

The Basics of Applying to College

The college application process will vary depending on the college to which a student is applying. Students must go to the website of the college of choice, locate "Admission" and follow the directions. Below is a basic overview of what this process might look like.

- 1.) Complete the FAFSA at: <https://fafsa.ed.gov> in October of the student's year of graduation.
- 2.) Be aware of FAFSA, scholarship, grant, and admission **deadlines**.
- 3.) Research the college-of-choice to know admission requirements. (Attend College Fairs)
- 4.) Create a Free account at Cappex.com to apply to colleges for free. **Apply early**.
- 5.) Make a checklist of application requirements required by the school-of-choice.

Community College Basic Application Process

- 1.) Complete the online application and follow the instructions provided on the college website.
- 2.) There is usually a placement exam in math and English required, at the campus.
- 3.) Placement results will identify the level of math and English in which the student may enroll.
- 4.) If student is enrolling as a high school student, obtain and complete the Special Admit form, obtain counselor or principal approval and signature, and bring to the college.
- 5.) If applying after high school, adhere to the assigned college counselor date and class registration date. High School transcripts may be required.
- 6.) Use the online course catalog to locate courses for which to register.
- 7.) If in high school, up to 11 college units per semester may be used to complete high school requirements. High School counselor will need the college transcript.

Universities and Private College Basic Application Process

- 1.) Take the SAT or ACT while in 11th or 12th grade and earn as high a score as possible.
- 2.) Research the admission requirements of the college-of-choice. (High School Courses)
- 3.) Take AP* or honors courses, and/or attend community college courses while in high school.
- 4.) Keep your GPA* as high as possible.
- 5.) Take as many A-G courses as possible. (Required by the 9 UCs, and most CSUs)
- 6.) Write the admission essay, as explained on application.
- 7.) Pay the application fee, as explained on the college website.
- 8.) Consider answers to application questions and do your very best to respond.
- 9.) Apply to more than one college, as admission is not guaranteed.

Helpful Websites:

<https://www.universitylanguage.com/guides/college-admission-requirements/>
<https://www.californiacolleges.edu/#/college>

Financial Aid

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/applying>

Guidance counselors are available regionally to help plan student coursework and assist with college and career goals:

~For Santa Clarita and surrounding areas: Amy McCollum - amccollum@gormanlc.org

~For Antelope Valley and surrounding areas: Kelly Westlake - kwestlake@gormanlc.org

~For Redlands and surrounding areas: Dana Blood - dblood@gormanlc.org

*AP=Advanced Placement

*GPA=Grade Point Average