

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2016

Guidance Newsletter



What's After High School?

High school is a time to explore possible paths to a profession. This may be through a university straight from high school, community college to transfer, or a certificate program through a trade school or community college. All sectors of education say that it is imperative that high school students graduate college and career ready and with a profession in mind.

Our schools have some excellent ways to explore careers. Students can use CaliforniaColleges.edu. On this website you can explore interests and skills, professions and programs. You can search colleges and certificate programs all over the country, not just California. As you explore, you can create your profile to include interest inventories you have taken, possible careers, and colleges you are interested in attending. Contact your guidance coordinator for a free account and an individual meeting. We also have many career/technical education courses in which students can explore careers. Ask your Education Specialist to show you the CTE catalog.

Upcoming College Admissions Tests

SAT

The deadline for the November 5 SAT is October 7 (Late registration is Oct 25)

Deadline for the December 3 test is November 3.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests are not required, but some colleges recommend that freshman applicants interested in competitive majors take the tests to demonstrate subject matter proficiency.

Deadlines For The Tests

Most colleges accept the December test dates as the last dates to use for fall admissions 2017, but check with colleges that interest you.

ACT

The deadline for the December 10 test is November 4. (Late registration is November 18).

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Guidance Appointments

Your Guidance Coordinator is happy to help you chart your future!



Jami Riley

jriley@ieminc.org

For Appointments Click [HERE](#)

Assistant Director of Guidance:
Kim Evans
kevans@ieminc.org

Director of Guidance:
Brandy Anderson
banderson@ieminc.org





Upcoming Guidance Parent Webinars

Space is limited so sign up soon

All Things Financial Aid

October 12, 7:00 PM
Click [HERE](#) to register

Steps to College for Seniors

October 19, 7:00 PM
Click [HERE](#) to register

The University of California Application

November 2, 7:00 PM
Click [HERE](#) to register

The California State University Application

November 9, 7:00 PM
Click [HERE](#) to register

College Planning Grades 7-11

November 16, 7:00 PM
Click [HERE](#) to register

Weekly High School Question and Answer Sessions:

There is no need to register but join at the correct time:

October 4, click Here	November 1, click Here
October 11, click Here	November 8, click Here
October 18, click Here	November 15, click Here
October 25, click Here	November 29, click Here

College Dates & Deadlines

October 1

UC Applications and
CSU Applications open
FAFSA Opens

November 30

CSU and UC Applications
Due

Community Colleges

You can apply at any time and
all are accepted. Apply at
<http://home.cccapply.org/>

Students who want to take
classes for next semester
should start that process in
November. Talk to your ES
about how to apply. For more
information click [HERE](#).

University of California's Eligibility in the Local Context

Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) is a program that the University of California utilizes to recognize the top performing students at each participating school. All students seek to be accepted by the broader statewide eligibility pathway, which uses test scores and grade point average to identify the top 12.5 percent of students applying from California. The ELC seeks to recognize and reward the academic accomplishments of students who make the most of the opportunities available to them. This year we are building our program. Those who could be eligible to the University of California will receive a consent letter to upload transcripts. As we are building this year it would help our program for parents to give consent for their transcripts to be reviewed even if they do not plan to attend a University of California so they can create the needed baseline GPA calculation.



High School Honors and Distinctions

The National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, National Honor Society serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

Four main purposes have guided chapters of NHS from the beginning: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. These purposes also translate into the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter.

The eligibility requirements must include

Be in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade

- Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above
- Potential members must meet high standards of character, scholarship, leadership and service

You can initiate the application by filling out the [National Honor Society Application](#) by **October 10** and asking your ES to fill out their part by October 18. For more information click [HERE](#).



The California Seal of Biliteracy

The California Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. This is an honor that can be listed on college applications and resumes.

For students whose first language is English they may attain this honor by all of the following:

1. Earn a 2.0 overall GPA in four years of high school English and test proficient on English Language CAASP tests.
2. And demonstrate proficiency in the target language by:
 - a. Completing 4 years of study in the target language with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above
 OR
 - b. Pass a foreign language test (Advanced Placement (AP) exam or SAT Subject test in the language.

For students whose first language is not English the requirements are the same as above plus achieving at least Early Advanced Proficiency on the CELDT test.



Honor Roll

Student will be considered on the honor roll at graduation of their overall grade point average is above 3.5



Congressional Award

The Congressional Award is something students age 14-23 can earn as they do community service. The award also helps the students to grow in the areas of personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. A student can earn several levels of awards as they continue to serve and meet goals for themselves. For more information see <http://congressionalaward.org>

Choosing Colleges

Fall Is The Time To Visit Colleges

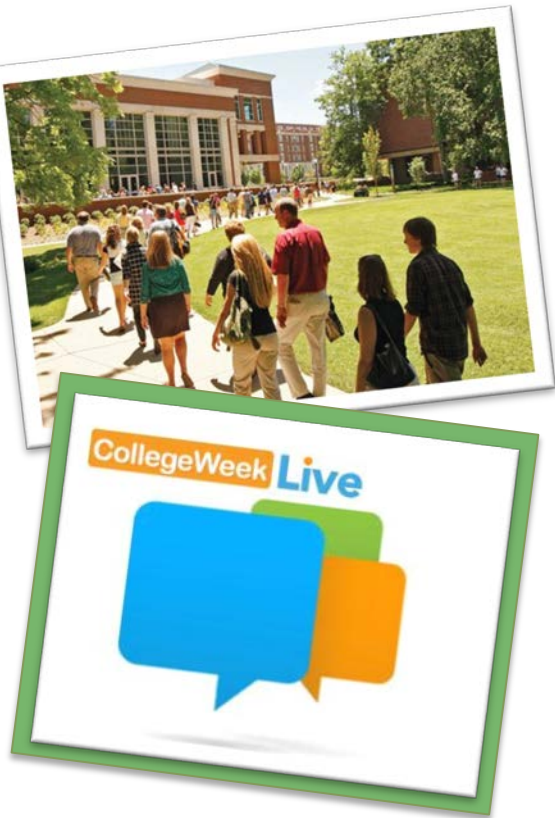
Most colleges allow you to tour campuses on your own. Many have regularly scheduled tours that you can sign up for. Some smaller colleges even allow students to spend the night in the dorms and attend a class with a current student. Major universities often have special Preview Days or Open House either in the fall or spring. See the calendar at the end of the newsletter for Fall Preview Days. Click [HERE](#) to find out how to make the most of college visits.

Check Out Colleges Online

There are many ways to find out about colleges online. One is to attend an online college fair such as **College Week Live**. This is a forum for online college fairs where you can chat with admissions counselors and hear about different colleges.

Click below to find College Week Live's fall events:

- ❖ [October All Access Virtual College Fair](#) October 6
- ❖ [University of California System Day](#) October 13
- ❖ [National Honor Society Virtual College Fair](#) October 20
- ❖ [November All Access Virtual College Fair](#) November 3



California State University Dates & Updates

The [CSU Mentor](#) application site is now open and the deadline to apply is **November 30**. We strongly suggest you submit at least a few days early to avoid glitches in the system. For application information, click [HERE](#).

CAASP Tests Used for Placement Tests in CSU Campuses

All colleges require students to take placement tests to determine what math and English classes they may take depending on their skills. These usually cost money. The CSU is now using the CAASP scores of juniors as a way to by-pass the placement tests. So juniors, take the CAASP tests seriously!

University of California Dates & Updates

The UC Application site is now open and the deadline to apply is **November 30**. We strongly suggest you submit at least a few days early to avoid glitches in the system. For application information, click [HERE](#).

The Personal Statement Is Gone! Now there is no essay for the application to the Universities of California. Instead, there are eight personal insight questions. Students may choose any four of the questions and write no more than 350 words per response. All questions are weighted equally. Click below for a video explanation of the new format.

[Video explaining the Personal Insight Questions](#)

Letters of recommendation are not required when a student applies to a University of California. However, some campuses/majors may require letters of recommendation as part of a supplemental application review. These should only be sent upon request. Be sure to check for an email message from your college.



Big Changes in Financial Aid

FAFSA Changes

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the beginning for all financial aid. It determines federal and California state financial aid. It is what the financial aid officers at colleges use at all colleges to determine the amount of aid a student can receive. All students should fill out the FAFSA regardless of financial status.



Traditionally, this form was filled out online starting January 1, using the previous years tax forms. Starting this year, you can apply to the FAFSA starting October 1, using your 2015 taxes. As long as your taxes are completed for 2015, the FAFSA can use the information to make the application much less complicated. This is called “previous previous year reporting”. This change is a tremendous help to families as they choose colleges because they will have a better understanding of what aid they can expect.

California Student Aid

The state of California gives several types of financial aid. These are the Cal Grants A, B, and C, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the Dream Act. The application for Cal Grants and the Middle Class Scholarship are all done through the FAFSA. No separate application is needed, but the FAFSA must be completed by March 2 to qualify for state aid.

Previously, students also had to submit a GPA verification form. Now all public schools, including ours, submit the GPA verification of all seniors. Those who wish to opt out of California financial aid can compete the opt-out form that will be sent to the families of seniors and graduating juniors in early October. If you wish to do so now, please click [HERE](#).

The Dream Act is financial aid for students (including undocumented students) who, for various reasons, are classified as nonresidents.



Cash For College

Cash for College nights are events that take place at high schools and colleges throughout the state. Families can come to any event and will work with trained volunteers who can walk them through the FAFSA application.

Search for a time and place that is best for your family by clicking [HERE](#). You don't have to attend any particular school to participate in these Cash for College nights. Bring your 2015 taxes for parents and students (if they filed) and your social security numbers. Families will also receive help for the Dream Act application if needed.



Scholarship Searches

There are several online search engines for Scholarships such as:

Scholarship.com

www.findtuition.com

[FinAid](#)

[Good Call Scholarship Search Engine](#)

www.fastweb.com

www.scholarships.com

[National Association Student Financial Aid](#)

We will also publish local scholarship opportunities as we become aware of them.





There Is No Such Thing As “Just Community College”

Students who go to community should go with a plan.

Community College to University Transfer Pathway

The California Community College System is a gateway to the future for many students. It is an economical way to get the pre-major classes known as General Education Requirements. The thing to remember is that community colleges are colleges. When a student starts at a community college they are given placement tests in English and Math. If the student tests as “college ready”, they will begin to take college level English and Math courses right away and can be ready to transfer in two years. A large percentage of students entering California Community Colleges test “Not College Ready”. Often this is because they did not take rigorous college prep classes because they were “just going to community college”. Testing “Not College Ready” means that these students end up talking between 1 and 4 courses of math and/or English before they can take what colleges call “credit bearing”. This means that they will be in community college 3-5 years before they can transfer. We strongly suggest that students take 3-4 years of math and 4 years of English with college prep rigor. Students can apply to community college (all are accepted) and take the assessments at the end of their junior year to see if they need more math or English.

Earn a Certificate for a Career at Community College

California Community Colleges offer many certificate programs that lead directly to satisfying and high paying careers. A student can earn a certificate or Associates Degree from a community college that is equivalent to what one would earn at a trade school for a fraction of the cost. If you go to a community college website, search CTE or Career Technical Education. It may be worth going to one farther from home than your local college. Many have dorms!

Click [HERE](#) to look for a program that interests you!

Who got started at Community Colleges?

- 80% of California firefighters and police officers
- 70% of California’s nurses
- 40% of UC Stem majors (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- Thousands of computer technicians, dental technicians, allied health workers, auto mechanics, air traffic controllers, cosmetologists, chefs, early childhood educators, EMTs and many more!

College Events October 2016

[SAT Registration](#)

[ACT Registration](#)

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Fall Preview Day for CSU Channel Islands FAFSA Application Site Opens SAT
2	3	4 San Diego National College Fair	5	6 College Week Live October All Access Virtual College Fair	7 Deadline for November 5 SAT	8 Fall Preview Day for: CSU Monterey Bay CSU Sacramento UCLA UC Merced UC San Diego Biola Dominican University ACT
9	10 Deadline to Apply to National Honor Society	11 HS Q&A Sessions	12 Financial Aid Webinar	13 College Week Live UC System College Fair	14 Agriculture Preview Day for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	15 Fall Preview Day for CSU Channel Island CSU San Bernardino CSU East Bay Santa Clara University Saint Mary's College University of La Verne
16	17 Fall Preview Day for: CSU East Bay Occidental College	18 HS Q&A Sessions	19 Steps to College for Seniors	20 College Week Live National Honor Society College Fair	21	22 Fall Preview Day for CSU Chico CSU Stanislaus UC Irvine UC Merced University of the Pacific University of San Francisco
23	24 Los Angeles Performing and Visual Arts Fair	25 Late Registration Deadline Nov 5 SAT San Francisco Performing and Visual Arts Fair HS Q&A Sessions	26	27 Master's College	28 Fall Preview Day for: CSU Humboldt Pitzer College Westmont (overnight)	29 Fall Preview Day for CSU Channel Islands CSU Dominguez Hills UC Merced Fall Saturday Tour UCSC The Masters University Chapman University Westmont (overnight)
30 Fall Preview Discover USC Whittier College	31	Notes: Orange = College Admissions Testing Red = CSU Preview Days Blue = UC Preview Days Purple = Private College Preview Days Green= Financial Aid Information				

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HS Q&A Sessions	2 The University of California Application Webinar	3 Azusa Pacific Point Loma (overnight) Deadline for Dec 3 SAT Test (last test CA universities accept for Fall 2017) College Week Live All Access College Fair	4 Fall Preview Day for CSU Long Beach Azusa Pacific Point Loma (overnight) ACT Deadline: for Dec 10 Test (last CA universities accept for Fall 2017)	5 Fall Preview Day for CSU Channel Island University of San Francisco
6 WACAC College Fair Reno	7	8 HS Q&A Sessions	9 The CSU Application Webinar	10 Fresno Pacific (overnight)	11 Occidental College Westmont (overnight) William Jessup	12 Fall Preview Day for Saint Mary's College University of the Pacific University of San Diego Westmont (overnight)
13 Point Loma (overnight)	14 Point Loma (overnight)	15 HS Q&A Sessions	16 College Planning Grades 7-11 Webinar	17 Azusa Pacific	18 Azusa Pacific	19 Fall Preview Day for Cal Maritime Academy Dominical University UC Riverside
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Finish UC and CSU Applications to avoid glitches on Nov 30
27	28	29 HS Q&A Sessions	30 Application Deadline for: UC Campuses and CSU Campus			
30	31	Notes: Orange = College Admissions Testing Red = CSU Preview Days Blue = UC Preview Days Purple = Private College Preview Days Green = Financial Aid Information				