU Campus: San Luis Obispo  
Fall Term



Legend:  
■ Applied  
■ Admitted  
■ Enrolled

Acceptance Rate	31.1%	29.6%	29.1%	30.1%	29.0%
Yield Rate	30.1%	31.2%	30.4%	27.3%	28.4%

Application, admission, and enrollment numbers reflect counts for CSU San Luis Obispo. Groups smaller than 10 are not shown. Acceptance rate shows the percentage of applicants who were admitted. Yield rate represents the percentage of admitted students who enrolled. Beginning Fall 2025, data collection for sex and gender was updated to include Gender Identity, replacing the prior Sex variable to better reflect current reporting practices.

# Apply Broadly

If you are willing to explore beyond  
the very  
narrow band of highly selective  
colleges,  
you'll find that you have many options  
that will  
lead to a great fit for you.

# Geographic Diversity

## ★ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★



- Only 14% of students attend college 500 miles or more from home.
- All colleges seek **Geographic Diversity** among their student body.
- This can be an advantage for Admission & Financial Aid.

# Demonstrated Interest

According to the New York Times, about **20% of private college admissions offices** report giving “considerable importance” to *demonstrated interest*, particularly when applying to private colleges.

**Bottom line:** Take that college tour, go to college fairs, attend college representative presentations at the high school and engage with the speaker, fill out that information card, “Like” them on Facebook or official social media accounts.

*Don't let your application be the first time they've heard from you.*

# Planning Ahead:

Junior Year is a Good Time to...

# Parchment Account

- Create a Parchment account for online access to your student transcript.
  - If you previously set up a parent Parchment account, please see Mrs. Biondi as Parchment is now only creating student accounts.
  - You will need to create a student account before you graduate from high school and only one account is allowed per student.
- Contact Mrs. Biondi, [jbiondi@pgusd.org](mailto:jbiondi@pgusd.org), for assistance in setting up your account.
  - Students who need transcripts will be directed to create a Parchment account.
- Setting up a Parchment account before the summer break will allow you to print transcripts when PGHS staff are on vacation.

# Campus Visits/Campus Tours

- Plan to tour the college campuses you are interested in applying to.
- Visits college campuses anywhere you and your family visit. You may surprise yourself!
- Do virtual tours.
- Go to the college websites and sign up online for guided tours.
  - Tours during the summer months and traditional school holidays fill quickly so planning ahead can pay off.
  - If there are not guided tours available, most College Admissions Offices will have maps and information for self-guided tours.



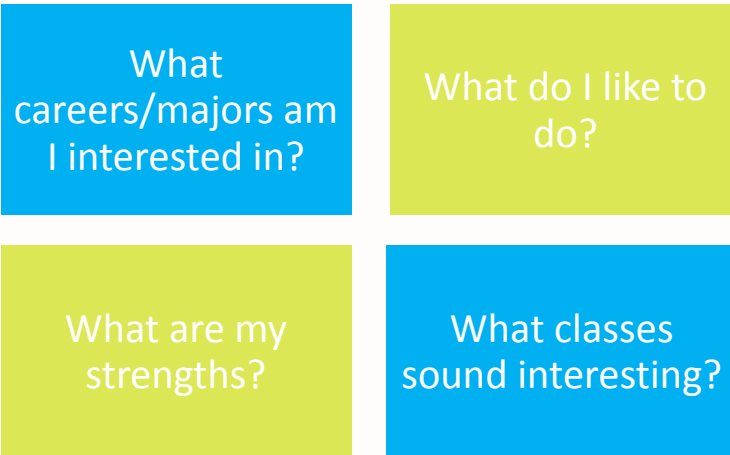
# Attend College Fairs/Rep Visits



- Attend College Representative visits when they come onto campus, even if it is a college you have not heard of before.
- Attend college fairs.
- Be open to learning more about different campuses.

# Do College and Career Exploration

Take Interest Inventories. Use Career Search Tools. Explore these important questions:



Contact Mr. Leatham in the PGHS Career Center for assistance in exploring different colleges.

# Update Your Resume



- Some scholarship and most internship opportunities require a resume.
- Update your resume or create a resume if you do not already have one.
- Be sure to include job experience, community service work, honors and awards, extra-curricular activities, languages spoken, etc.
- Carefully consider the past practice of including your home address.



# COMPLETE YOUR MINIMUM 48 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

- All Seniors requesting Open Periods, must have at least 36 hours of community service completed to have Open Periods in their schedules next year.
- [Pacific Grove High School Community Service Verification Form](#) ★



- Junior year is a great time to start exploring scholarship opportunities.
- Many Seniors miss scholarship opportunities early in the Fall of senior year.
- Think beyond just the PGHS Local Scholarship Calendar.
- [MASTER Scholarship Calendar](#) ★

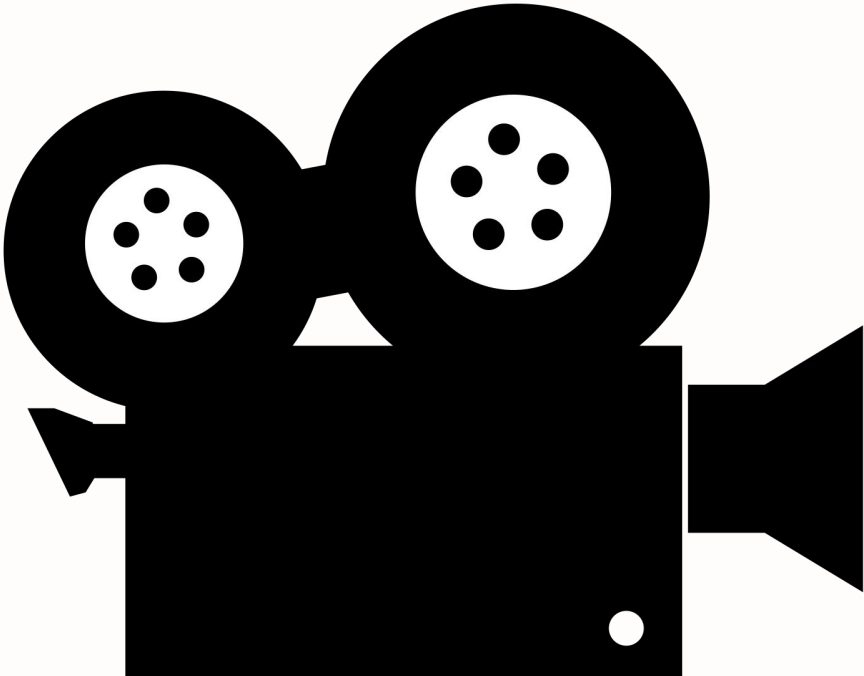
# Attend Final Junior Presentation

***22 April 2026: The Ins and Outs of Applying Outside of the California Public Universities.***

**PGHS Library 6:30-7:30 PM**

**We will:**

- Define Early Action vs Early Decision
  - Discuss advantages & disadvantages of EA/ED
- Common App
- Letters of Recommendation (LOR)
- PGHS Brag Sheet



**College choice is  
not a prize to be  
won, but a match  
to be made.**





# Questions?

Margaret A. Rice  
PGHS Counseling  
Grades 11 & 12  
[mrice@pgusd.org](mailto:mrice@pgusd.org)

